

The National Finch and Softbill Society



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

1987



GWNOREEN

November/December

1 9 8 7

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again and delivery of the NFS Bulletin is behind the issue date. As in past years the show season and Holiday season puts our volunteers behind the old 8 ball. We are trying to get back on schedule. Your Jan/Feb issue will follow this one by about 3-4 weeks. Hopefully we will be back on track with the March/April issue. Thanks for your patience.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all NFS members for the opportunity to serve you this past year. I have enjoyed meeting many of you around the country this year and hope to make many more new friends in 88.

By the way, we made our 300 birds at our 1987 NFS Columbus show, Thanks!

NFS NOTES AND NEWS. . . .

The NFS JAN/FEB issue will include these among other items of interest.

Hal Koontz's column.

November/December Show Results.

1987 NFS Points totals and awardees.

Socorro Dove Re-introduction Program, John Pire.

Victories and defeats with the Cordon Bleu, Anna Sinclair.

Notes on the "NATIONAL", Tom Road.

Membership response to the "FINCHSAVE" program.

The "Heartbreak of Aviculture", William G. Parlee.

CLASSIFIEDS. . .

HUMMINGBIRDS, Tanagers, Euphonias, Bananaquits, Honeycreepers now available. Expecting Peruvian finches, siskins. SASE. Val Clear 1001 Martin, Anderson, IN 46012. (317) 642-0795 after 5 -EST.

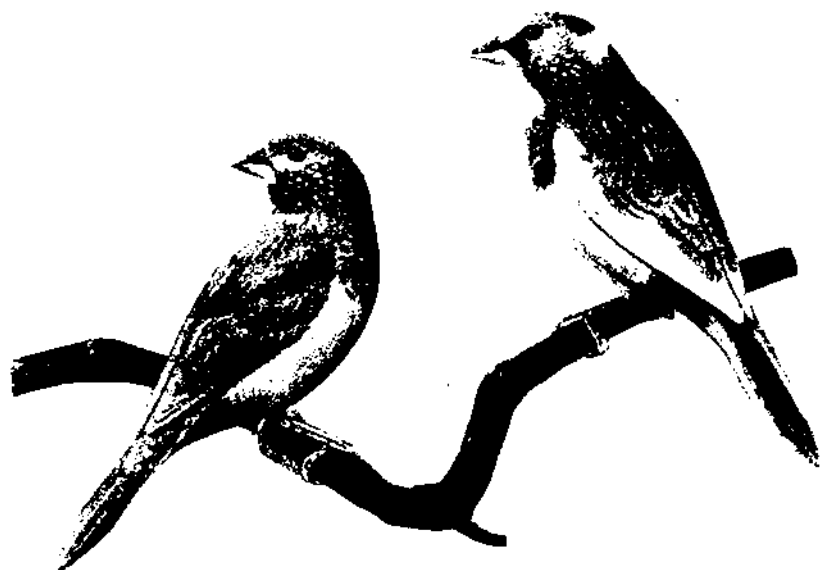
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PAINTED FINCHES wanted, send price and quantity. Stud record necessary. William Parlee, P.O.Box 18607, E.Hartford, CT 06118-0607.

OUTSTANDING BOOKS. Last six copies in U.K. - Colin Vince's KEEPING SOFTBILLED BIRDS: paperback, 112 pgs., 50 Color ill., \$10. Also out of print, A.J.Mobbs, HUNNINGBIRDS, 92 pgs. 32 color, 50 b&w ill., 150 species detailed, clothbound; \$31.50, limited. SOUTH AMERICAN LAND BIRDS, Dunning, best for 10., 1000 color, includes 108 Hummers, 120 Tanagers, 83 finches, 364 pgs., clothbound, \$37.50. Val Clear, 1001 Martin, Anderson, IN 46012. Please add 1.50 per shipment for pack/ship.

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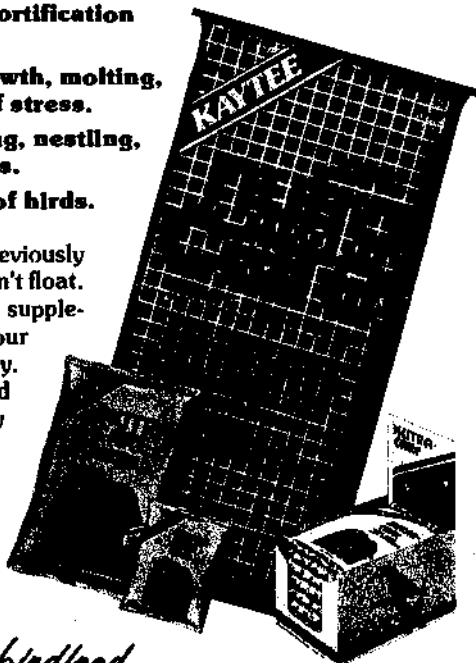
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NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
AFFILIATION AGREEMENT 1988

THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS THAT YOUR CLUB WILL HAVE TO MEET, ARE TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE AFFILIATION FEE AND SELECT A DELEGATE TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN DEALINGS WITH NFS. SUCH DELEGATE MUST BE A MEMBER OF NFS.

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT ARE NOT EXHIBITION ORIENTED. THE FEE FOR THIS AFFILIATION IS \$25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE NORMAL EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO YOU WILL RECEIVE DURING THE AUGUST OF YOUR AFFILIATION YEAR A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FOR YOUR CLUB. THIS PLAQUE CAN BE A SERVICE OR BREEDER AWARD FOR ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB (THIS PERSON NEED NOT BE A NFS MEMBER). THE PLAQUE ALONE IS WORTH THE AFFILIATION FEE. REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE PLAQUE AND WORDING MUST BE FORWARDED TO NFS NO LATER THAN JUNE 1 OF THE YEAR.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION IS FOR CLUBS WITH EXHIBITIONS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL INCLUDE BEAUTIFUL PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND BEST IN DIVISION AT YOUR SHOW. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40, AND IS SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S AFFILIATIONS..

LEVEL TWO -WITH ROSETTE PACKAGE

SAME AS LEVEL TWO BUT WITH 10 ADDED LONG STREAMER ROSETTES FOR THE BEST TEN FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS IN DIVISION. THIS OPTION WITH LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION COSTS \$65.

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ADDS BEST SOFTBILL PLAQUE TO LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION, TOTAL COST \$65.

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THIS LEVEL INCLUDES PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN THE DIVISION AS WELL AS A BEST SOFTBILL PLAQUE AND 10 LONG STREAMER ROSETTES. TOTAL COST FOR LEVEL THREE IS \$90.

SEND YOUR APP AND REMITTANCE TO: THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY, AFFILIATION DIRECTOR, C/O PAM LIDDY, 245 DRAPER ST. SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108.

List your club, affiliation amount, delegate and address.



The National Finch and Softbill Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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ADDRESS _____

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Check type of membership desired:

Single 15.00, Dual 20.00, Junior 7.50(-16yrs), Canada add \$5.

Foreign add \$10. Canada and Foreign Subscriptions are first class.
Please list other name to be included in a dual membership:

Please answer a few questions for us:

How long have you been involved in finches and softbills? _____ yrs.

How many species have you kept? _____

How many species have you successfully bred? _____

Do you exhibit in bird shows? _____

Do you keep softbilled birds? _____

Please list an occupation or special talent that may be helpful to
the NFS (printer, artist, lawyer, etc.) _____

Are you interested in participating in the NFS Judges Panel? _____

Please indicate below the items you are most interested in.

Nutrition _____ breeding _____ management _____ exhibition _____ bulletin _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR APPLICATION AND DUES TO:

NFS Member Services c/o Russ Armitage Jr.

345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457

NFS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Any of these items may be purchased by sending a check in the exact amount to Membership Services, c/o Russ Armitage Jr., 345 Boston Rd. Middletown, CT. 06457. Check the items you wish and total the amount.

NFS BACK ISSUES

\$1.50 each	1986 Sept/Oct
1984 April	1986 Nov/Dec
1984 July	1987 Jan/Feb
1984 October	1987 Mar/Apr
1985 Jan/Feb	1987 May/June
1985 Mar/Apr	1987 July/Aug
1985 May/June	1987 Sept/Oct
1985 July/Aug	
1985 Sept/Oct	1985 NFS Show Catalog
1985 Nov/Dec	Collector item \$3.00
1986 Jan/Feb	1986 NFS Tee Shirt
1986 Mar/Apr	Zebra design
1986 May/June	sm_med_only \$10.00
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OFFICIAL NFS 1988 BALLOT

Election is for the 1988-89 term of two years. Line beneath each nominee is for a write-in candidate. Please check appropriate line to the right of the candidate you are voting for. These are secret ballots, don't put your NFS # or signature on the ballot.

PRESIDENT	William G. Parlee	_____
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2nd Vice President	Brenda Geesey	_____
3rd Vice President	Hal M. Koontz	_____
4th Vice President	Al Decoteau	_____
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Reg.V.President (Mtn.)	Martha Wigmore Rita O'Dell	_____ _____
Reg.V.President (Pacific).	Helen Caudle	_____

THIS BALLOT TO REMAIN PART OF YOUR BULLETIN - USE LOOSE BALLOT TO MAIL!

Each member casts a ballot for each of the first 8 offices.
Cast only one vote for Regional V. President. That vote should be for the region in which you reside.

Mail your ballot by March 31, 1988 to: Pam Liddy (Ballot)
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. . NFS SHOW RESULTS . .

SPECIAL NOTICE TO NFS MEMBERS

Points were disallowed in all shows that did not have NFS Judges, even if the Club was affiliated with NFS. Points were also disallowed at a non-affiliated club where a NFS Judge was used. This the Board of Directors does with great respect for all NFS members who may have lost points due to this decision. This action is an unfortunate one but necessary to maintain the integrity of our NFS rules and Points System.

In the case of the Alamo Exhibition Club, all birds within the NFS Division were not judged against each other for the top ten awards. Points were also disallowed at the International Dove Society Show as finches were banned from the show.

Points were allowed at the Fort Worth show as the two separate Divisions were judged together for the top ten places.

NFS PRINTS RESULTS FROM SHOWS WHERE NFS JUDGES WERE USED AND POINTS WERE AWARDED.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1987

VIRGINIA ALL-BIRD CLUB

PANEL JUDGE: Daren Decoteau - 10 Exhibitors - 34 Entries.

Best	Sylvia Via	419	4	Diamond Sparrow
2nd	Rbt.& Tina Heenanway	118	3	Y-wing Pytilia
3rd	Woody's Bird Farm			Diamond Sparrow
4th	Rbt.& Tina Heenanway	118	1	Cordon Bleu
5th	Woody's Bird Farm			Java Rice
6th	Woody's Bird Farm			Brazilian Card.
7th	Woody's Bird Farm			Strawberry
8th	Linda Oja	550		Normal Zebra
9th	Byrem's Aviary			Crested Zebra
10th	Jerry Sanner			Euro Gld.Finch

SEPTEMBER 12, 1987

CHARLOTTE METROLINA CAGE BIRD

PANEL JUDGE: Charles Anchor - 5 Exhibitors - 30 Entries

Best	Cecil Gunby	137	10	Parson
2nd				Para. Whydah
3rd				Pagoda Mynah
4th				Red Gould
5th				Pied Java
6th	All ten places.			Superb Starling
7th				Star
8th				Almadine
9th				Shafttail
10th				Orange Weaver

SEPTEMBER 13, 1987

MIAMI PARROT CLUB

PANEL JUDGE: Maroc Arida - 8 Exhibitors - 65 Entries.

Best	Hector Ugalde	88	7	Choco Society
2nd	Karl Kline	93	6	Purple Grenadier
3rd	Len Brower			Gouldian
4th	John Dapas			Peter's Twinspot
5th	Cindy Patten	425	3	Normal Zebra
6th	John Dapas			Gouldian
7th	Joleen Chrestensen	65	1	Para Mydah
8th	Hector Ugalde	88		Pied Java
9th	Karl Kline	93		Purple Grenadier
10th	Cindy Patten	425		Choco Pied Soc.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1987

BIRDS OF A FEATHER SHOW

PANEL JUDGE: Al Decoteau - 7 Exhibitors - 34 Entries.

Best	C & P Nurmi	329	4	Red Gouldian
2nd	Chris Voronovitch	176	3	Melba Finch
3rd	Chris Voronovitch	176	2	Paradise Mydah
4th	Chris Voronovitch	176	1	Red Ear Waxbill
5th	Michael Putnam	258		White Java
6th	Russ Armitage Jr.	7		Y-wing Pytilia
7th	C & P Nurmi	329		Lavender
8th	Michael Putnam	258		Shafttail
9th	Michael Putnam	258		Grn. Singer
10th	Chris Voronovitch	176		Society

September 26, 1987

MARYLAND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: A.E. Decoteau, Exhibitors 11 - Entries 48.

Best	Woody's Bird Farm			Strawberry
2nd	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118	4	St. Helena
3rd	Woody's Bird Farm			Diamond Sparrow
4th	Bill Lumley			Green Singer
5th	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118	1	St. Helena
6th	Brenda Geesey	180		Gouldian
7th	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118		Crimson Pileated
8th	Brenda Geesey	180		Pintail Nonpariel
9th	Katie Karlen			Star Finch
10th	Katie Karlen			Red Headed Parrot

September 26, 1987

TOLEDO BIRD ASSOCIATION

PANEL JUDGE: Conrad Meinert, Exhibitors 9 - Entries 37

Best	Lester Stauffer			Outthroat
2nd	Marvin Bowles			Diamond Dove
3rd	Carol Scheabi			Crimson Pileated
4th	Mary Rue	441	1	Indian Hill Mynah
5th	C & M Terwilliger	648		C.F.Zebra
6th	C & M Terwilliger	648		White Java Sparrow
Results not reported for 7th through 10th.				

September 26, 1987

NEW ENGLAND FINCH FANCIERS

PANEL JUDGE: Daren Decoteau- Exhibitors 8, Entries 53

Best	Russell Armitage	007	6	Ylw.Wing Pytilia
2nd	Michael Putnam	258	5	White Society
3rd	Chris Voronovitch	176	4	C.F. Zebra
4th	Jeff Brissette	627	3	Spice Finch
5th	William Parlee	001	2	Pied Zebra
6th	Jeff Brissette	627	1	Red Ear Pair
7th	Michael Putnam	258		Shafttail
8th	Larry Brandt	038		White Java
9th	William Parlee	001		Pied Zebra
10th	Michael Putnam	258		Silver Button

October 2, 1987 - Atlanta, Georgia.

THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW

PANEL JUDGE: William G. Parlee - Exhibitors 30, Entries 201.

Best	Cecil Gunby	137	13	Royal Starling
2nd	Cynthia Patten	425	12	Blk.Brst.Zebra
3rd	Cecil Gunby	137	11	Bearded Reising
4th	Brenda Geesey	180	10	Purple Grenadier
5th	Raymon Johnson	189	9	Hartlaubs Touraco
6th	Cecil Gunby	137	8	Ylw.Bill Cardinal
7th	Letty Schilling			Spice Finch
8th	Brenda Geesey	180	6	O.H. Gouldian
9th	Cecil Gunby	137	5	Shafttail
10th	Harold Harnish	219	4	Melba Pair

October 3, 1987

FORTH WORTH BIRD CLUB

PANEL JUDGE: Conrad Meinert - Exhibitors 10, Entries 113.

Best	John Croce	556	9	Key West Dove
2nd	Gene Miller	109	8	R.H. Gouldian
3rd	Gene Miller	109	7	Painted Finch
4th	John Croce	556	6	Grn.Wing Dove
5th	Gaylord Anderson			Ringneck Dove
6th	Ray sullenthrope			Cape Dove
7th	Gene Miller	109	3	R.H. Gouldian
8th	Gene Miller	109	2	R.H. Parrot
9th	Gene Miller	109	1	Fire Finch
10th	John Croce	556		Brilliant Diamond

October 3, 1987

MID-AMERICA CAGE BIRD SHOW, Des Moines, Iowa.

PANEL JUDGE: Earl Courts - Exhibitors 11, Entries 59.

Best	Mrs. R. Travnicek	443	6	Sugar Bird
2nd	Tom Rood	043	5	Normal Zebra
3rd	Tom Rood	043	4	Heck's
4th	Tom Rood	043	3	Green Singer
5th	Mrs. R. Travnicek	443	2	Jap.Flycatcher
6th	Mahoney & Bales	322	1	R.H. Gouldian
7th	Tom Rood	043		Fawn Zebra
8th	Andy Dawson			Blue Cap
9th	Rhoda Shirley	341		Pekin Robin
10th	Andy Dawson			C.F.Zebra

October 10, 1987

INDIANA BIRD FANCIERS

PANEL JUDGE: Charles Anchor - Exhibitors 9, Entries 32.

Best	C & M Terwilliger	648	4	White Java
2nd	Moss Aviary			Mynah
3rd	C & M Terwilliger	648	2	Normal Zebra
4th	C & M Terwilliger	648	1	Cutthroat
5th	Mary Rue	441		Mynah
6th	C & M Terwilliger	648		Java Rice
7th	Cathy Ortiz-Wiegler			Shafttail
8th	Cathy Ortiz-Wiegler			Shafttail
9th	Conrad Meinert	135		Fenardo Poe
10th	C & M Terwilliger	648		Spice

October 10, 1987

SUNSHINE STATE CAGE BIRD

PANEL JUDGE: Al Decoteau - Exhibitors 39, Entries 178.

Best	Susan Wellman			Red Ear
2nd	Cecil Gunby	137	11	Pagoda Mynah
3rd	Ann Hurst	343	10	Bamboo Finch
4th	Cecil Gunby	137	9	Y. Bill Cardinal
5th	Jim Thomas			Mt. Ckd. Touraco
6th	Ann Hurst	343	7	Pair Y. Brst. Tits
7th	Cindy Patton	425	6	Blk. Brst. Zebra
8th	Ann Hurst	343	5	Ashy H. Starling
9th	Cecil Gunby	137	4	Sydney Waxbill
10th	Cecil Gunby	137	3	Bearded Reisling

October 10, 1987

NEW HAMPSHIRE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: Ray Johnson Exhibitors - 22, Entries - 58

Best	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118	6	Crimson Pileated
2nd	Chris Voronovitch	176	5	C.F. Zebra
3rd	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118	4	Ylw. Wing Pytilia
4th	Jerry Driscoll			Mule
5th	Mike Putnam	256	2	Pied Society
6th	Brenda Geesey	180	1	Purple Grenadier
7th	Brenda Geesey	180		Shafttail
8th	Brenda Geesey	180		Pintail Nonpariel
9th	Harold Harnish	219		Blk. Hd. Siskin
10th	Mike Putnam	256		Silv. Button Quail

October 10, 1987

COLORADO CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION

PANEL JUDGE: Hal M. Koontz, Exhibitors - B, Entries 49

Best	Steven Kehayas	354	5	Bamboo Finch
2nd	Rita O'Dell	362	4	Cherry
3rd	Anna Sinclair	519	3	Cordon Bleu
4th	Rita O'Dell	362	2	Cherry
5th	Rita O'Dell	362	1	Red Hd. Gouldian
6th	MaryLee Reisig			Strawberry
7th	Anna Sinclair	519		Society
8th	MaryLee Reisig			Green Singer
9th	Rita O'Dell	362		Blk. Breast Zebra
10th	Anna Sinclair	519		Society

October 10, 1987

KANSAS AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: Clarence Culwell, Exhibitors B, Entries 30

Best	Gene Miller	109	4	Fire Finch
2nd	Gene Miller	109	3	Red Hd. Parrot
3rd	Mrs. G.R. Travnicek	443	2	Starling
4th	Gene Miller	109	1	Red Hd. Gouldian
5th	Mrs. G.R. Travnicek	443		Fisher's Wydah
6th	Mrs. G.R. Travnicek	443		Palm Tanager
7th	Gene Miller	109		Pr. Blk. Hd. Gouldians
8th	Sina Reynolds			Java Ricebird
9th	Gene Miller	109		Red Hd. Gouldian
10th	Gene Miller	109		Fawn Society

October 10, 1987

MINNESOTA CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION

PANEL JUDGE: Dr. Val Clear - Exhibitors 6, Entries 37.

Best	P. Piazza			Cordon Bleu
2nd	Michael Bronson	307	3	Bamboo Finch
3rd	Cathy Overland	324	2	Choc. Society
4th	Cathy Overland	324	1	Red Gouldian
5th	Cathy Overland	324		Cordon Bleu
6th	Michael Bronson	307		Red Gouldian
7th	Michael Bronson	307		Java Rice Bird
8th	Lois Kramstad			Pied Society
9th	Cathy Overland	324		White Zebra
10th	Mitch Bain			C.F. Zebra

October 17, 1987

BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS

PANEL JUDGE: William G. Parlee - Exhibitors 18, Entries 71.

Best	Brenda Geesey	180	7	Violet-eared
2nd	Woody's Bird Farm			Diamond Sparrow
3rd	Bob & Tina Heinenway	118	5	St. Helena
4th	Woody's Bird Farm			Brazil/Cardinal
5th	Brenda Geesey	180	3	Nonpariel
6th	Brenda Geesey	180	2	R.H. Gouldian
7th	Bob & Tina Heinenway	118	1	Fire Finch Pair
8th	Richard Sylachta			Spice
9th	Bob & Tina Heinenway	118		St. Helena
10th	Bob & Tina Heinenway	118		Grn. Bk. Twinspot
Special	- Best Novice - Roe Prieman			

October 17, 1987

GULF SOUTH BIRD CLUB

PANEL JUDGE: Daren Decoteau - Exhibitors 10, Entries 64.

Best	Cecil Gunby	137	7	Red Gouldian
2nd	Cecil Gunby	137	6	Strawberry
3rd	Cecil Gunby	137	5	Pagoda Mynah
4th	Norris Boudreaux			Silverbill
5th	Cecil Gunby	137	3	Parson
6th	Cecil Gunby	137	2	Green Singer
7th	Norris Boudreaux			Norm. Zebra
8th	Jeanne Murphy	397		Pied Zebra
9th	Bill Voiselle			Society
10th	Cecil Gunby	137		Ylw. Bill Card.

October 17, 1987

CAPITOL CITY BIRD SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: Conrad Meinert - Exhibitors 18, Entries 217.

Best	Hal M. Koontz	207	13	Shafttail
2nd	John Boswell	497	12	Combassou
3rd	Brian Mandarich	356	11	Strawberry
4th	Dare Cagle	409	10	Red Gouldian
5th	Bill Novickas	327	9	Norm. Zebra
6th	Richard Lujan	466	8	Orange Weaver
7th	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	7	B.W. Mannakin
8th	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	6	Gld. Brsted. Bunt.
9th	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	5	Pekin Nightengale
10th	Hal M. Koontz	207	4	Slf. Society

October 17, 1987

GTR.KANSAS CITY AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: Raymon Johnson - Exhibitors 17, Entries 61.

Best	Gene Miller	109	7	Fire Finch
2nd	Gene Miller	109	6	Red Gouldian
3rd	Gene Miller	109	5	Red Hd.Parrot
4th	Gene Miller	109	4	Fawn Zebra
5th	Ute Nicholson			Java Rice Bird
6th	Gene Miller	109	2	Peter's Twinspot
7th	Gene Miller	109	1	Fawn Society
8th	Gene Miller	109		Red Hd. Gouldian
9th	Gene Miller	109		Norm. Zebra
10th	Mahoney & Bales	322		Y.H. Gould Pair

October 17, 1987

SUNCOAST AVIAN SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: Juanita McLain - Exhibitors 23, Entries 90.

Best	Andrea Whiting			Green Singer
2nd	Ethelyn Runge	240	7	Y.O. Cardinal
3rd	Jim Thomas			White Ck.Touraco
4th	Ethelyn Runge	240	5	Bechens
5th	Jim Thomas			Brn.Wing.Dove
6th	Karl & Peg Kline	93	3	Blk.Brst.Zebra
7th	Russ Synder			Toco Toucan
8th	Herschel Hammerlock			White Java
9th	Rose Gianferrara	316		Wht.Brst.Gouldian
10th	Karl & Peg Kline	93		Blk.Brst.Zebra

October 24, 1987

BIRD FANCIERS OF OKLAHOMA

PANEL JUDGE: Earl Courts - Exhibitors 8, Entries 42.

Best	Gene Miller	109	5	Fawn Zebra
2nd	Gene Miller	109	4	Rd.Hd.Gouldian
3rd	Gene Miller	109	3	Fire Finch
4th	Mrs.Rbt. Travniczek	443	2	Yuhina
5th	Debora Trent			Society Pair
6th	Gene Miller	109		Shafttail

October 24, 1987

OKLAHOMA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

PANEL JUDGE: William Parlee - Exhibitors 11, Entries 50.

Best	Laura Bewley	73	6	Choco Society
2nd	Gene Miller	109	5	Rd.Hd. Gouldian
3rd	Gene Miller	109	4	Fire Finch
4th	Gene Miller	109	3	Fawn Zebra
5th	Mrs. Rbt. Travnicek	443	2	Sugar Bird
6th	Gene Miller	109	1	Rd.Hd.Parrot
7th	Sarah Goodrich	230		Fawn Zebra
8th	Earl Courts	365		Ylw.Rump Singer
9th	Debora Trent			Crst.Soc. Pair
10th	Mrs. Rbt. Travnicek	443		Yuhina

October 24, 1987

GREATER NEW ENGLAND CAGE BIRD SHOW

CONNECTICUT ASSOC. FOR AVICULTURE

PANEL JUDGE: Gerald D'Agata - Exhibitors 15, Entries 75.

Best	Bob & Tina Hemenway	118	7	St.Helena
2nd	Brenda Geesey	180	6	Shafttail
3rd	Brenda Geesey	180	5	Nonpariel
4th	Brenda Geesey	180	4	Pekin Robin
5th	Al Decoteau	008	3	Pigmy Cardinal
6th	Denise Capazzi			Normal Zebra
7th	Roger O'Connell	012	1	Pied Society
8th	Roger O'Connell	012		Strawberry
9th	Brenda Geesey	180		O.K. Gouldian
10th	Christine Voronovitch	176		Melba Hen

October 24, 1987

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CAGE BIRD CLUB

PANEL JUDGE: Ray Johnson - Exhibitors 11, Entries 57.

Best	Cecil Gunby	137	6	Pagoda Mynah
2nd	Cecil Gunby	137	5	Parson Finch
3rd	Ed Kinser			Pied Zebra
4th	Orchid Heaven			Rd.Hd.Gouldian
5th	Cecil Gunby	137	2	Saffron Finch
6th	Cecil Gunby	137	1	Green Singer
7th	Frazell&Pake			Normal Zebra
8th	Cecil Gunby	137		Pearl H.Amadine
9th	Cecil Gunby	137		Y.Bk.Wydah
10th	Cecil Gunby	137		Chaffinch

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome !!!

0618	GUTIERREZ, RAMON	MIAMI,	FL	33145
0619	MARCOFF, JAN	URBANA,	IL	61801
0620	LEWIS, RAYMOND	PLANTATION,	FL	33325
0621	LEWIS, GLENNA	PLANTATION,	FL	33325
0622	HINTON, LORETTA	GARNER,	NC	27529
0623	HINTON, ASHLEY	GARNER,	NC	27529
0624	HURST, SARAH	SMITHFIELD,	VA	23430
0625	FRICK, A.C. (TONY)	QUALICUM BEACH, BC	CN	VOR 270
0626	WIESENFELD, JERRI C.	JACKSONVILLE,	FL	32207
0627	BRISSETTE, JEFF	MANCHESTER,	CT	06040
0628	BROWER, LEN	HALLANDALE,	FL	33009
0629	PAYNE, HAROLD R.	PICKENS,	SC	29671
0630	YODER, MARVIN	CHARLOTTE,	NC	28208
0631	YODER, TINA	CHARLOTTE,	NC	28208
0632	PURYEAR, JEFF	RICHMOND,	VA	23220
0633	BARNWELL, KEN	FLETCHER,	NC	28232
0634	PEREA, IGNACIO	MIAMI,	FL	33160
0635	SWENDROWSKI, MICHAEL	MILWAUKEE,	WI	53207
0636	BALLMAN, RICKY	DORAVILLE,	GA	30360
0637	WHITEHEAD, RON	WOODSTOCK,	GA	30188
0638	HELLUM, KRISS	HOWELL,	MI	48843
0639	HARRIS, FRANK	AUSTIN,	TX	78729
0640	CURTIS, PAM	OXFORD,	MA	01540
0641	RHEA, JOSHUA	NORTH PLATTE,	NE	69103
0642	FURZER, BOB	ACWORTH,	GA	30101
0643	McMAHAN, VERNON	DECATUR,	AL	35601
0644	SMITH, JULIA L.	KINGSVILLE,	MD	21087
0645	GOFF, KAREN J.	AUGUSTA,	GA	30906-5112
0646	LAND, MIRIAM	KNOXVILLE,	TN	37922-1813
0647	CLARKE, JAN	SALT LAKE CITY,	UT	84106
0648	TERWILLIGER, MARY LOU	ALMA,	MI	48801
0649	WHITING, ANDREA M.	TAMPA,	FL	33615
0650	GRIMES, FRANK R.	SACRAMENTO,	CA	95825
0651	BLACKADAR, KATHY	HANOVER,	MA	02339
0652	BARNEY, GORDON	BATON ROUGE,	LA	70808
0653	BARTOLOTTA, JOAN	EAST HARTFORD,	CT	06118
0654	KOLODZIEJCZYK, CHESTER	MILFORD,	CT	06460
0655	NICHAUD, PATSY	CANDON CITY,	CO	81212

0656	PFERSICH, MS DOROTHY	WRASHFIELD,	MA	02050
0657	SZLACHTA, RICHARD	MELROSE PARK,	PA	19126
0658	DAVEY, GINNY	ORLANDO,	FL	32811
0659	SNALLING, KATHY	POINT PLEASANT,	NJ	08742
0660	McCULLOCH, JANE	CHICO,	CA	95926
0661	SMITH, DIANMA	FALMOUTH,	MA	02541
0662	KNIGHT, CATHERINE M.	BYRON,	CA	94514
0663	DAPAS, JOHN	FT. LAUDERDALE,	FL	33315
0664	DAPAS, REGINA	FT. LAUDERDALE,	FL	33315
0665	SEMANCIK, JANIS	EAST HARTFORD,	CT	06108
0666	McCORMICK, TIMOTHY	CHAPPAQUA,	NY	10514
0667	SMITH, DNIGHT H.	PONCE,	PR	00731
0668	CAPAZZI, DENISE	GROTON,	CT	06340
0669	DIETRICH, LYNNE K.	HAVERTOMN,	PA	19083
0670	EXOTIC CBS OF NEM ENGLAND	MALTHAM,	MA	02154
0671	CALVIN, CAROL ANNE	MAGNOLIA,	NJ	08049
0672	MEYER, MARK	NEM ORLEANS,	LA	70119
0673	HUOSOM, GLENN	PLANT CITY,	FL	33566
0674	BURRIS, MARY	LANTANA,	FL	33462
0675	SALAN, JAYNEE	WEST COVINA,	CA	91793
0676	SUCCI, TONY	SAN PEDRO,	CA	90732
0677	TIONELL, KENNETH	SAN ANTONIO,	TX	78229
0678	PELTON, JEANETTE	MT. VERNOH,	OH	43050
0679	SNOW, ROBERT R.	FLINT,	MI	48507
0680	HILL, RONNIE A.	DOMELSON,	TM	37214
0681	SINDHSEM, JEAN	DOMELSON,	TM	37214
0682	NILO, ROBERT W.	BOLINGBROOK,	IL	60439
0683	JOHNSON, ROM	MIAMI,	FL	33177
0684	POMERS, RAY	STOCKTON,	CA	95205
0685	POMERS, PEGGY	STOCKTON,	CA	95205
0686	SINCLAIR, JEAN	SUNNYVALE,	CA	94086
0687	YOUNG, TED	ROSNELL,	GA	30075
0688	GREGORICH, SANDRA	OSSEO,	MN	55369
0689	REISIG, MARYLEE	COLORADO SPRINGS,	CO	80920
0690	EGBERT, PATRICK	MERRIONETTE PARK,	IL	60655
0691	NAVITY, JULIE	NASHVILLE,	TN	37209
0692	OLIVIERI, DIANNE L.	SANTA CRUZ,	CA	95060
0693	BARTHOLONEM, DAVID	MARIETTA,	GA	30066
0694	SPENCER, LEE	TAMPA,	FL	33615
0695	NOHR, PAN	HILLSBORO,	OR	97124
0696	SCHAAF, RAY	SHEPHERDSVILLE,	KY	40165
0697	BLACK, KENNETH	SALISBURY,	NA	01952
0698	NITCNELL, TRACY	OKLAHOMA CITY,	OK	73112
0699	COURTNEY, KYLE	NORWALK,	IA	50211
0700	PICKETT, GARY L.	SPRINGFIELD,	IL	62702

NFS AFFILIATED CLUBS

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AFFILIATED CLUBS 1987

CALIFORNIA

- The Fresno Canary and Finch Soc. Richard Lujan (408) 984-1453.
- The Capitol City Bird Soc. Helen Caudle (916) 933-1619
- The Golden Gate Avian Society - Mary Payne - Phone
- The Aviary Assoc. of Kern Cty. - Hal Koontz - 805-872-1063
- North Cty. Aviculturists. Victor Swatsek - phone
- Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club- Marty Von Raesfeld
- San Diego Bird Show Club - Wayne Schulenberg - phone

COLORADO

- Colorado Cage Bird Assoc. - Martha Wigmore (303) 574-1594.
- The Rocky Mtn. Society of Aviculture - Mary Buchtel (303) 422-6529

CONNECTICUT

- The Conn. Assoc. for Aviculture - Jerry D'Agata - 203-688-9403
- The N.England Finch Fanciers - Russell Armitage (203) 346-5875

FLORIDA

- The Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club - Karl Kline -
- The Sunshine State Cage Bird Society - Ann Hurst - 305-843-9450
- The Greater Miami Avicultural Society - Hector Ugalde
- The Miami Parrot Club - Marco Arida - (305) 251-3895.
- The Panhandle Avicultural Society - Chas. Richardson

GEORGIA

- The Georgia Cage Bird Society - Cecil Gunby (404) 251-2877.

ILLINOIS

- The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club - Charles Anchor - 312-543-3757

INDIANA

- The Indiana Bird Fanciers - Val Clear - 317-642-0795

IOWA

- Mid America Cage Bird Society - Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-2255.

LOUISIANA

- The Gulf South Bird Club Inc. - Evon Kruse (504) 469-2435.

MARYLAND

- The Baltimore Bird Fanciers Inc. - Brenda Geesey (717) 854-2604.
- The Maryland Cage Bird Assoc. - Catherine Gaffney

MASSACHUSETTS

- The Boston Cockatiel Society - Helen Jabre (617) 641-3430.
- The Boston Society for Aviculture Inc. Helen Holmes (617) 322-1562.
- The Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc. - Shirley Eaton - 401-333-5594
- The Western New England Cage Bird Society - Bob Clark - phone.

MICHIGAN

The Mid-Michigan Bird Club - Mary Rue (517) 394-1047.
The Mid-West Canary and Cage Bird Soc. - Mary Kaszyca - 313-285-516B

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Cage Bird Society - Micheal Bronson

MISSOURI

The Missouri Cage Bird Club - Tom Rood - 217-774-5265

NEBRASKA

The Gtr. Omaha Cage Bird Club - Wayne Eichelberger (308) 872-2947.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Birds of a Feather - Larry Brandt
The New Hampshire Avicultural Society - Mike Putnam (603) 352-2826.

NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club - Alex Grivas
Rodchester Cage Bird Club - Jeanne Murphey.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society - Pat Gibson - 704-588-1616

OHIO

The Central Ohio Bird Fanciers - Joan Gangle (216) 666-9773.

OKLAHOMA

The Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma - Gene Miller - 405-382-7066
The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society - Laura Bewley (918) 369-2717.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Penna Cage Bird Society - Brenda Geesey (717) 854-2604.
Chester County Bird Breeders - William Trace, phone.
Philadelphia Avicultural Society - Rosemarie Priemon, phone.

TENNESSEE

The Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club - Eva Duffy, phone.

VIRGINIA

The Penninsula Cage Bird Society - delegate - phone.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Club - Kathryn Konkol - phone

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

The Australian Finch Society - England - Martin Mogg
The International Dove Society - U.S.A. - John Pire
The New Zealand Finch Breeders - New Zealand - Valerie Hughes
The Zebra Finch Society - England - J.A.W. Prior

BANDING FINCHES
by Hal M. Koontz

I received a letter from a member in Arizona who, while initially very interested in participating in Finchsavé, has now decided that she cannot participate because of Finchsavé's banding requirement. I have had negative comments on Finchsavé's banding requirement from a couple of other persons so I am devoting this issue's column to a discussion of banding finches. This appears to be one of the most controversial aspects of Finchsavé.

To give you the full force of the member's feelings on this subject, I will quote parts of her letter: "I don't care for the decision to have all birds closed banded. Although Australian birds aren't as prone to accident with bands as are the African birds, I've already lost one Cherry Finch because of a closed band. Of the Red Bars I've bred and closed banded when I thought it a good idea, about 30% have either died because of them or have had to have a leg amputated because of them. I no longer close band any of my birds. And unless there is some real good reason, I don't even put open bands on breeders. I color band babies when they will be mixed with other birds, but if I later breed them, I take the bands off. I keep written records of where that particular breeder came from. I think bird bands are killers. The more active and agile the bird, the more likely it will meet with an accident when wearing a band."

I agree with the member that bands can and do cause problems. My experience, however, is not nearly as negative as is the member's. I average around 500 finches on hand all year and I experience problems with banding in 2 to 3 finches per year. Unlike the member's loss of 30%, my losses are around 1/2 of 1%. Let us explore all the negative and positive aspects of banding.

I will begin with the things that can go wrong with banding. (1) I have banded baby birds with bands that were too tight to go on the bird's foot. If the ball of the foot is cut when the band goes on, it is possible for it to become infected. If infected, the foot can swell, eventually leading to a deformed foot or loss of the foot completely. (2) If the band is loose on the bird's leg, it can get the band caught on something, resulting in the death of the bird or the breaking of the bird's leg. (I suspect that this was the member's principal problem with banding her finches.) (3) If the band is loose on the bird's leg, it can slip down

over the ball of the foot and hold all four toes of the bird forward. If permitted to stay this way for very long, the bird will lose the use of its back toe and have permanent slip claw or develop an infection underneath the band at the ball of the foot. (4) If you are banding the babies at 7 to 14 days after hatching, in some species, the parents will abandon the nest or toss the babies with bands out of the nest or chew up the foot with the band on it.

With all these negatives about banding, why does anyone do it? The short answer is that it is necessary for record keeping. Despite all the negatives, I consider banding a necessary evil. It may be possible for breeders with only a few birds to keep track of their birds without using bands. But when you get over a dozen birds in a species, it will become very difficult or impossible to keep track of them without bands. While I regret the loss of even a few birds each year, I consider the loss acceptable when weighed against the greater good of being able to trace and keep track of my birds.

Most of the negatives mentioned above can be minimized with good management. First, buy an assortment of band sizes. NPS sells 9 sizes of bands. I use sizes C, D, E and G (the smallest bird I band is the owl finch and the largest bird I band is the diamond sparrow). If you happen to get around to banding babies late or if you are raising unusually large babies of a species, use the next larger size band rather than seriously skin or cut the ball of the babies' feet. An infection caused by cutting a bird's foot with a band is the fault of the breeder and not of the band. Second, use a band which will not be too loose. I try to use the tightest band which will go on the bird's foot without cutting it. As mentioned in the negatives, loose bands can allow the band to get caught on something and can allow the band to slip down over the ball of the foot. Use the smallest band you can to minimize these problems. I have had fewer problems in recent years since I started using NPS bands because I could use the proper size band. Before I started using NPS bands, I purchased my bands from Red Bird Products in California and all I could get were sizes E and G. A lot of my problems were with the smaller birds which needed bands smaller than size E. I suspect that the proper size band would eliminate most of the problems of the breeder who wrote to me.

Third, if a species does not tolerate banding babies in the nest (i.e., they abandon the nest or throw their babies out or chew up the foot with the band on it), band these babies after they fledge. You can generally get the desired band on the baby if done during the first week after fledging. If the baby is too large for the normal band, use a larger size band. While the larger size band increases the risk of accident later on.

I would rather have a live baby with a band one size too large run a less than 1% risk of accident than have a dead baby with the proper size band on. Once the babies have fledged, the banding of the babies does not affect the parent's behavior at all.

Finchsave requires all babies banded in the program to have closed coded bands. The Finchsave Committee feels that banding is critical in order to be able to keep track of the birds in the program. Keeping track of bloodlines will be an important part of Finchsave. Without the banding requirement, it would be impossible for Finchsave to accomplish this goal. Babies do not have to be banded in the nest and can be banded after fledging with larger size bands. Adult birds which enter the program must also be banded, but may be banded with any identifiable or coded band. Adult birds do not have to be banded with closed bands. Split plastic bands with numbers may be used on adults. Of course, a larger closed band may also be used. While we recommend the use of NFS bands, their use is not required and any closed coded band from any company may be used.

I hope that this article will have answered some of the fears of NFS members who dislike banding. While I admit that banding causes the loss of a few birds each year, banding is essential to good record keeping which I consider to be of greater importance than the few birds which are lost. Without good record keeping, I would be lost. While small breeders can get by without banding their birds, a program the size of Finchsave cannot. I sincerely hope that anyone thinking of declining participation in Finchsave because of its banding requirement will see that the good of the Finchsave program far outweighs the risk to the birds.

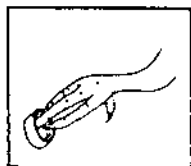
**JOIN
FINCHSAVE
TODAY**

**NFS' FINCHSAVE PROGRAM IS NOW FUNCTIONING.
PLEASE GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO AVICULTURE
BY HELPING ESTABLISH A FINCH OR SOFTBILL
SPECIES OF YOUR CHOICE. FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION, WRITE TO HAL M. KOONTZ, 2604
AUBURN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93306.**

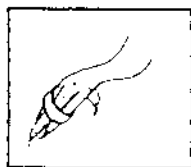
Leg banding Procedure

courtesy of the

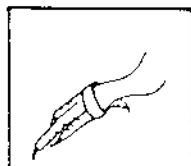
NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY



The most important thing to remember when you begin to band a finch is to do it over a counter or table in case the chick makes a sudden move, it will not fall to the floor.



The age of the bird to be banded varies with the species. Generally it will be between five and six days old. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



The band is generally placed on the right leg of the bird. Banding just before the bird roosts will help prevent picking of the band by the parents. By the next morning the birds will have forgotten about the band.



Have the band ready with a toothpick (or other blunt instrument) and a lubricant. Hold the chick firmly but in a way not to cut off the air supply or to hurt the bird.



Put a little bit of lubricant on the bird's foot and slide the band over the front three toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band is now in the proper location between the ankle and elbow joints.

It is best to check on the chick after a few days to make sure the band has not slipped off. Before banding, make sure the band is right side up so that it can be easily read.



The National Finch Society

1987 CLOSED ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

THE STANDARD NFS LEG BANDS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Bands are available in standard NFS color of the year only

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

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

Please make your check or money order payable to NFS and send your order to:

NFS BAND SECRETARY
 Roger O'Connell
 451 Moody Street, Box 114
 Waltham, Mass. 02154

Please send me the following bands. (Multiples of 10 only.)

A () B () C () D () E () G () J () K () L ()

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

ORDER YOUR 1987 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BANDS TODAY !!!

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP NO. _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

NFS BOARD MEETING, NOV. 20, 1988, COLUMBUS, OHIO

The fourth quarter NFS Board Meeting was held at the site of the National Finch Society National Show at the Ohio Exhibition Center, in Columbus Ohio on November 20, 1988 at 10:30 p.m.

Present at the Board meeting were; Russell Armitage, Brenda Geesey, Jon Hoffman, Al Decoteau, Nancy Reed, and Bill Parlee. Presented were the annual treasurer's report by Russ Armitage and the Secretary's report as printed, both were accepted.

The nominating Committee headed by Nancy Reed, presented it's slate of officers for 1988 and 1989. Nancy did not stay for the remainder of the meeting due to an exhaustive days activities and the lateness of the hour. The slate included for President, William Parlee, 1st Vice President, Russell Armitage, 2nd Vice President, Brenda Geesey, 3rd Vice President, Hal Koontz, 4th Vice President, Al Decoteau, Secretary, Chris Voronovitch, Corresponding Secretary and Band Secretary, Roger O'Connell, and Treasurer, Russ Armitage.

Regional Vice Presidential nominations included; Northeast, Bruce Evanick and Bob Hemenway, Southeast, Karl Kline and Cecil Gunby, Central, Jon Hoffman, Midwest, Paul Williams and Laura Bewley, Mountain, Martha Wigmore and Rita O'Dell, and The Pacific Coast nominee was Helen Caudle.

President Parlee directed as required by the by-laws, that the ballot be printed in the next bulletin. He also stated that ballots would be accepted by Pam Liddy, Elections Chair, for a period of sixty days after publication of that bulletin.

A membership and Leg Band report were given and accepted.

Bill Parlee gave a "Finchsave" progress report that assured the Board that the project was well on its way. The entire committee and particularly Hal Koontz are to be commended for the enormous effort that has gone into the creation of the program.

A promotions report was discussed. Among items in the report discussed was the 1988 NFS T-shirt. The design accepted was that of a Diamond Sparrow. The Board passed a motion to allow Hal Koontz to commission a T-shirt for the "Finchsave" program as much interest has been shown in such a product. The Board also discussed ties for judges, coffee mugs, and tie tacks. Coffee mugs seemed to offer the most interest.

The publishing report included a status on the NFS Handbook. The Handbook even before publication has been reviewed and is already being drastically updated before publication. New Standards and judges procedures, along with the completed "Finchsave" program are to be included in the Handbook before it goes to publication. The new expected publication date is late

June of 1988. The Handbook will serve the years of 1988-89 then will be again revised for 1990-91.

Brenda Geesey gave the reports of the Diamond Sparrow, and Shafttail Standard Committees. The Diamond Sparrow Standard is at a standstill awaiting additional committee members. The Shafttail Standard has been completed and was approved by the Board subject to some minor editing changes.

The subject of points at shows where all birds within our classifications are not judged against each other was fully discussed. The Board voted to withhold points from the International Dove Shows where either finches were not allowed or were not judged against doves.

Presidents expenses were approved for air fare only to represent the Society regularly at the AFA Summer convention and the National Cage Bird Show until further notice.

The Board selected Dr. Val Clear to judge the National at San Diego in November of 1988 and Daren Decoteau to judge the GABS in Baltimore. Each year the Board makes tentative plans for judges three years in advance. Tentatively the Board has selected Charles Anchor for the 1989 and Joseph Krader has been added to the list for the 1990 National. Clarence Culwell for 1989 and Hal Koontz for 1990 judgments of the GABS.

The Board voted to allow for first class delivery of the bulletin by including an option on the application for an additional \$5 fee for such delivery.

New requirement were voted and passed upon regarding new applicants to the Judges panel. They must have bred finches for a period of five years, shown for 3 years and placed upon the top bench under three different judges.

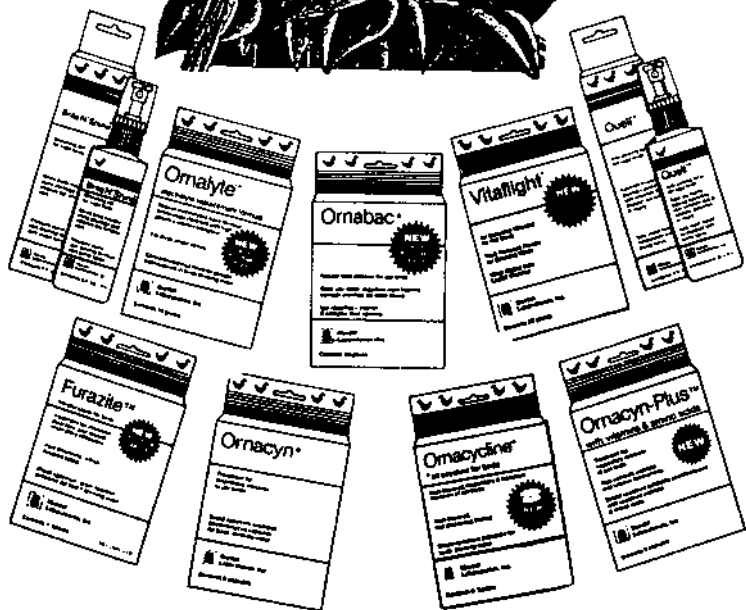
A completely revised Standard for the Zebra Finch was presented to the Board by a member and such was rejected. Dr. Decoteau suggested that a Committee be established to review the present Standard and to make any suggestions to him for presentation at a future meeting.

The following applicants to the Judges Panel have completed their apprenticeships and all requirement and were approved by the Board. The new judges are Jon Hoffman, Steve Hoppin and Brian Binns. The Board also passed a cap on the Judges Panel of 25 members. It also pointed out that we must also determine a way to remove judges that are not judging.

Other items passed were: Plaques will read "Best in Show", the African Division must be split up, and we should start thinking of a program to award points to the bird as an alternative points program.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 a.m. November 21, 1988.

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RECOGNIZING THE "DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH"
BY TINA HEMENWAY

It is possible to become competitive and successful on the show circuit within the first few years of involvement. The opportunity is available to everyone. Even those with little money to invest and limited time to devote. The key factor is obtaining birds of champion caliber.

Those aspiring exhibitors who are able to purchase proven show stock from a reliable source or who have the time, energy, and faith to try to "breed up" to show stock may not be interested in the following suggestions and observations. However, for those of you with a desire to show, whose only source for birds is the local pet shop, I offer the following thoughts. (May I preface my remarks by saying that in the past two years my husband and I have had seven finches place a total of 15 times on the top bench. Four of these birds were purchased at pet shops for about \$15 each. The remaining three were rejects from breeders and were obtained in trades.)

DEVELOPING YOUR EYE AND YOUR MIND TO RECOGNIZE THE "DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH".

1. Spend time studying birds that you know are of superior quality until you know exactly why they are.
 - a. Attend shows and observe the winning birds closely. (Make a point to listen to the judge's comments, for some winning birds are merely the best of a bad lot.)
 - b. View private collections of show champions.
 - c. Examine photographs of birds that you have a least reason to believe are fine examples of their type. (Remember that many birds chosen as the illustrations for books are substandard.)
 - d. Visit zoos and bird farms armed with good reference materials so that you can judge the quality of what you are seeing.
- * Take a critical look at your own collection.
2. Get exposure to the theory and practice of judging.
 - a. We arranged for a private clinic with a well-known judge. We spent four evenings being tutored by him, and the experience was invaluable.
 - b. Convince your local bird club to invite a judge to be a guest

quest speaker.

- c. Organize a "Mock Judging Clinic" at which all attendees actively participate.
- d. While watching a judge in action, try to anticipate his decisions and see how your opinions compare with his. (Unfortunately from your seat in the audience, it can be difficult to see the small finches in their cages well enough to do this exercise with thee!)

3. Collect a library of reference materials including books and periodicals.

- a. Be selective in what you purchase. Buy books that receive good reviews from the experts. (There seem to be many books on the market filled with second-rate photos and vague text.)
- b. Subscribe to those periodicals that are most helpful and interesting to you. Keep an index of the best articles for quick reference.

4. Make yourself familiar with the NFS Standards.

- a. Standard for Gouldians, Zebras, Societies, Green Singers, Cordon Bleus, and Stafftails are currently in force, with Standards for the Java Rice Bird, Diamond Sparrow and Purple Grenadier in the works.
- b. There is also an NFS Basic Standard now in effect for all non-standardized finches. This will help you determine what to look for in all finches.

In closing I would like to mention what I call a bird's "show personality." I believe that a superior show personality is often the deciding factor in one good bird being chosen over another. In your search for you show prospects, keep this element in mind.

While you view a bid with this personality, you will feel an aura of imposing presence. The bid will seem poised, confident, proud and alert in its stance and actions. It will give a physical impression of balance and symmetry. Allow yourself to sense the bird announcing to you that it is very special.

Once you have prepped yourself thoroughly and have confidence in your knowledge, you will be able to breeze through the mall on your lunch hour and spot the \$15 Society that has the stuff to go on to multiple top bench wins. **HAVE FUN AND GOOD LUCK.** [Bob and Tina Hemenway have won two Champion Exhibitor Awards (1985-86)] - w.p.

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SOFTBILLS ARE FUN
DR. ROBERT TRAVNICEK

I have been keeping birds since the age of 8. Although my interest in aviculture is wide ranging, I must admit when a bird dealer brought me a pair of Laughing Jay Thrushes in trade for some Conures I balked. [Poor guy probably didn't have the cash for the birds I thought.]

"This is exactly what you need to round out your knowledge of birds and they are dead easy" he said. "You're going to LOVE these birds." "Try them> If you don't like them I'll take them back on my next visit." [Ha Ha I thought. I'll never see the guy again.]

Although I had some zoo experience as a youngster it was never with softbills. I did not know anyone who kept anything other than Peking Robins. Although we did keep Toucans infrequently at Sedgwick Loft in Chicago where I spent my summers some 30 years ago, that was the extent of my experience.

What do they eat I cautiously asked. "dog food" he said and jumped into his van. As he swung around my circle drive at break neck speed he hung his head from his rusting van and offered "If you can find meal worms or a grasshopper or two they might like them."

I walked back into my home where my wife had just discovered my newest acquisition and fainted. So I was left looking into four of the brightest and most inquisitive eyes I have seen in birds up till that time. Whoop Whoop they said. What the hell I said.

Now Laughing Jay Thrushes are not your ordinary cage-bird. They are 10-12 inches in length and very, very, very active. As I sat on the floor of my quarantine room watching their antics it occurred to me that these were indeed interesting and very bold birds. I could not help noticing they came complete with a 15x15 parrot cage, 2 oranges cut in half and a handful of Mynah pellets.

They were in dire need of other accommodations.

My wife asked expectantly, what are they? Laughing Jay Thrushes I said knowingly. What do they eat? Dog food I said. What are you going to do with them? I grinned.

What does a normal person do on a morning after receiving two wonderful "whatsit" birds. Of course, I headed to the library, and by trusty Bates and Busenbark. Within an hour I had digested the general topic of softbills and Thrushes. Comical and aggressive was the description of my new friends. Well said, I thought.

At Turkeycreek we are great worriers about little creatures of the night which might accompany any new acquisitions, so stool samples were taken to examine for parasites. Sure enough, Coccidia and the occasional round worm were found. These birds, in general, are directly or indirectly from the jungles of the country of origin. So with some general directions from my friends at the Veterinary School I began to worm my new found friends using Corrid and Levamenthasol.

After finding somewhat more appropriate housing in the form of a cage four feet long and three feet wide, I set about determining their exact dietary needs. Mynah pellets seemed to suit them and they could consume 30 meal worms between them in 10 seconds. I continued this diet until their deaths about 4 years later. I now know that Wayne's Dog Meal (mixed with vegetable oil) would have been just as good at one quarter the cost.

That summer I spent time getting the birds to eat from my hand which was not as hard as it sounds. I spent September in England and took in all the "Foreign Bird" exhibitions I could. By the time I was done I had become a real softbill enthusiast. I ended at "Porters" (probably the most sophisticated Avicultural supply house in the world.) to purchase some softbill cage fronts which I dutifully carried by hand all the way to Turkeycreek. I had not seen any softbilled birds at shows I had attended in the previous two years here in the U.S. So, I planned to follow the general practices in the UK as far as exhibiting them.

Since they took baths daily (witnessed by a swamp within 3 feet of their cage in all directions), I didn't need to do any special show preparation. I did catch them up to pull out broken feathers in early October.

Softbills seem to grow feathers back much faster than either finches or hookbills and within two to three weeks they were in perfect feather. We did size their cages down to get them used to being confined to the show cage which was two feet long, eighteen inches high, and nine inches deep.

They were naturals and soon Whoop Whoops could be heard from their show cage. We kept them in for twenty four hour period, on two occasions. In November we were off to Chicago to test our wings on the bench. The only other exhibit in the section was a Spreo Starling but it was staged immaculately. I still figured it was duck soup. The judge (an old friend

of mine] figured otherwise, and I got my first lesson in the staging of softbilled birds. I found out later that this same bird had been best in show many times in the past.

Still my silly thrushes went on in the following years to take many awards in the Softbill section, and in the Finch Division. What changes did I make? I used moistened sheet moss in the cage bottom which was placed just prior to entering them. If one was not in condition I showed only the one which was. They got a bit more settled and learned to play to the judge a bit more. Probably the most fun I had with them over the years, was entering the show hall with a Whoop, Whoop. Flocks of exhibitors would come to see my strange and noisy entries. "Whatsit birds" are a lot of fun at a show.

I never saw the bird dealer again. However he was right, I absolutely loved those birds and kept them for several years. Eventually they were released into flights 12 feet long, 8 feet high, and 2 feet wide. If I had known what I know now I feel sure they could have even been bred. One morning in the early fall of 1984 I found one dead in the flights and within two weeks the other followed him. I have kept dozens of softbills since, but the chance coincidence of a bird dealer out of money, and an Aviculturist with two conures, he couldn't stand made for a chance of a lifetime.

I encourage all who have a general interest in birds to get involved with these fabulous, one of a kind creatures. I am very much afraid that very soon the importation of these birds will be limited and they will be absent from the show bench forever.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Bob Travnicek, or as I call him "Trav Bobnichek" was instrumental in the move to have NFS change its' name and become an organization which included softbills as well. He promises to write many more articles to entice you into the field. By the way "Turkeycreek" is the area of Wilber, Nebraska in which "Trav" resides.

BROTHER SUN, SISTER FINCH
Sister Shiva Kumari
New York, NY

"That's incredible!" I gasped as an astounding realization surfaced in my mind.

But before I share this amazing story, perhaps a little background might be helpful.

There are not many Catholic nuns in my vocation. As hermits, we are not allowed to go out into the market place to earn money. Whatever we do must be harmonious with a life of prayer and contemplation, and it must be something which can be done at home. For example, one of our Sisters bakes bread; another sews vestments for priests; others are involved in various crafts such as weaving and pottery - but what could I do?

I do not recall any point in my life in which I didn't have at least one bird. Therefore, when the idea came to me to utilize the one area in which I had some small knowledge (aviculture), my heart leapt with delight. I could kill two birds with one stone. (Oh dear! No!) If I bred birds as a hobby, too much attention to something other than prayer would not be allowed. But if it were my source of income, then no one could object. What a perfect idea! I would be doing something I loved and earn money at the same time, all legal and acceptable.

But - which birds could I breed! My hermitage is a two room apartment. There wouldn't be enough space for psittacines and I knew nothing whatsoever about passerines. Thus began my voracious research into the wonderful world of finches. Bates and Busenbark soon occupied an honored position beside the Holy Bible.

Nest the birdroom! There was one room with a bank of windows with a southern exposure. Perfect! But as I looked around, the task of clearing the room seemed ominous. And where would I put all the Zebra finches (plus endless offspring)?

I decided that the room had to be entirely emptied so I sold all the zebras; gave away furniture; took about a thousand books to the Strand; moved all the rest of the books, plus bookcases into the other room which was to become my cell. [The room in which a contemplative monk or nun lives is called a "cell".]

Kala, my Cherry-headed Conure, was very upset by all this. He flew back and forth between the two rooms imitating the call of the zebra finches and searching for them everywhere.

When the zebras were in residence, I kept one pair in a bamboo cage.

Although Kala could have turned that cage into twigs with that powerful beak of his, he was not a destructive bird. He simply did not believe that birds should be kept in cages. Therefore, he would open all the cages and release the zebras.

On the bamboo cage there was one small rod which, when pulled out, would enable one to lift the roof off the cage. Without harming the cage in any way, Kala would pull out that one rod, lift the roof of the cage, and stand there like the Jolly Green Giant waiting for the little munchkins to emerge.

But now his friends were gone and everything familiar to him was being turned upside down. Eventually, he migrated to Planned Parrothood where his is currently having a clandestine affair with a Mitred Conure.

With a great deal of work and fervent prayer, the birdroom gradually began to take shape. A 7' square aviary was built. I had a row of cages for breeding Bangalese finches, for quarantine cages and a hospital cage. Everything was developing quite nicely except for one thing- how was I to arrange the interior of the aviary? I could find no literature on the subject and the only other breeder of finches I knew was a hermit monk in Pennsylvania.

I decided to do what I had always done when I lacked knowledge - let the birds tell me what they wanted. This always worked. I found that if I carefully observed and listened intuitively, the birds would let me know what they needed.

Brother David, (the hermit monk) brought some birds with which to get started: several pairs of Bangalese, Cordon Bleus, Strawberry, Stars, Shafttails, and a glorious pair of Gouldians. I thought I had died and gone to heaven!

Still, the interior of the aviary bothered me. I kept rearranging the lights, the plants, the perches, the food, all to the consternation of those poor, confused little birds. But no matter what I did, one aspect of their behavior seemed strange indeed. No matter how much I rearranged the interior, the birds always congregated in one particular corner when they wanted to nap, preen, cuddle and coo, or just be quiet.

I kept trying to analyze this oddity scientifically but everything had been so radically changed within the aviary that even light and temperature had to be eliminated as causes for their consistently choosing this one particular location for their quiet time.

Then it hit me! Before the room had been turned into a birdroom, it had been my prayer room. And that one spot was the exact spot where, for so many years, I used to sit in prayer and meditation. <

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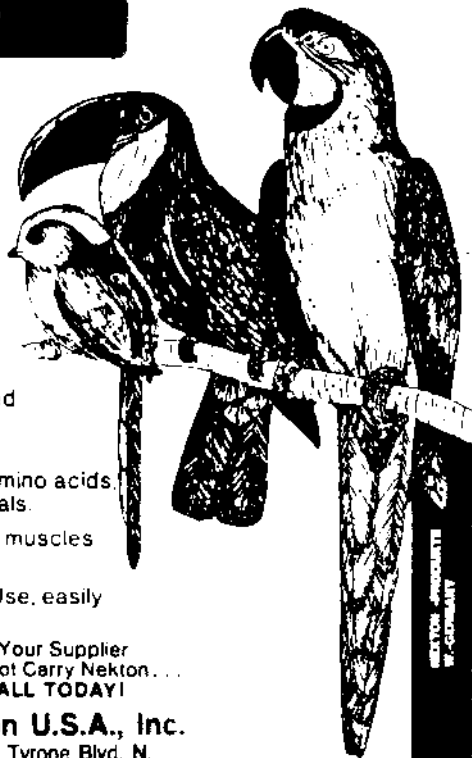
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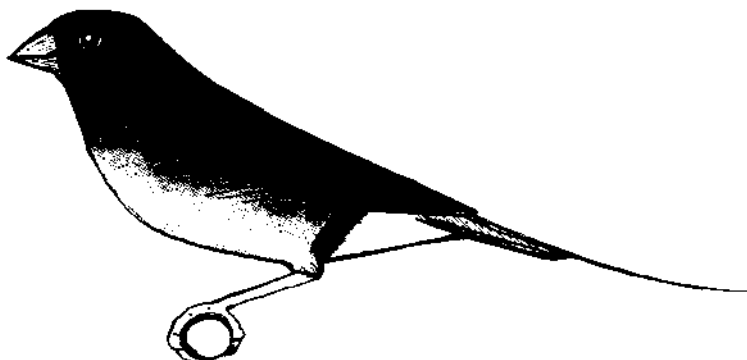
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SHAFTTAIL FINCH STANDARD
Peophila acuticauda
Official Standard as adopted
by the National Finch and Softbill Society
December 1987



CONFORMATION:	50 POINTS
CONDITION:	20 POINTS
COLOR & MARKINGS	20 POINTS
STANCE	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION: 50 POINTS

Head, body, legs and feet: 25 points.

The beak, head, and body should equal $3\frac{3}{4}$ " without the tail. The body should appear trim and muscular, with it's cobbiest point about the chest and shoulders. The chest should have a smooth curve. The body should only taper slightly in width and less in depth to the point where the legs appear from the feathering. Behind the legs to the tail, the body will taper more gradually, but will still appear full. A small portion of the thigh will show below the body and should be of some substance. The back must leave the contour of the neck and carry a straight and smooth line to the tail. It should be slightly rounded from shoulder to shoulder and continue that decreasing contour to the tail.

The upper and lower mandible must be smooth, clean, and meet evenly, and be free of imperfections. The head should have a gently rounded crown. It should be most broad just behind the ears. Eyes should be bright and set just above where the mandibles meet. The neck should, from all views,

be slightly broader than the head, and should increase slightly as it approaches the shoulders. The neck and head less beak should be equal in length.

The legs must be equal, parallel, clean, and free from scaling. Missing toes or nails shall be faulted. Nails to be of suitable length to assure proper grip.

Tail: 15 points:

The tail should approach 4 inches. It should smoothly follow the top and bottom lines off the body with the upper and under coverts. The flight feathers of the tail should be sleek and tapered, the two central shaft feathers should be predominant, finely tapered and neat, sleek and should have a slight upward curve and must remain parallel to each other.

Wings; 10 points:

The wings must be neat and compact and carried very close to the body. the tips should just meet, centered over the upper tail coverts with no crossing nor drooping. All flight feathers and coverts must be present, clean and smooth.

CONDITION: 20 POINTS

The Shafttail is naturally fastidious and exhibited specimens must be immaculate in every way. All feathers, skin and beak must be clean, smooth and lustrous. Contour feathers on the body should be so smooth that they are not perceived as individual feathers. Eyes should be bright and the bird should appear vital, agile, and alert.

COLOR AND MARKINGS: 20 POINTS

Normal cocks and hens alike, except cock's "bib" may be broader at the base. Top and sides of head and face to nape, delicate pale silver gray, slightly lighter on cheeks with sharply delineated black lores. "Bib" on throat very black with smooth rounded edges. These feathers may be erected and extended forward separate from other body feathers when the bird is displaying. Back beige and can appear somewhat pinkish. Chest a slightly more pale shade of the body color and the belly even lighter, nearly white around the vent. Wing flight feathers slightly darker and more brownish. Upper and under tail coverts are white.

A broad black band crosses the rump in front of the upper coverts and extends down each side tapering as it descends, ending before going under the body. Tail black. Beak, legs and feet may shade from yellowish-horn to orange to red. The variety *P. a. heckii* (Heck's Shafttail) having the reddest coloration and the crosses between varieties and color mutations have the others. On any individual, however the color must be even and

consistent. The red-beaked birds may show a more rosy beige body tone, particularly males who may also have a darker grey cap.

Fawn (Isabel): Light pinkish beige body with no grey overtones and lighter clear beige shades on cheeks, chest and belly. Lores, bib, rump band and tail "milk chocolate" brown. Less color difference on the flight feathers on fawns than normals. Feet, legs and beak in same range from yellowish-horn to red.

White (Ino): Most desirably all body feathers should appear very dilute. Birds body color should be as nearly white as possible, with markings comparatively dilute and uniform on each specimen. Beak, legs and feet should be red.

STANCE, Demeanor AND CAGING: 10 POINTS

Stance: The Shafttail should stand well up on his legs, should not "swim or roost" on the perch. They will not be faulted for occasionally assuming a head-down rump-up position as this is natural for this species when exhibiting curiosity. When in a heads-up position the angle of the body from crown to rump shall be 45 degrees.

Demeanor: The Shafttail should be bold and steady, willing to stand still and look at the judge. He should not be lethargic but animated without being agitated. He should show curiosity and inquisitiveness and not seem fearful or nervous. He should move from perch to perch in a controlled manner.

Caging: A National Finch and Softbill Society Standard show cage size #2 is recommended.

This completes the Official NFS Shafttail Finch Standard. The Board wishes to thank the Standards Committee for this species; Chair, Brenda Geesey and her fellow committeepersons, Harold Harnish, Cecil Gunby, and Deborah Foote. The Committee wishes to thank Tom Rood for his valuable input. The final Standard as adopted and published was edited by Brenda Geesey and Bill Parlee.

BIRD CENSUS - FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS

Mail completed form to NFS PO Box 18607, East Hartford, CT 06118-0607.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (_____) - _____ Exchange information - Yes _____ NO _____

Name of Species Common	mutation or type	Number in flock			Breeding Success?	Babies Available
		male	female	Unkn.		
Zebra	fawn	9	7	6	yes	yes

If you are willing to trade information with other breeders, please check yes above. You must give your phone number as it will be the only way another breeder will be able to reach you. NFS does not publish or give out members addresses. If you wish this information to be for statistical purposes only, check off no.

PLEASE LIST FINCHES AND SOFTBILLED BIRDS ONLY !!

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR
ON IMPORTING BIRDS AND THE
"FINCHSAVE PROGRAM
from Val Clear to Bill Parlee

Dear Editor Bill:

RE: Finchsave

As you know, during the past two years I have moved almost entirely into nectarine species, but the repeated cries of alarm that I have heard from knowledgeable person predicting the total termination of imports has given me a feeling of responsibility to import at least one shipment of hardbills before the doors close. I think I am in an unusually good position to do this since I have the necessary connections in Peru, so I am prepared to do so. I plan to bring in a shipment in the late spring.

I want to place these birds in the hands of serious breeders who will attempt to establish a viable strain that will enable us to continue with the species even if future imports become impossible. That is where "Finchsave" comes in. I am prepared to offer anyone who wants to get into the "Finchsave" program with one or more of these South American species a special offer. To anyone who buys four pairs at the wholesale price, I will add the fifth pair without additional charge. In effect, this offers them at 25% below wholesale prices. This offer does not apply to anyone who is buying for resale purposes but only to those who plan to cooperate with the "Finchsave" program of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

Birds cannot be produced as copies from a Xerox machine, so I am never positive that what I order is what I am going to get, but I am optimistic that the birds in the following list will actually arrive. The page reference is to Dunning, Landbirds of South America, usually with color pictures.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Pg.in Dunning</u>
20	Saffron Finch	Sicalis flaveola	184
20	Collared Warbling Finch	Poospiza hispaniolensis	323
20	Black Siskin	Carduelis atrata	324
20	Black-headed Siskin	Carduelis magellinica	186
20	Black & White Variable Seedeater	Sporophila luctuosa	188
20	Parrot-billed Seedeater	Sporophila p. peruvianus	318
20	Band-tailed Seedeater	Catania analis	184
20	Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis	180
20	Bananaquit	Coelbeba flaveola	152

These are possible substitutions that may be made to from this list.

Grassland Yellow Finch	Sicalis luteola	184
Blue-Black Grassquit	Volatinia jacarini peruviansis	190
Raimondi Yellow Finch	Sicalis raimondi	320
Yellow-rumped Siskin	Carduelis uropygialis	324
Chestnut-throated Seedeater	Sporofila telasco	318
Orange-billed Sparrow	Arremon aurantirostris	180

(or increased numbers of the species in the first list.)

Those are the birds that are probably available this spring. If anyone wants to explore another Peruvian species I will be glad to try to get it if notified in time. There would be no obligation for such a request, of course. Perhaps I should point out that jungle birds cannot be exported from Peru.

I do not want any deposits but will be glad to promise to full requests in the order in which I receive them, so a phone call or letter would establish a priority for anyone who is interested in the "Finchsave" project for South American birds. This ought to be a pretty interesting challenge for some people because importations are so infrequent.

As you know, my interest has always been in smaller species and I do not have equipment to handle large birds. No Condors to be requested! But if someone is interested in larger species I can get them, probably, with the understanding that I would ship them immediately after they came out of quarantine, and I would expect on a special order for a large bird that there would be an obligation to take them off my hands when they are ready. I could discuss this with anybody who is interested. This would include any psittacine species.

I will be glad to discuss this with anybody by phone or a letter will get an answer. My home phone is (317) 642-0795 and I can best be reached on weekends or after 5:00 p.m. EST.

I hope this gives the "Finchsave" project a special attraction for some of the NFS members who are looking for new worlds to conquer.

Cordially,

Val Clear
1001 Martin Drive
Anderson, Indiana 46012

EDITORS NOTE: Val Clear offered to pay for this article. NFS thought it would be a service to our members, any payment was not accepted. NFS neither endorses this offering or accepts any responsibility in regard to losses incurred by any transaction of this nature. NFS thanks Dr. Clear for making this information available to NFS "Finchsave" members.

NFS PANEL JUDGES 1987

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Bill Parlee

PANEL JUDGE

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