

# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

March  
April  
1989



MARCH / APRIL 1989  
VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Much of the fault of the bulletin STILL not being on time is mine. I bit off more than I could chew, as the old saying goes, but I have gotten the best of it now and I am successfully playing "catch-up". I am very sorry for the delays I have caused and I will continue to work harder to avoid future delays. Please excuse me.

As of March 11, 1989 we have 760 members, 68 affiliated clubs, we have sold about 9000 bands and our treasury is about \$ 8000. Hooray for us!

Please continue to support your society in any way you can.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you all deeply involved in the breeding of your finches and softbilled birds. Most specifically the Finchsava Program.

The "Finchsava" Program is a very important part of the National Finch and Softbill Society. We all feel preservation is a necessary aspect of aviculture. "Finchsava" is where we can all put our money where our mouths are, or hopefully were. New rules make participation in the program easier than before. If you haven't thought of "Finchsava" lately because you thought you couldn't qualify; check it out again, in many instances you can qualify with just three pairs of the same species. Rare birds have been reduced to just one pair. If you have questions please write: Finchsava Director, Hal Koontz, 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

I must publicly congratulate Marty Von Raesfeld for a unquestionably sensational exhibiting season. Marty brought birds to six shows and walked off with 176 points. This is an unparalleled feat. At Capitol City in Sacramento he earned 27 points under Judge Calrence Culwell against 229 entries. At the Fresno show he earned 35 points against 272 other birds judged by Clayton Jones. Judge Jones again awarded Marty 33 points at the Golden Gate Show. 21 points was his total at our National under Judge Val Clear. At Santa Clara under Judge Culwell he earned 32 points. Judge Hal Koontz judged 181 birds at the Central California show in Torrence and awarded Marty 28 points. This certainly says something for Marty's breeding and exhibiting abilities.

Our Bulletin is still not on schedule. But were working on it! Our new editor; Brenda Geesey is doing a great job. However she has had her problems. Problems with printers primarily. Would you believe she brought the layouts (Jan/Feb) to the printer and a copy of an old bulletin to show him was it was to look like upon completion? She did and the printer printed 1000 copies of the old bulletin. Unless you have been a bulletin editor yourself its hard to imagine the things that happen. Hopefully by the time you read this message we'll be only a month behind. Brenda needs articles on all finch and softbill subjects. Send them along to her.

I hope we can count on your support for the Kaytee Great American in St Louis and our National Show this year in New Orleans. Our Kaytee judge is Clarence Culwell and our National Judge is Charles Anchor.

I hope to see many of you at the AFA Convention in Pheonix. The speakers and tours can't be beat!

# NFS CONGRATULATES

EXHIBITOR EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS FOR 1988

MARTY VON RAEBFELD 299 POINTS

BRENDA GEESEY 220 POINTS

## THESE 1988

1988 CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITORS

MARTY VON RAEBFELD 176 POINTS

CECIL GUNBY 82 POINTS

BRENDA GEESEY 81 POINTS

CHRIS VORONOVITCH 67 POINTS

HAL M. KOONTZ 60 POINTS

GENE L. MILLER 54 POINTS

TOM ROOD 51 POINTS

STEVE HOPPIN 50 POINTS

CHAMPIONSHIP AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS WILL BE AWARDED AT OUR NATIONAL SHOW AND ANNUAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER, 18, 1989, IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

## AWARD WINNERS ! !

# FINAL 1988 SHOW REPORTS

NOVEMBER 5, 1988

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAGE BIRD CLUB - 20 Exhibitors - 181 Entries.

Panel Judge: Hal M. Koontz

Place	Name	NFS#	Points	Species
1st	Wilber Dana			Shafttail
2nd	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	11	Orange-cheek Waxbill
3rd	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	10	Blue-cap Cordon
4th	Brian Mandarich	356	9	Cutthroat
5th	Brian Mandarich	356	8	Blk-Hd Gouldian
6th	Bill Novickas	327	7	Normal Zebra
7th	Bill Novickas	327	6	Nor.Zebra Pair
8th	Dare Cagle	409	5	Blk-Hd Sugarbird
9th	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	4	Blk-cheeked Waxbill
10th	Marty Von Raesfeld	465	3	Gid.-Brst Rock Bunt.

NOVEMBER 12, 1988

MILWAUKEE BIRD SOCIETY LTD. - 11 Exhibitors - 33 Entries.

Panel Judge: Raymon Johnson

Place	Name	NFS#	Points	Species
1st	Ken Kedrowicz			Pekin Robin
2nd	Sue Feldstein			Society Cock
3rd	Cathy Wiegeler	563	2	Shafttail
4th	Sue Feldstein			Society cock

OCTOBER 29, 1988

CLEVELAND CAGE BIRD SHOW - 3 Exhibitors - 6 entries.

Panel Judge: Earl Courts. No Points awarded.

NOTE TO EXHIBITORS FROM POINTS CHAIRMAN: Tony Patterson.

Please be aware of NFS's new additional award program that awards the bird rather than the exhibitor. This new added award system was explained in the Oct/Nov/Dec issue of the bulletin.

For points to be awarded to the bird; NFS BAND NUMBERS MUST BE RECORDED ON THE SHOW TAG AND SHOW REPORT. You will not be able to add these numbers later on. IF YOU PLACE ON THE TOP BENCH AND YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR POINTS, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SURE BAND NUMBER IS SHOWN ON THE REPORT! !

# 1988 NFS POINT STANDINGS

## YEAR END 1988 EXHIBITOR POINTS RECORDS

<u>NFS#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NFS#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
465	VonRaesfeld, Marty	176	299	609	Hollenback & Simmons	8	8
137	Gunby, Cecil	82	284	551	Kroner, Kris	8	8
180	Geesey, Brenda	81	220	843	Thorscheidt, Don	8	8
176	Voronovitch, Chris	67	110	154	Wigmore, Martha	8	25
207	Koontz, Hal M.	60	265	586	Grown, Fiona	7	13
109	Miller, Gene L.	54	184	432	Clack, Lindsay	7	7
043	Rood, Tom	51	130	836	Happ, Brian	7	7
042	Hoppin, Steve L.	50	157	093	Kline, Karl & Peggie	7	36
356	Mandarich, Brian	45	177	178	Kruse, Evon	7	19
466	Lujan, Richard	41	107	219	Harnish, Harold	6	42
327	Novickas, William	34	53	583	Sutherland, Carlene	6	6
443	Travnicek, Mrs. R.	29	90	088	Ugalde, Hector	6	20
409	Cagle, Dare	28	59	652	Barney, Gordon	5	5
380	Payne, Mary	28	57	365	Courts, Earl	5	5
263	Hughes, Elwood	26	26	142	Deacon, Wanda	5	5
627	Brissette, Jeff	22	26	231	Goodrich, Sarah	5	5
441	Rue, Mary	20	33	405	Hawthorne, Candy	5	5
147	Anthony Michael, Bro	18	18	240	Runge, Ethelyn	5	29
073	Bewley, Laura	18	26	522	Ventenaglia, Joe	5	5
007	Araitage, Russ	16	77	775	Koontz, David	4	4
662	Knight, Cathy	16	16	362	O'Dell, Rita	4	8
619	Marcott, Jan	13	13	001	Parlee, William G.	4	38
628	Brower, Len	12	12	264	Sangster, Jeanne	4	16
493	Duffy, Eva	12	12	243	Gaffney, Cathy	3	3
189	Johnson, Raymon	12	38	519	Sinclair, Anna	3	5
425	Patton, Cindy	12	38	679	Snow, Bob	3	3
893	Rice, John	12	12	784	Thomas, Jim	3	3
341	Shirley, Rhoda	12	12	743	Heard, Joe	2	2
538	Trent, Debra	12	12	763	Muscato, Jane	2	2
649	Whiting, Andrea	12	12	324	Overland, Kathy	2	11
563	Wiegele, D & K	12	12	626	Yoder, Marvin	2	2
668	Capazzi, Denise	11	11	229	Blixt, Barbara	1	1
648	Terwilliger, MaryLou	11	35	754	Griffith, Dusty	1	1
202	Gagasian, Cheryl	10	10	680	Hill, Darrin	1	1
404	Hawthorne, J & C	10	10	449	Lewis, Dennis	1	1
012	O'Connell, Roger	9	28				
021	Clear, Val	8	17				
688	Bregrich, Sandra	8	8				

This listing only includes members who received points during 1988.

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NOTE: \* indicates a person  
who is also a judge in  
another specialty society.  
For more information on  
NFS Panel Judges, contact  
Dr. Becoteau, Panel  
Chairman.



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# KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW

SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 1, 1989 STOUFFER CONCOURSE HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MO

## SHOW SCHEDULE

Thursday

9/28/89 12 noon Set-up commences.  
4 - 9 p.m. Bird Registration  
8 - 10 Hospitality hosted by Gateway Parrot Club.

Friday

9/29/89 7 - 9 a.m. Bird Registration  
10 a.m. Judging begins.  
Also commercial exhibits open to exhibitors,  
and bird sale room opens.  
5 p.m. Show closes.  
5 - 10 p.m. Specialty and board meetings.

Saturday

9/30/89 9 a.m. Show hall and commercial exhibits open to the  
public.  
Seminars begin and continue till 2 p.m.  
9 - 9 Specialty club meetings  
2 p.m. Legislative workshop (AFA / PIJAC)  
Bird Talking competition.  
4 p.m. Best in Show Judging.  
5 p.m. Show closes to the public.  
6 p.m. Cash bar in Penthouse.  
7 p.m. Grand Award Banquet in Penthouse. No speaker.  
10 - 11 p.m. Early bird check-out.

Sunday

10/1/89 7 - 10 a.m. Final bird check-out.  
7 - noon Removal of all exhibits and staging.  
Moon Happily on our way home.

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## FINCHSAVE

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY'S FINCHSAVE PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY FUNCTIONAL. PLEASE GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO AVICULTURE BY HELPING TO ESTABLISH A FINCH OR SOFTBILL SPECIES OF YOUR CHOICE. THE NUMBER OF PAIRS OF SPECIES HAS BEEN REDUCED IN MANY CASES AND IS NOW FLEXIBLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SPECIES. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE: HAL H. KODHTZ, 2604 AUBURN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

# NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY AFFILIATION AGREEMENT - 1989

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 DEALING WITH NFS. THE DELEGATE MUST BE A MEMBER OF NFS.

## LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

THIS IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT ARE NOT EXHIBITION ORIENTED. THE FEE IS \$ 25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO YOU WILL RECEIVE DURING, 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. (THIS PERSON NEED NOT BE A 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 1ST OF THE YEAR.

## LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO 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 AFFILIATION

## 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 PLUS 3 ROSETTES FOR UNFLIGHTED. THIS OPTION WITH LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION COSTS \$ 65.

## LEVEL TWO - WITH SOFTBILL PACKAGE

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

## LEVEL THREE AFFILIATION

THIS LEVEL INCLUDES PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN THE DIVISION AS WELL AS A BEST SOFTBILL PLAQUE, 10 LONG STREAMER ROSETTES AND 3 ROSETTES FOR UNFLIGHTED BIRDS. TOTAL COST FOR LEVEL THREE IS \$ 90.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND THE FEE TO: THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL  
ION DIRECTOR, C/O PAN LIODY, 245 DRAPER ST., SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108  
(413) 734 7053.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR WHY I AM CAVING IN TO COMMERCIALISM

by a Neo Commercial Aviculturist

Today I've spent a very frustrating morning on the telephone contacting every pet shop listed in our book (9) as well as 1 in each of the adjoining counties. I was trying to sell some extra birds I have bred over the past 2 years - 3 pairs of Strawberry Finches; 4 pairs of Cutthroats; and 6 Societies. Three of the Strawberries and all of the Cutthroats and Societies are NFS banded and all birds are domestically bred. Not one shop was interested! Most asked if I had Cordon Bleus or Gouldians, but no one is interested in the birds I've bred because they can buy them much cheaper from a large bird wholesaler.

Am I asking too much to expect to get \$6 each for banded 3rd generation Cutthroats, or \$15 each for cage bred and banded Strawberry Finches? I have sold my Societies - bred from show stock - for \$5 per pair of course I can sell all the hens I breed, but what am I to do with the males?

All this has led me to the bitter conclusion that it is just not worth the time and effort to breed exotic finches such as these as long as wild caught birds are so readily available at such cheap prices. Yet I see shops that sell parrot finches for \$350 per pair and normal Gouldians for \$225 per pair.

I never got into breeding to make money, but I am depressed and disappointed that such little value is placed on domestically bred and banded birds from common species. NFS has been claiming that we should all be trying to breed these birds because someday importation will end. Well, I for one will be glad to see that day come for species such as St. Helena Waxbills, Cutthroats, Strawberries, Cordon Bleus, Firefinches and many others. It just doesn't pay to try to breed many of these birds now if you can't find an outlet for them except for a dirty, broken-down bird wholesaler.

FINCHSAVE is great for those breeding the very rare and expensive birds, but I feel sorry for those who end up with a hundred or more banded St. Helena Waxbills and no place to sell them. And don't expect fellow breeders to buy them even at wholesale prices. I've advertised birds in three different issues of our local club newsletter and haven't sold one bird yet.

From now on, I'm concentrating my efforts on those birds which have some economic value - Gouldians, Stars, Owls, Parrot Finches and two species of waxbills. Some may say this attitude is not a good one for an aviculturist, but anyone with 50 or more birds can tell you that they are not

# THE STORY OF CORDON

by Vernon McMahan

When the first of the chicks came out of the nest, Cordon's red cheeks and blue chest puffed out with pride! For three weeks he and Boo, his mate, had dutifully fed the five hatchlings and defended their nest from all sorts of imaginary dangers. He wasn't concerned in the least that the fledglings were strawberry finches, not Cordon Bleus.

It all started when Carouso, and his mate Holly, chose the nest at the end of the cage close to the one in which the Cordon Bleus roosted at night and had now laid eggs. They were good neighbors until Sunday afternoon when I heard a commotion in the cage and found Cordon' had chased Holly out and was now in her nest with the first day-old chick. I succeeded in getting him out and her back in again and all went well until Tuesday afternoon when I found Cordon' again in his neighbors' nest feeding the chicks. Nothing I did would keep him out for any period of time. Knowing Cordon Bleus desert their nest if disturbed, I proceeded to move the nest of the hatchlings and eggs to the other end of the cage and then camouflaged it with greenery. Cordon' was back inside the nest before I got the cage door closed. I sat down to consider other strategy while poor Boo sat forlornly in her own nest calling, with no success, for her mate to come home and help with the eggs.

That night Cordon' slept in his own nest and allowed Holly to cover her chicks and eggs. The next morning he proceeded to return to his adopted brood and resume the duties of sitting, protecting and feeding them. Previously, he had looked at mealworms with disdain. Now he was nearly sitting on my hand, scolding all the while, when I put the mealworms in the cage. Now he devoured them in large quantities and fed them to the chicks.

Hednesday afternoon Boo and I both gave up. Not only did she desert her eggs, she now helped Cordon' feed the nestlings and together they prevented the real parents from sneaking an occasional meal to their chicks. Still, Cordon' and Boo returned to their own nest each night to roost.

When the chicks fledged, Carouso and Holly remembered their offspring and since five hungry, young birds are a lot for two parents, Cordon' and Boo grudgingly let them assist in the feeding.

~~~~~  
Editor's note: Mr. McMahan makes very good, close observations of his birds and so he gets to see some very interesting things in his successful flock. Following, on the next page, is an excerpt from a letter that accompanied the short story.

"The Purple Grenadiers that I recently bought started nest building right away but due to overcrowding they abandoned their first eggs. (I came home from work one day and found four of the newly fledged Strawberries in

Continued on page 31

**NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY  
AFFILIATES, DELEGATES AND SHOW DATES**

**ALABAMA**

Central Alabama Avicultural Society; C. B. Upchurch, (205) 288 8728  
Show: September 2, 1989 - Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell.

**CALIFORNIA**

The Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Richard Lujan, (408) 984 1453

The Capitol City Bird Society; Helen Caudle, (916) 933 1619  
Show: October 21, 1989 - Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

Central California Cage Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld, (408) 985 2712  
Show: Nov. 3-5, 1989 Modesto, CA Panel Judge: Joseph Krader

Finch Society of San Diego County; Larry Russell,  
No show this year.

The Golden Gate Avian Society; Dawn Senna, (415) 449 8719  
Show: November 10, 1989 Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

The Aviary Association of Kern County; Hal Koontz, (805) 872 1063

San Diego Bird Show, Inc. Janice Pritchard, (619) 443 6684  
Show: Nov. 10-12, 1989 DelMar Fair Gds. Panel Judge: Hal N. Koontz

Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld  
(409) 985 2712 Show: Nov. 24-26, 1989 Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

**COLORADO**

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Martha Wigmore, (303) 574 1594  
Show: October 14, 1989 Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Donald Locke, Jr.  
Show: October 28-29, 1989 Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

**CONNECTICUT**

The Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Christine Voronovitch,  
(203) 649 8220 Show: Oct. 28, 1989 Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

The New England Finch Fanciers; Russell Armitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875  
Show: Nov. 25, 1989, E. Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

## FLORIDA

Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida, Len Brover  
No show this year.

Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Inc., Teddy Richens, (407) 783 3205  
Show to be announced.

The Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club; Karl Kline, (305) 276 8711  
Show: October 21, 1989 Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.,  
No show this year.

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn., Jerri Weisenfeld (904) 731 7173  
Show: Sept. 30, 1989 JAX Airport Hilton Panel Judge: Juanita McLain

The Suncoast Avian Society; Joe Ventimiglia, (813) 392 9391  
Show: October 7, 1989 Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

The Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Dennis Levis, (407) 657 7151  
Show: October 14, 1989 Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

The Greater Miami Avicultural Society; Hector Ugalde, (305) 673 4899

The Miami Parrot Club; Marco Arrida, (305) 251 3895  
Show: October 14, 1989 Panel Judge: George Warren, England

Southwest Florida Bird Club, Jerry D'Agata (813) 774 2062

## GEORGIA

The Georgia Cage Bird Society; Cecil Gunby, (404) 251 2877  
Show: November 4, 1989 Panel Judge: Al Decoteau

## ILLINOIS

The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Charles Anchor, (312) 543 3757  
Show: Nov. 4, 1989 Holiday Inn, Hillside, IL Panel Judge: Jon Moffaan

The National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries Catherine Wiegela  
Show: Nov. 24-26, 1989 Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

## INDIANA

The Indiana Bird Fanciers; Dr. Val Clear, (317) 642 0795  
Show: October 14, 1989 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

## IOWA

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

Show: October 6, 1989 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

## KANSAS

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society,

Show: October 21, 1989 Independence, MO Panel Judge: Laura Bevely

Kansas Avicultural Society Joe Heard (316) 775 6995

Show: October 14, 1989 Wichita, KS Panel Judge: William Parlee

## LOUISIANA

The Capitol Area Avicultural Society; Tim Schexnayre,

Show: October 21, 1989 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

The Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Kruse, (504) 469 2435

Show: Hosting the N.C.B.S. Nov. 16-18, 1989 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY'S NATIONAL SHOW November 16-18

In conjunction with the 41st annual National Cage Bird Show, hosted by the Gulf South Bird Club at the Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, LA

NFS Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

## MARYLAND

The Baltimore Bird Fanciers; Brenda Geesey, (717) 854 2604

Show: October 21, 1989 Panel Judge: Jerry 9\*Agata

Maryland Cage Bird Association; Marge Stanley, (301) 486 2567

Show: Sept. 29-30, 1989 Panel Judge: Garon Gacoteau

## MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Cockatiel Society; Helen Jabre, (617) 641 3430

Show: Sept. 23, 1989 Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

The Boston Society for Aviculture; Kathy Wilcox, (508) 339 7684

No show this year.

Exotic Cage Bird Society of New England; Roger O'Connell, (617) 899 8523

No show this year.

The Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Shirley Eaton, (401) 333 5594

The Western New England Cage Bird Society; Bob Clark,

No show this year.



## MICHIGAN

The Mid-Michigan Bird Club; Mary Rue, (517) 394 1047

Show: October 21, 1989 Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

The Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Jean Wiley, (313) 326 2424

Show: November 11, 1989 Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

## MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Cnqe Bird Society; Cathy Overlund,

## MISSOURI

The Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Earl Courts, (816) 524 0921

The Missouri Cage Bird Association; Eileen Lambert,

Show: November 4, 1989 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW For info: Jerry Cox, (314) 928 3551

Hosted by Gateway Parrot Club, St. Louis, MO at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel, St. Louis Int. Airport, September 29 to October 1, 1989, NFS Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

## NEBRASKA

The Greater Omaha Cage Bird Club; Wayne Eichelberger, (308) 872 2947

Show: September 23, 1989 Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

## NEW JERSEY

The South Jersey Bird Club; Kristine Kroner, (215) 628 4143

Show: December 2, 1989 Panel Judge: Baren Decoteau

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Birds of a Feather; Ken Black, (508) 462 3822

Show: September 16, 1989 Panel Judge: William Parlee

The New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Ken Akey,

Show: October 14, 1989 Panel Judge: Al Decoteau

## NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club; Douglas Olsen,

The Rochester Cnqe Bird Club; Jeanne Murphy, (716) 232 5477

Show: October 14, 1989

## NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metrolinn Cnqe Bird Society; Pat Gibson, (704) 588 1616

Show: September 9, 1989 Panel Judge: Baren Decoteau

**OHIO**

The Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club; Joan Gangle

**OKLAHOMA**

The Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma; Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066

Show: November 10, 1989 Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society; Laura Bewley, (918) 369 2580

Show: October 21, 1989 Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Jerry McCawley, (717) 288 0529

Show: November 11, 1989 Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Chester County Bird Breeders, Joe Kessler (215) 326 5109

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4443

Show: November 11, 1989 Panel Judge: William Parlee

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society;

Show: Nov. 4, 1989 Century Plaza Inn, Wash., PA Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

Philadelphia Avicultural Society; Rick Schlachta, (215) 635 2097

No show this year.

**TENNESSEE**

The Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffy, (615) 361 5949

Show: October 28-29, 1989 Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

**TEXAS**

Avicultural Council of Texas, Kevin Burch (713) 485 8424

Show: To be announced.

The Capitol City Cage Bird Club; Sarah Goodrich,

The Fort Worth Bird Club, Clarence Culwell (817) 523 5568

Show: October 7, 1989 Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

The Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association, Sarah Goodrich

**VIRGINIA**

The Peninsula Cage Bird Society; Linda Oja, (804) 874 8581

Show: October 7, 1989 Panel Judge: Steve Hopkin

The Commonwealth Avicultural Society,

Show: October 8, 1989 Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

WASHINGTON

Northeast Exotic Bird Society Nancy White (206) 525 0941

No show this year.

WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.; Fred Eggert

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Society; Edward Zuidema

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

The Australian Finch Society, England, Martin Mogg.

Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society of Canada John Bennett (416) 473 5612

Show: Sept. 16, 1989 Toronto, Canada Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

The New Zealand Finch Breeders, New Zealand, Valerie Hughes

The Zebra Finch Society, England, Chris Blackwell, Durham, England

.....  
DELEGATES PLEASE REMEMBER...it is your responsibility to see that accurate and up to date information is sent to the bulletin editor. If there is an error or an omission in your club's listing please call or write today.

Thanks, The Editor

.....  
All articles, anecdotes, artwork, ads and other additions to the bulletin should be sent to:

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P.S. Also all complaints, comments, compliments, colloquies, critiques and consternations. Thanks again.

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# NATURAL NESTING TRY THIS TRICK !

by Dale Laird

Have you wanted to have a natural finch nest that is not only economical but good to eat? Why not try a fresh coconut from the local grocery store? Buy whatever size you want to use (and also eat) depending on what size bird is going to nest in it. The tools you need are a drill with a hole saw, a table knife and an eye screw.

To begin with, determine if you want the milk from the coconut or not. If you do, use an ice pick and push it through one of the three indentations on top of the coconut and drain the milk out into a container. Using the hole saw and drill, drill a hole slightly above the center line of the coconut. I use a one inch hole for my birds. Then using the table knife cut the meat of the coconut into small pieces. They will still be attached to the shell but don't worry, it comes out very easily once you have all of the cuts made. Work out the first couple of pieces and the rest follow quickly.

Now comes the fun part. There will be numerous small pieces left in the nut and it will be very oily. I do not like to give my birds the nut in this condition so I place the coconut on an ant nest for a few days and they clean it right out. Now it is ready for the birds to use as a nest. I screw the eye screw into the top and hang it from the top of the cage. If it going to be outside I drill a few holes in the bottom for water drainage, as a precaution.

I consider this the best of both worlds...for \$.49 I get a coconut to eat and the birds get a durable, functional nest.

.....  
Our thanks to Dale and the Sunshine State Bird Society for sending us this nifty tip. In the Northeast, where the Bulletin is prepared, neither the coconuts or the ant hills are very plentiful but we like the idea a lot.  
The Editor.  
.....

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY'S FINCHSAVE PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY FUNCTIONAL. PLEASE GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO AVICULTURE BY HELPING TO ESTABLISH A FINCH OR SOFTBILL SPECIES OF YOUR CHOICE. THE NUMBER OF PAIRS OF SPECIES HAS BEEN REDUCED IN MANY CASES AND IS NOW FLEXIBLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SPECIES. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE: HAL M. KOONTZ, 2604 AUBURN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

## BREEDING THE "IRISH STOCK" ZEBRA FINCH

by Vincent Moase

My wife Kendra and I have kept Zebra Finches, (*Taeniopygia guttata castanotis*) for a number of years, but these were the pet stock of domestic type. We bred these not only for the enjoyment of the song and color but also to help pay the seed bill and to obtain other and rarer, usually more expensive birds.

I finally decided to clean all of the domestic Zebras out of our birdroom. We wanted to develop show quality birds which often come from "Irish Stock". The reason for the elimination of all the domestic Zebras is because I feel that if the two sizes are kept, then sooner or later they will be cross-bred. To avoid confusion one must keep very good records of the individual age, sex, colour, and previous owner of the bird and the record of breeding results for the year. This way there is no room for error. I have seen and heard of breeders who have not done this and the results are that the birds don't make it on the show bench and are not sought after by fellow breeders who want good stock.

One problem that we have here in Canada, maybe all over the world, is that breeders try to keep as many different species of birds as they can obtain. This is a mistake that we all make. We started out with Chestnut Flanked Whites, then Normals, and finally Fawn Zebras. Now we have gone back to the first two colours since we don't have room to keep ten to twelve pairs. Even now, with only seven pairs of Zebras, if we have a good breeding year we don't have room for the young and the young from the other six species which we keep.

I personally feel that with less species or colour variations, the more control there is, and the better it is to keep more pairs of the individual species. This results in better, unrelated birds available to the breeders.

We don't breed the Zebras in aviaries, because there is no control and there is fighting. We set them up in box cages (25" x 16" x 16") per pair of birds. This way we know who is doing what and hopefully, why. It is well known that keeping birds, especially the more expensive that "what can go wrong will." We started getting the birds in condition for breeding near the end of December, but sometimes they tell us we are too late or too early. We allow the birds to raise three normal clutches per year, that is an average of four to six young per clutch or nest. If for some reason we only get two of three young, then we will try a fourth clutch or foster a clutch to see if there is a problem.



Problems are what make bird breeding so very interesting. If everything went right then we would most likely quit. Some of the problems with Zebras are: 1. filling up the nest box which results in buried eggs or young, (this is called sandwiching.) 2. kicking out young as they hatch. This happens because the birds aren't compatible or secure or who knows. 3. Plucking the young - no clear answer to this matter. There are no black and white answers for as soon as something is stated, someone has done the opposite. Fortunately general rules of thumb are better than nothing.

We give the birds a 5" x 4" x 5" painted wooden nest box. A soft, long grass collected from a flood plain is used in the boxes as nest material. We also give them very little extra grass to build or add to the nest. They are fed a standard seed mixture along with soaked seed, egg food (which we make), different greens; for example, chickweed, dandelion, endive, lettuce or spinach. Also apple and from time to time, fresh corn Also given is millet spray about three times a month, with grit and cuttlebone daily. When the Zebras are finished breeding they are put into mixed aviaries and get grapes, oranges, mountain ash berries and whatever else is in season.

All our young birds are closed ringed, which I feel everyone should do for it is the only true way to indicate the owner and age of the bird.

This method works for us and the rule is that what works for us will not necessarily work for everybody. So if there are no problems then it is not necessary to change, but if there are problems hopefully there are some ideas in this article that can help.

We are always available to try and answer or help with any problems so please feel free to call us.

Best of luck in the new breeding season.

=====  
Letter to the Editor.

cheap to keep, and take a lot of time and energy to care for properly. I'm just going to devote that time, energy and money to birds with some economic value. Someone once wrote that birds are worth what the market will pay for them, and up till now I've just chosen some of the wrong birds.

PLEASE NOTE: Although the author did not request it, I have taken the liberty of keeping him anonymous. I respect and like this gentleman and I have heard statements similar to his from other members of the society. I think he expressed himself very clearly and strongly in a very frustrating situation. I would be pleased to forward responses to him and to publish pro and con responses.

The Editor.



# AFA in brief

April 1989

## Business Office Relocates

After careful consideration of several proposals, AFA has moved the business office to Phoenix. The new phone number is (602) 484-0931. The office is located at 3118 West Thomas Road, Suite 713, Phoenix, Arizona 85017. Correspondence should be sent to AFA, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218. Calls for general information or assistance should be directed to Sue Jordan.

AFA extends its thanks and appreciation to the following people for moving the office: Tal and Opal Crosser, Steve and Fran Owen, Rich and Pat Issleib, Steve and Diana McNabb, Jim and Melody Emmett, Ron Holtz, Bill Vaughn, Davis Keffron and Gary Clifton. This group of people generously gave their time and effort, travelling at their own expense 400 miles from Phoenix to Redondo Beach to spend the time packing up the old office and storeroom (including about 7000 lbs. of *Watchbird* and records), loading the vehicles, returning to Phoenix and unloading, then helping set up the new office.

## Clarification from USF&W Wildlife Permit Office

AFA has been informed by the Wildlife Permit Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that some people have been incorrectly referring to one species of macaw on Appendix I of the Convention of Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) as the "caninide macaw" or *Ara caninide*. According to the Permit Office, the valid scientific name for the species which people think they are identifying as the "caninide macaw" is, in fact, *Ara glaucogularis* (blue-throated macaw), which was added to the CITES Appendices on June 6, 1981. The Permit Office advised that additional confusion can arise when persons intending to describe "blue and gold macaws" (*Ara ararauna*) refer to them as "caninide macaws" or *Ara caninide*, so caution should be exercised in this regard as well. AFA is pleased that the Wildlife Permit Office contacted AFA to discuss this situation so AFA could properly inform its membership and the avicultural community.

## Legislative Round-up

**PENNSYLVANIA.** Rep. McHale, sponsor of last year's bird ban bill, is running for a judgeship. It is highly unlikely his bill will be reintroduced.

**MINNESOTA.** AFA North Central Region Vice-president Jim McCabe reports the Senate has rewritten the wild animal bill. The new version will have a listing of specific animals requiring permits. The only species of bird listed is the mute swan; aviculturists were successful in getting monk parakeets removed from the list of animals requiring a permit.

**NEW MEXICO.** State Coordinator Bill Parker reports the bill requiring licenses for "pet dealers" is tabled, the legislature is expected to recess by mid March.

**WASHINGTON** — HB1614 bird ban bill. AFA Northwest Region Vice-president Jeri Wright reports this bill will likely end up in a summer study. Wright believes AFA and concerned aviculturists were successful in educating legislators regarding the effects of such a bill. If passed, HB1614 would require licenses for breeders, and would ban the sale of even captive-bred birds to anyone except zoos or licensed breeders.

**TEXAS** — HB1687, "dangerous wildlife" bill. This bill has been introduced. As presently written, it would classify *all* wildlife into two categories. Type 1 wildlife would be totally prohibited from possession as a pet. Type 2 wildlife would require a \$100 permit per animal. The worst aspect of this bill is the definition of wildlife as all game and non-game animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and marine animals except domestic dogs and cats and domestic livestock. This means that every individual bird kept as a pet would require a \$100 permit or be prohibited.

AFA Legislative Vice-President Janet Lilienthal spoke with the individual who requested filing of this bill. He stated his intent was to allow for the permitting of dangerous animals such as large cats, with no permit required for other wildlife. This, however, is *not* the way the bill was written. Attempts are being made to have the bill rewritten, but there is no guarantee this will happen. Texas aviculturists are urged to stay in contact with AFA State Coordinator Jack Clinton-Eitnicar (512) 828-5306. Rep. Robert Saunders, chairman of the House Committee on Environmental Affairs, can be contacted at (512) 463-0776 to determine if and when a hearing has been scheduled.

## New Vaccine

A new vaccine, the first of its kind for parrot pox, has been licensed for use. (Parrot pox is a devastating disease sometimes found in imported Amazons and other psittacines). This new vaccine is recommended for use prior to importation, with boosters administered during or upon release from quarantine. The vaccine can also be used to protect birds in pet shops and aviaries. Manufactured and distributed by Maine Biological, they can be reached for additional information at P.O. Box 255, Wauville, ME 04901, or by phone (207) 873-0127.

## 1989 Convention

Start planning now to attend the 15th annual AFA Convention in Phoenix, Arizona August 9-13, 1989. Scheduled speakers this year include Joseph Forshaw of Australia. This year's convention will be at The Pointe at South Mountain, 7777 South Pointe Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85044. For hotel reservations, call (800) 528-0428. For more details see the center of *Watchbird* (Apr/May '89 or Jun/Jul '89) or call Opal Crosser (602) 853-0348. Registrations received by May 1, 1989 qualify for an "early bird" rate.

**AFA...working for aviculture and you!**

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# MY FINCHSAVE BLUE CAPS

by Norm Kopecky

## INTRODUCTION

I originally proposed the FINCHSAVE concept and then joined the FINCHSAVE program because I was convinced that the importation of birds was going to end. This was a way to prepare for the day when imported birds would no longer be available.

We have a pet store where we buy relatively large numbers of imported birds. Over the last year, the number and types of imported birds have decreased and prices have increased, in some cases, dramatically. If it weren't for a couple of suppliers, I wouldn't know where to go for a good selection of inexpensive birds.

Many of you may know that imported birds ALMOST DID STOP last winter! The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed some regulations that would effectively have stopped the air shipment of birds. These regulations are currently held in abeyance but could be put into effect at any time.

My conclusion is that we are living on borrowed time. If we aren't raising it, we won't have it. Even if you aren't in FINCHSAVE, now is the time to start breeding as many young as you can of as many types of birds that you can. We may not get a second chance.

## WHY BLUE CAPS ?

We decided to go with Blue Caps for a number of reasons. First, compared to some of the Australians, they are comparatively inexpensive and we could afford five pair. They are pretty, prettier than Red-cheek Cordon-Bleu's I think, and there is a moderate market for them. They are easy to sex visually so that makes setting up pairs so much easier. They reach breeding age quickly so a person can develop a breeding strain quickly. They are hardy compared to many of the other waxbills. Above all, they are relatively easy to get to nest and that is a huge plus in my book. Perhaps it is for these reasons that more people have entered the FINCHSAVE program with the Blue Cap than with any other bird.

## OUR AVIARY

We have the luxury of owning a small old house where we keep all our birds. In the basement, we have five indoor aviaries set up. While they are all different sizes, in general, they are 3-5 feet wide, 4-6 feet deep and 7 feet tall. The sides are mostly chip board with either window screen or 1/2 by 1 inch wire on the fronts.

Each aviary has one or two shoplights with GE CHROMA 50 tubes and regular cool white tubes. NFS member and author Bob Black mentioned that long light waves (infra red) stimulate breeding and the short light waves (ultraviolet) balance the sex ratio. For added protection, we have a black light and some grow lights in the general breeding area.

Each aviary is full of bunches of cord grass and tumble weeds with

branches hung horizontally. Each aviary also has a tube of 2 by 4 inch wire filled with Excelsior and hay and hung from the ceiling. Catching birds in these aviaries is quite a challenge! The floor is cement covered with ground corn cobs.

We use Kaytee Torti-Diel and NutraCare for food and commercial poultry vitamins. Each aviary has a gallon ice cream bucket filled with old bananas which attract fruit flies. A small dish holding grit and another for meal worms completes the menu.

Each aviary never has more than four pairs of birds in it and sometimes they have only two pairs. Each aviary has a pair of Blue Caps and a pair of Green Singing Finches. Also mixed in are Orange Cheek Waxbills, Rose-rumped Waxbills, Strawberries and Shafttails.

#### 1988 EXPERIENCES

In 1987, we raised 21 young out of just three pairs of birds. The way things were going, I thought we would have our 25 chicks by March. Wrong! In January one bird of each pair got their band caught and died. In only one case did a parent successfully form a pair with another young bird that I had raised. Eight different times, I had successful breeding pairs broken up by having their bands caught and a bird dying. In 1988, no pair raised more than one clutch before I lost a parent by having their band caught. My experiences is that the remaining birds did not readily form a new bond with a different partner.

Clearly, the limiting factor on this years production was the closed bands.

Hal Kootz addressed this problem in a previous issue. He reported only about 2-3 % death loss due to bands and considered them essential to proper record keeping. We have about a thousand birds. Flock wide, having bands having bands caught is a very small problem with us also. The few breeding aviaries that I've seen have had only a few branches, some artificial green plants and lots of nest boxes but not the heavy planting we have.

My Blue Caps all nest in the same place - right in the middle of the tumbleweed. They make a nice pretty round nest with burlap and crawl right into it. Long term, the odds are overwhelming that they will eventually get their band caught and die.

Since this was an evaluation year, I have looked at the options. I could forego banding the birds and I think raise a lot of them. However, if you don't get the young out at just the right time, you can't tell them from their mother and end up accidentally splitting up the pair anyhow. Colored, numbered, plastic bands don't seem to offer that much advantage to closed bands. Ultimately,, without banding, there is no way to keep track of bloodlines.

In 1989, I have decided to remove all the tumbleweeds and as many potential spots for bands to get caught as I can and then force the birds to nest in a safer area.

## ANALYSIS OF EXPERIENCE

In spite of raising only 23 young Blue Caps, this last year was very good in forcing me to think about what I want to achieve. I have decided with this type of set up and by just removing bands I can raise all the Blue Caps I would want. Wild caught birds raise young as easily as first generation birds so it seems like I've gained relatively little.

I hate using live food and firmly believe that almost any finch can be raised without live food. So, I have decided to start a free breeding strain of Blue Caps that will parent raise their young on egg food alone. Robert Black has written again and again about the process involved. Foster the eggs to other birds that have the eating habits you want your young to develop.

This last year, Leslie Davis in Sioux City, Iowa successfully fostered two clutches of Blue Caps under Societies and I purchased these birds. I've agreed to give Leslie breeding pairs of Blue Caps and she will foster the eggs. We will then try letting these young raise their own young using NutraCare and game bird starter as the high protein source.

I'm convinced this can be done. I've had Strawberries and Gold Breasts parent raise their chicks on seed and NutraCare alone. I don't know why the Blue Caps would have any special requirements. The fact that they can be foster reared without live food should be proof of that.

We are more convinced than ever that we have to form a domestic strain of all birds quickly. In our case, we want a free breeding strain of Blue Caps that will parent raise their young on seeds and egg food. We are convinced it can be done and hope to make good progress this year.

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# THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW

**New Orleans, La.**

*November 16 - 18, 1989*

*CLARION HOTEL - NEW ORLEANS*

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## NFS NEWS AND NOTES

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NFS QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES      MARCH 11, 1989

This meeting was called to order by the President in the home of the new band secretary, Denise Capazzi. Attending: William Parlee, Russell Armitage, Jr., Brenda Geesey, Roger O'Connell and Christine Voronovitch.

The complete minutes of the National Meeting held in San Diego, as taken by Richard Bewley, were read as was the "State of the Society" report. An item was called to our attention as having been left out of the report as it was summarized in the year-end bulletin. Our current President, William Parlee has said that he will not run for re-election in the 1990 election.

The leg band report indicated that our band secretary has filled 122 orders to this date, representing about 1200 bands sold. We would like to remind our members, again, to order early in the year and to try to anticipate how many bands they would need for the year. Also, try to band the chicks when they are young enough to use the recommended sizes as bands that are too large can be very dangerous to a bird later in it's life.

The Judge's Panel report was handled, in part, by the 1st Vice President as Dr. Decoteau was ill and not in attendance. His report showed that Judge Marco Arrida sent a letter indicating that he must resign for personal reasons. His resignation was reluctantly accepted. The next item was a vote on a new judge. Dr. Decoteau recommended that we vote favorably on this item as all requirements had been fulfilled. A vote taken by the members present resulted in Kenneth Gunby being unanimously approved as an NFS Judge.

We also voted to censure a present Panel Judge for his failure to return two show reports. He has been contacted twice with no response. Gr. Decoteau, Panel Chairman, will handle this.

No Standards report was given. At the National the proposed Society standard was defeated because several points seemed unclear.

Membership and Affiliation report indicated that we have 750 members and 68 club affiliations as of this date. The rosettes for "unflighted" birds are being well received. There is a new affiliation form, please take note.

The Publishing Committee, now headed by Brenda Geesey, reported that the transition from one editor to the other has been less than smooth, through no fault of the previous editor. Things have snowballed and the bulletin is late again. She is determined to overcome and get us back on schedule. A motion was heard and passed that Brenda seek out and approve an "advertising director" to work closely with her to actively solicit ads to make our bulletin more profitable.

The Points Committee had no report because two show reports are still outstanding.

The Promotions report covered the sales of the Official Handbook, the 1989 T-shirt, and the Java Rice Bird mugs, all of which are going quite well. Bill circulated several drawings of possible logos for NFS. A design was chosen as the board's favorite and will be introduced soon. The NFS "store" which warehouses and distributes the merchandise will now be run by xJerry McCawley, 400 Charles St., Luzerne, PA 18709. As of June 1, 1989 you should contact him for all NFS promotional ideas.

The only item on the agenda for New Business was a communication from Martha Wigmore, Regional Vice-President, Mountain Region, (#5). She states that because her family has increased, (a new baby), that she no longer has the time to handle her NFS position. The board was sorry to hear that but we agreed with her recommendation and voted to appoint Rita O'Dell as her successor.

As a nostalgic touch President Parlee read the minutes from January 8, 1984 of the "Northeast Finch Society" the forerunner of the National Finch and Softbill Society. The topics of that organizational meeting were quite interesting and quite different from our current board minutes.

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**ATTENTION ALL JUDGES:** New judging report forms are being printed and will be sent to you in time for the 1989 show season.  
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Many of you are familiar with the recently published "Monograph on Endangered Parrots". The same publisher is planning a similar monograph on Toucans. The tentative publication date is 1994. The publisher would like very much to receive any slides, photos, notes on behavior in the wild or in captivity, any observations of breeding, breeding records, feeding programs, and any other data that would assist in his effort. His address is:

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WANTED: Black-Crested finches. (*Lophospingus pusillus*) for Finchsave program. Need hens, however singles and pairs accepted. Stephen Hoppin, (B13) 997-2237 after 7 p.m..

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#### Purple Grenadiers.

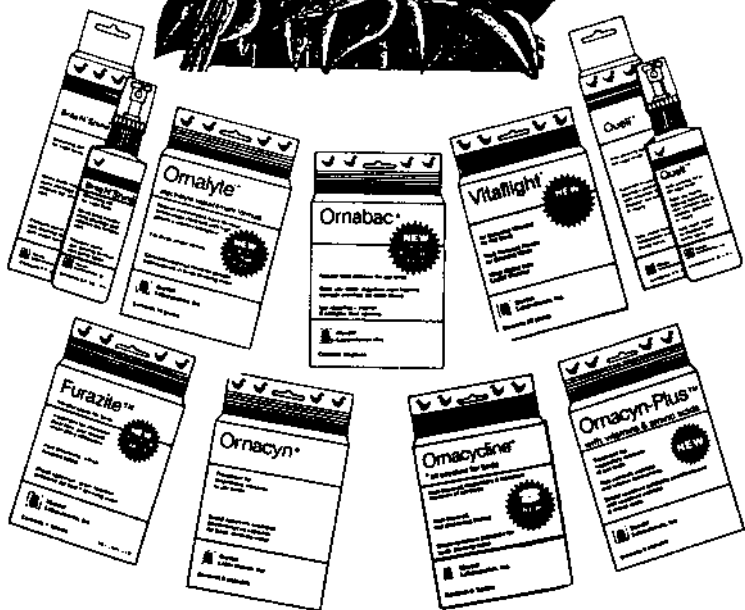
their nest.) The enclosed patio-birdroom project is about 75 % completed so, in the interim, I temporarily placed a cage in my den to house many of my birds, and to give the Purple Grenadiers and Cordon Bleus more space in the large unit. Both pairs started building nests immediately. After a few days, Cordon' decided he like the Purple Grenadiers' nest better than his and being boss bird he swapped nests. Since I had decided not to disturb their nests, I was not aware that there was a Purple Grenadier egg inside until early this Saturday morning while sitting in the den enjoying the birds and a cup of coffee, a little brown bird emerged from Cordon's nest. Since the Grenadiers had been feeding chicks I would have thought it came from their nest had I not been watching at that time. Then on Sunday morning a second Grenadier chick came out of the other nest. Since the Grenadiers were feeding both their chicks and ignoring the nest, I checked and found it empty.

Later in the day the first of four Cordon Bleus emerged from Cordon's nest. Happily, I again have a very crowded cage.

Another note of interest is that the Purple Grenadiers immediately started feeding their newly acquired chick and the Cordons have not tried to feed it after it emerged from their nest."

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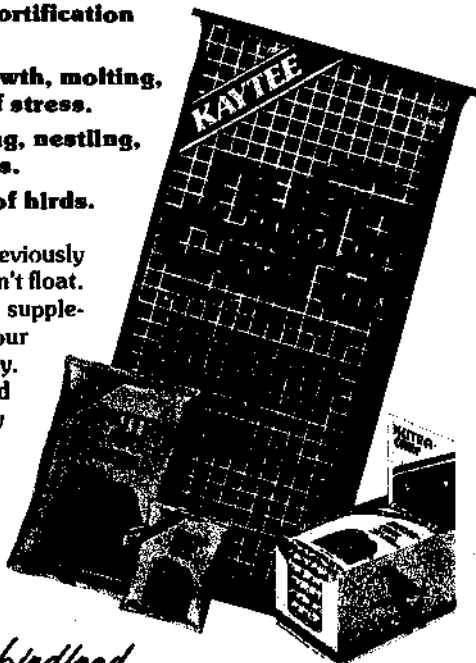
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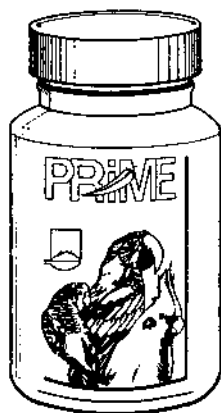
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