

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
1992

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Presidents' Message:

By the time you receive this issue the 1992 show season will be half over. I hope you are enjoying the opportunity to spend time with other bird fanciers on the show circuit. It is entertaining, enlightening and a lot of fun. If you haven't attended a show yet....you still have time to get to one or more this year. They provide a forum in which a lot of information about care and management of species can be exchanged, a marketplace for your excess production and an opportunity to obtain new stock. All this plus the primary goal of comparing the birds you have with those of other finch fanciers. As you know, all members of the NFS Judges Panel are expected to use their expertise as a teaching tool when they are judging to help the exhibitors to learn more about finches and softbills and how to succeed with them, on and off the show bench.

GO TO A SHOW, HAVE A GOOD TIME AND COME HOME SMARTER!

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5/6 '92

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=====

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(402) 592 5488

MARTHA WIGNORE
501B Wezel Circle
Colo. Springs, CO 80916
(719) 574-1594

NOTE: For more information on the Judges' Panel, contact Dr. Al Decoteau.

=====

TO ALL CLUBS WHO WILL BE CONTACTING AN NFS PANEL JUDGE:

PLEASE...Be sure that you are using this current list. It is up to date. Sometimes addresses, phone numbers, etc. change and all other lists are now invalid. Thank you for your attention to this.

Dr. Al Decoteau.
August 1, 1992

=====

Please remember that your "renewal date" is on your address label. Check it and please keep your membership and your correct address up to date. It'll save time and money if Miki doesn't have to send reminders to you.

RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

NFS Membership Services
Miki Sperzak
517 Old North Point Road
Baltimore, MD 21224

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NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

If there is an item that you want to have included, please contact a member of the Board. All elected and appointed officers are Board members.

Next Board meeting will be in August and will be conducted by mail. Again, if there is something that you would like to have presented, contact a Board member.

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IN MEMORY OF DR. VAL CLEAR

=====

BY BILL PARLEE, NFS PRESIDENT EMERITUS

=====

IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS THAT I TELL YOU OF THE RECENT DEATH OF AMERICA'S FATHER OF AVICULTURE, DR. VAL CLEAR. VAL'S TITLE AS THE FATHER OF AVICULTURE IN AMERICA WAS NEVER OFFICIAL, BUT FOR ALL THAT KNEW HIM IT WAS INDEED APPROPRIATE.

I FIRST MET VAL THROUGH HIS ARTICLES IN AMERICAN CAGE BIRD MAGAZINE IN THE EARLY 1970'S. HE WROTE HIS "EXOTIC BIRDS" COLUMN FOR THEM STARTING IN THE 1950'S. THROUGH THAT COLUMN HE INTRODUCED INTERESTED BIRD KEEPERS TO THE VALUE OF KEEPING AND BREEDING NEARLY EVERY SPECIES OF BIRD. HIS TRAVELS, RECOLLECTIONS, EXHIBITING, AND BREEDING EFFORTS GAVE HIS ARTICLES A "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" FLAVOR. HIS DOWN TO EARTH EXPLANATIONS OF AVICULTURAL HUSBANDRY STARTED MANY IN THE KEEPING OF EXOTIC SPECIES OF BIRDS.

I FIRST BECAME PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH VAL IN 1983. THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY STARTED AS THE NORTHEAST FINCH SOCIETY. I WROTE OF THE FLEDGLING ORGANIZATION IN A.C.B.M.. VAL READ OF OUR NEWLY FORMED CLUB AND CONTACTED ME. IT WAS WITH HIS ENCOURAGEMENT AND URGING THAT THE FOUNDERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION DECIDED TO "GO NATIONAL". I REMEMBER THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD; VAL FELT A NATIONAL EFFORT WAS NECESSARY TO BRING OUR FANCY OUT OF THE FRAGMENTED AND UNRECOGNIZED STATUS IT HAD NATIONALLY. HE FELT A TRULY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS NECESSARY FOR THE FINCH AND SOFTBILL HOBBY TO BECOME POPULAR AND TO RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION IT DESERVED IN PUBLICATIONS AND AT SHOWS.

THAT WAS JUST THE START. VAL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING "FINCHSAVE" WITH NFS. HE WORKED ON THE SISKIN PROJECT WITH A.F.A., AND DONATED HIS TIME TO MANY AVICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. HE IMPORTED RARE BIRDS FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND OFFERED THEM TO OTHERS. HE WAS A JUDGE LONG BEFORE THERE WERE JUDGES PANELS. THE ACCOLADES CAN GO ON AND ON.

FIRST, LAST, AND FOREMOST, VAL HAD A QUIET BUT REMARKABLE SENSE OF HUMOR. HE WAS A GENTLEMAN, A TRUE GENTLEMAN. AVICULTURE HAS LOST AN ADVOCATE, AND A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE WHO WAS NEVER AFRAID TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE.

I HAVE LOST A FRIEND. I WILL THINK OF HIM OFTEN, BUT MOST OF ALL, I'LL BE LOOKING FOR VAL AT THE NEXT NATIONAL SHOW. LOOKING TO SEE THE "HUMMERS" OR SPARROWS OR WHATEVER HE MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT TO INTEREST EVEN THE MOST JADED EXHIBITOR. YES, I'LL BE LOOKING FOR VAL; AMERICA'S GENTLEMAN OF AVICULTURE.

GOOD-BYE VAL.

=====
All advertising copy should be sent to:

Editor, NFS BULLETIN,
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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Concerned Bird Club Members:

We are sure you are aware of the terrible devastation caused to South Florida as a result of Hurricane Andrew.

Although major relief efforts are flooding into the area from all over the country, very little aid is being directed towards the avian community. With the high numbers of exotic birds kept and bred by South Florida residents, the help and support of bird clubs throughout the country is urgently needed.

In addition to the loss of their homes and personal property, many bird owners suffered the total destruction of their outdoor aviaries and, in many instances, the housing for their pet birds. Due to this, many birds are still being confined to small crates, shipping boxes, carriers etc. since before the hurricane hit. There are shortages of feed, uncontaminated water, and other necessary supplies. The need is also great for new cages and shelters since most of the shade trees have been destroyed.

To deal with the scope of this disaster, South Florida Avian Relief (SOFAR) has been formed by representatives of several local South Florida bird clubs. SOFAR has the endorsement of, and is being assisted by, the American Federation of Aviculture. SOFAR is providing the volunteers necessary to purchase and distribute much needed supplies. These volunteers are also donating their time and physical efforts to help bird owners recover. Where necessary, volunteers are taking in, and providing temporary housing for birds from displaced owners.

A project of this magnitude requires the joint effort of all bird lovers. Donations are desperately needed to help SOFAR in this endeavor. Monetary contributions are preferred due to a shortage of secure warehouse space in the area, however, all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Your generous donations can help make a difference.

Very truly yours,

Neva Wheeler, President

South Florida Avian Relief
P. O. Box 475
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

=====

BREEDING ZEBRA FINCHES

=====

by: ??????

=====

Ya know, them there real purty liddle burds that ya see in them Tammarts or Cottonworth's or at yore lokal pet store in the mall, ye know, Buzz pets?

Well, I done gone out and bougt me two ov 'em and put 'em in a cage. Ya know the type that yore youngn's liddle hamster used to liv in. Well I jist like ya'll ta know hows we go about breedin' them Zeebreh funches where I'm frum.

Furst - sed up that liddle hamster cage, or bedder yed one of them ode ten gailum fishy tanks. Use cherry branchey's and lots of grape vine, or wuz that poisin ivy? Any which ways, then put in one o them small liddle bird houses, ya know the kind yore youngn's meke e the babbist curches summer school. Den take yore old fishin line, end some perts of an old sparrows nusts and let the burds use it for a nust.

Secund - feed um some o that boxed seed - ya know that stuff theys sell at the grochery sture. Ya know that there corporal's brand seed - the stuff thets beun on the sheif since moby dick wuz a guppy. Thets really good stuff or aisen thay wuden sell it - raht? Den fill up one o dem liddle cups o water. Ya dont hab to check dere stuff too orften, den liddle burds will survahve on jist seed n watuh.

Thurd - in a coupla daze you shud hef some eggs, end den in a couple weeks ya shud hab babes comin outa de nest.

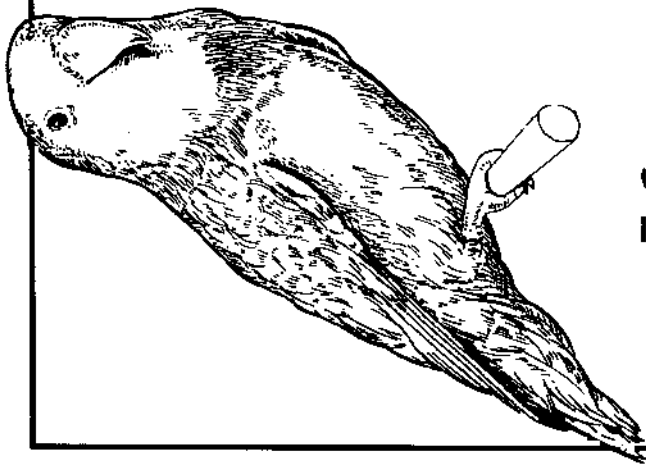
Dis is the ways that we brred ourn burds around deese purts. Ye know these parts? Yaah sure ya do. I'm the funch man of back water birdrooms. The guttless feller that sells all dem liddle skinny birds ta yore local pet stures. Ya know?

=====

Oh no!!!! Don't call me! I have several (rather flaxible) aditorial policies. First, I like to keep the "voice" of the author in the printed piece. Second, I respect the rights of the authors, including "all rights reserved" statements and the occasional requests to remain anonymous. Third, I print what I have on hand that fits the issue I'm putting together et the time. Fourth, I think that many of us are aware that "the funch man of back water birdrooms" is out there, undermining our hobby. If there's one in your neighborhood - give him a copy of The Bulletin of The National Finch and Softbill Society and offer to show him a better way to care for the "liddle burds".

The Editor.

=====



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MORE ON THE AVIAN CRISIS IN FLORIDA

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From "The Perch", the newsletter
of the bird Clubs of Virginia.

=====

Hurricane Andrew, perhaps the worst hurricane in history, devastated Miami. "Wings Over Asia" of the Miami Zoo is no more, Parrot Jungle was under 7 feet of salt water, commercial aviaries were devastated, including Kathleen Szabo's "Luv Them Birds" and untold private aviaries of people who are struggling just to get food for themselves. One woman asked, "Can I feed my bird tomato soup? I haven't anything else." Editor of the Central Florida Bird Breeders "Squawk". Diana Skalski-McNabb, relayed a picture of a serious crisis, both for humans and birds.

American Federation of Aviculture leaders on the scene in the Tampa and Orlando areas have organized some relief and have already taken at least three shipments of bird food, monkey chow, and wire, working through persons of the seven bird clubs in Miami, and a load of veterinary supplies to the Miami area, working through Sally Zonner of Davie, FL, to a distribution point where vets are picking up supplies. AFA Florida state coordinator Morgan Knox of Marcoossee, southeast of Orlando, and Dwight Greenberg have made two trips at least and plan more, as they secure items paid for by donations from aviculturists and clubs from around the country, Diana says. Chuck Saffell, 1st vice president of AFA at Palmetto, FL, organized the collection of supplies at a Sarasota warehouse and made the trip to Miami.

"This is a long range relief project," Diana says, "We'll need money for a long time to come. We have the items they need here. We just need the money to buy them." Biggest need was hand tools and actual labor. Bird folks are responding from northern Florida and the Miami bird clubs are putting them to work where needed and not just for birds.

Bob McMorris, president of the Florida Federation of Avian Societies, says its member clubs are responding individually to the crisis, and proceeds from a club bird mart last week was donated right out.

The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) has found homes for Miami's Zoo population in zoos elsewhere. A warehouse in closer Hallandale intended for other avian collections, has been donated for private refugee collections, rather than them being taken to an earlier arranged warehouse in Orlando.

Phyllis Martin of Tampa, past president of AFA and now president of the International Aviculturist Society, has a truckload also going to Miami, and along with AFA, is accepting donations.

DVM Susan Clubb, Parrot Jungles staff veterinarian, reported that damage at Parrot Jungle was primarily to the grounds, that no birds were lost according to Tom Hinte of our club, an IAS director and editor of its newsletter, and who is spreading the word to clubs in many states.

THE INTERNATIONAL AVICULTURIST SOCIETY is including relief for hard-hit Louisiana also.

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YOU CAN MAKE OUT CHECKS TO:

IAS Relief Fund
c/o Phyllis Martin
P. O. Box 130424
Tampa Fl 33681-0424

or

American Federation of Aviculture
c/o Morgan Knox
2801 Absher Drive
Narcoosee Fl 34771

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From the NFS Editor: Bird Clubs of Virginia is an "umbrella" organization that links all of the many active clubs and societies in their state. It has been noted since its' inception for its' generous support of education, research and other worthwhile avicultural projects. Dick Ivy, Editor of "The Perch. reports that BCV has donated \$1500 to the American Federation of Aviculture's Relief Fund. The members and directors of BCV can be proud of, and should be congratulated for this friendly and unselfish gesture. If we have a quorum of NFS Board members in New Orleans we will discuss making a donation from the NFS treasury. If no quorum is present we will discuss this idea in Oklahoma City. As the article above mentions, relief will be needed for some time into the future.

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ARE YOU A BIT TIMID ABOUT WRITING ?

Jon Hoffman, our Second Vice President, and well-known BIRD TALK columnist, has volunteered to help you! In a letter to me Jon wrote, "since some people are shy about writing and aren't comfortable about their ability to write, perhaps they could submit the outline or sketch of what they want to say, and then I can put it into an edited-form of article for them. The procedure might be that a breeder sends me the information or calls me to discuss what they want to say. I then write it up and it goes back to the breeder for approval. The breeder makes notes of any clarifications or requests for changes and sends it back to me. I put it into a final form and send it to the bulletin editor for publication."

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

=====

KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRO SHOW Ron or Ann Williams, (504) 241 0972
October 3 - 4, 1992, Landmark Hotel, (Metairie) New Orleans, LA
Hosted by the Louisiana Aviculture Society. Panel Judge: Brian Mandarich

NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW June and Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066
November 19-21, 1992, Sheraton Century Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK
Hosted by the Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma. Panel Judge: Brian Binns

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern Co.; Ken Foster, (805) 589 0626
Show: December 5, 1992 Bakersfield, CA Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Capital City Bird Society; Helen Caudle, (916) 933 1619
Show: October 24 & 25, 1992 Roseville, CA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

Finch Society of San Diego County; Sharon Russell, (619) 546 1870

Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Richard Lujan, (408) 984 1453
Show: October 31, 1992 Fresno, CA Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Golden Gate Avian Society; Claudio Salo, (510) 455 9909
REGIONAL SHOW: November 14 & 15, 1992 Tracy, CA Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.; Sharon Russell, (619) 546 1870
Show: November 6 to 8, 1992 San Diego, CA Panel Judge: Brian Binns

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic B. C.; Ned Crowley, (408) 258 4601
Show: November 28 & 29, 1992 Santa Clara, CA Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Southern CA Finch & Hookbill Association; Gregory Aden, (310) 379 2416
Shows: October 31, 1992 Redondo Beach, CA Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld
November 1, 1992 Redondo Beach, CA Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Terri McAuliffe (719) 576 9009

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Donald Locke, Jr. (303) 289 5721
REGIONAL SHOW: November 7, 1992 Brighton, CO Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Chria Voronovitch, (203) 649 8220
Show: October 24, 1992 E. Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

New England Finch Fanciers; Rusell Armitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875
Show: November 28, 1992 East Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Len Brower (305) 931 3468

Exotic Bird Club of Florida; Susan Gottfried, (407) 777 7363
Show: November 14, 1992 Indiatlantic, FL Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show; Clair Remo, (813) 482 5352

Gold Coast All Bird Club; Mike Mariscano, (305) 929 1606
Show: October 31, 1992 Deerfield Beach, FL Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

Gulf Coast Exotic Bird Club; Staphan Hoppin, (813) 997 2237

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.; Lillian Mount, (813) BB6 6492

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn.; Jerri Weisenfeld, (904) 731 7173

Suncoast Avian Society; Joa Vantimiglia, (813) 392 9391
Show: October 24, 1992 Tampa, FL Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Dale Laird, (407) 657 7989
REGIONAL SHOW: October 10, 1992 Orlando, FL Panel Judge: Brenda Geaney

West Florida Avian Society, Inc.; Barbara Farrell, (904) 683 1634

GEORGIA

Central Georgia Exotic Bird Club; Dawn Miller, (404) 460 8233

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club; Lorraine Chang, (808) 595 3689

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Jane Muscato, (708) 305 9043
Show: November 7, 1992 Rolling Meadows, IL Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Illini Bird Fanciers; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

Springfield Pet Bird Club; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers; Conrad Meinert, (219) 269 2873
Show: October 10, 1992 Ft. Wayne, IN Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

West Central Indiana Bird Club; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

IOWA

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

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society; Hal Prestar, (316) 263 0850

REGIONAL SHOW: October 10, 1992 Wichita, KS Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

Heartland Canary & Finch Club; James Johnson, (913) 686 2774

Show: October 24, 1992 Lawrence, KS Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society; Steve Slates, (606) 223 2600

Show: November 7, 1992 Lexington, KY Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Kruse, (504) 649 2392

Show: October 17, 1992 New Orleans, LA Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Cajun Canary Club; Ernie Brown, (504) 834 5100

Show: October 10, 1992 Rivar Ridge, LA Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Capital Area Avicultural Society; Tim Schexnaydre, (504) 562 3579

MAINE

Maine State Caged Bird Society; Sheryl Adams, (207) 727 5633

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers; Deb Clark, (410) 242 8471

Show: October 17, 1992 Baltimore, MD Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Maryland Cage Bird Society; Theresa Brown, (410) 735 7662

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Dianna Smith (508) 540 3214

Show: October 17, 1992 S. Easton, MA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesay

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society; Joan Lenon, (616) 677 5882

Show: October 17, 1992 Grand Rapids, MI Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Mid-Michigan Bird Club; Mary Terwilliger, (517) 463 5695
Show: November 7, 1992 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643
Show: November 14, 1992 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

Motor City Bird Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643
Show: October 24, 1992 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643
Show: October 31, 1992 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

MINNESOTA

Upper Midwest Bird Show & Sale; Nellie Rohe, (612) 854 7169

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Jim Leach, (816) 254 0415
Show: October 17, 1992 Kansas City, MO Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Heart of America Hookbill Society; James Johnson, (913) 268 3209
Show: October 17, 1992 Kansas City, MO

Missouri Cage Bird Association; Dennis Burhans, (314) 441 8525
REGIONAL SHOW: November 7, 1992 Eureka, MO Panel Judge: Earl Courts

NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club; Raymond Passaro, (201) 291 9224

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society; Larry DeLorenzo, (508) 927 5494

New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Larry DeLorenzo, (508) 927 5494
Show: October 10, 1992 Hudson, NH Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club; Leslie Leber, (516) 431 9267
Show: November 7, 1992 Hempstead, NY Panel Judge: William Parlee

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association; Rena Rouse, (315) 252 7673

Rochester Cage Bird Club; Vicki Steffenhagen, (716) 964 2840
Show: November 14, 1992 Rochester, NY Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society; Marvin Yoder, (301) 746 6665

Releigh-Durham Caged Bird Association; Keren Whitlow, (919) 851 5824

OHIO

Cleveland Cege Bird Society; Maureen Mehozonek, (216) 234 7674

Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club of America; Kaye Young, (517) 263 4786

OKLAHOMA

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

HOSTS FOR THE 1992 NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW November 19 to 21, 1992

Sheraton Century Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK Panel Judge: Brian Binns

PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Pat Krichten, (717) 632 8092

Show: October 24, 1992 Grantville, PA Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Chester County Bird Breeders; Barbara Archibald, (215) 644 1760

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143

Show: November 14, 1992 Creamery, PA Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society; Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 323 6438

Show: November 7, 1992 Monroeville, PA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

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

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffey, (615) 361 5939

Show: October 24, 1992 Nashville, TN Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

TEXAS

Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club; Karol Deem, (409) 737 1557

Show: September 5, 1992 Galveston, TX Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

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

Show: October 3, 1992 Fort Worth, TX Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Assn; Clarence Culwell, (817) 523 5568

Show: November 7, 1992 San Antonio, TX Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

VIRGINIA

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

WISCONSIN

Badger Canary Club; Patrice Ripple, (414) 527 1980

Show: October 24, 1992 Oak Creek, WI Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

CANADIAN NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW; Victoria, British Columbia

October 24, 1992 Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton; Peter Webb, (416) 575 0858

Show: November 13 to 15, 1992 Stoney Creek, Ontario

Confederacion Ornitologica Nacional; Rafael Saurez, (809) 752 4433

1st National Show; December 4 to 6, 1992 Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

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

Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario; Vincent Moase, (416) 723 1978

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society; Alfred Mion, (519) 948 6398

Show: October 16 - 18, 1992 Vincent Moase, Judge

New Zealand Finch Breeders; New Zealand, Mrs. E. M. Foster

Queensland Finch Society; Queensland, Australia Gavin Dietz

Zebra Finch Society, England; Brian Binns, Manchester, England

=====

TO ALL DELEGATES AND JUDGES: Please read the list carefully!! If you see errors or omissions please call me at (717) 854 2604 immediately!

=====

Editor's Note: I want to publicize all shows and other events being sponsored by NFS Affiliated Clubs. The only way that is possible is for YOU, the delegates and members to notify me! Send a note to the home office address as soon as a show or event is scheduled and keep sending notes as additional information becomes available! Next deadline is November 15, 1992 for the November/December issue.

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FINCHSAVE REPORT

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by Linda Oja, FINCHSAVE Director

=====

The month of August started off extremely well with nine applications in the first two weeks. We now have all groups represented. A member has applied with four Mannikin species, and another member with softbills and Weavers, and we received an application for Brazilian Cardinals late last month.

We presently have one or more of the following species enrolled in the FINCHSAVE program: Indian Hill, Pagoda, and Bali Mynahs. White-eyes (Zosterops), Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesia. Blue-capped and Red-cheek Cordon Bleu, Black-cheeked, Orange-cheeked, Strawberry, Lavender, Violet-eared, St. Helena, Yellow-bellied Waxbills; Green Avadavat, Peter's Twin-spot, Melba finch, Yellow-wing pytilia, Aurora, Greensinger, Scaly-crowned Weaver, Rufous-necked Weaver. Cutthroat, Red-breasted Bluebill, Golden-breasted Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting, Diamond Sparrow, Blue-faced Parrot finch, Owl finch, Siberian Goldfinch, Brazilian Cardinal, Black & White, Rufous Back, and Moluccan Mannikins and African Silverbill. We now have 37 different species, 20 participants and 358 birds in the program. Five Board members are presently participants in the program. Others have expressed interest in joining.

We are looking for more FINCHSAVE Committee MEMBERS. Some suggested candidates for the FINCHSAVE Committee are: Jodie Davis, Brenda Geesey and Stephen Hoppin. We are hoping for more people to volunteer their assistance. We are pleased that the program is now growing nicely and we can see that there will be lots more work to be done.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliated clubs may choose to adopt a species and apply to FINCHSAVE. The program is not just limited to individuals. It can be a club project. One of your club members can be appointed to gather the information and send it in to me. The birds do not necessarily have to all be owned by one person. Just appoint one person to be the FINCHSAVE contact person and put their name and address on the application.

SUCCESSFUL FINCHSAVE BREEDINGS: (Please...keep us posted on these so we can keep the other members posted too?) Jodie Davis, Softbill Group Manager, has reported successful breeding of her Silver-eared Mesias and Scaly-crowned Weavers. She is attempting to determine which size band is appropriate for the Weavers. Can you help? Gail Ranshaw has reported breeding success with her Strawberry finches, my own finches have raised 8 chicks now; 5 parent-reared in one nest. Last year I had to foster all of the eggs. I still have more chicks in the nest but I won't count them till they successfully fledge. I believe Bea Rogers Owls have also hatched some chicks.

FINCHSAVE member Leurs Sherman has not only volunteered her (and her husband Tad's) time in setting up a National Finch and Softbill Census form but

she has also submitted a design for a FINCHSAVE logo. It's reproduced at the end of this article. Laura and Ted have been a lot of help and have provided lots of good ideas for the survey and other projects.

SNIPPING FINCHES Having participants located in different parts of the U.S. and Canada can make it very difficult and costly to send and receive birds. Fewer airlines will carry birds and the cost makes it not worth your while to ship a pair or two of birds. Brenda Geesey has sent me some information on "biosecure" shipping boxes with regard to pursuing the possibility of shipping finches and softbills by express mail if we can convince the U.S. Postal Service to amend their regulations to include these birds. Presently adult chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, doves, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, quail, ducks, geese and swans may be sent in approved containers (biosecure). The birds must weigh over 6 ounces. The service is quick and relatively inexpensive and the birds are delivered to your door. As I stated, we need to assign someone the task of approaching the Postal Service. Detailed articles on Finches Flying Express Mail may be found in the July/August 1990 and September/October 1990 issues of the NFS Bulletin. I would really appreciate some help on this project. I will keep you posted. Another possible solution is creating a network of people willing to pick up and deliver birds while traveling to conventions, seminars and shows. Some NFS members already do this. It would mean making arrangements well in advance with much consideration given to the person carrying the birds. We are considering putting together a group shipment here for people in the Virginia/North Carolina area so we can order a larger number of birds (some dealers have minimum orders). There are a lot of factors to consider when doing this. It must be decided how loss of birds in shipment will be handled and how birds will be picked up and distributed. Other NFS members have been doing this successfully. It just has to be well planned. Others may want to try this if enough interested people can group together and work out all of the questions.

DONATED BIRDS: I'm looking into the possibility of having birds donated to the program and placing them with appropriate participants. This will have to be done within reasonable geographical areas since we have not worked out a transportation system at this time. Our local bird club has instituted an Avian Adoption Program to place unwanted birds. Some of the finches we receive may be appropriately placed in the FINCHSAVE program if they qualify. Other people who inquired about the program have indicated that they would be willing to donate birds to the program. I would need to inform potential participants of the availability of such birds to get more people involved in the program. Please send comments, questions and/or suggestions directly to me.

SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: I have done several presentations on the FINCHSAVE program to clubs and I am willing to do more when I can fit them into my schedule. I would like to have more slides of various species that are enrolled in the program and I would welcome any suggestions about content, etc.

WEAVERS: I was trying to identify some Weavers in a store (I ended up

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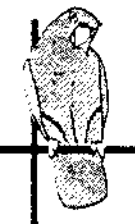
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buying all of them) and I could not find very much information about identifying them...particularly when they are out of color...or about braiding them. I would appreciate hearing from successful breeders and NFS members who have good information on identifying hens and out of color males. If you know of a good book and a good source for it, give me a call or drop a note. Thanks.

FINCHSAVE LOGO: We have not absolutely settled on the logo yet. If you have an idea please send a sketch as soon as possible.

For questions about FINCHSAVE or an application to join, please contact:

Linda Oja, 268 Exatar Road, Newport News, VA 23602-7350

The first
submission
for a
FINCHSAVE
LOGO.



SOURCES FOR MORE BOOKS

In the May/June issue I published a list of books that I thought might be helpful to you and a list of sources for them. Add to that list:

Buteo Books
Route 1 Box 242
Shipman, Va 22971 (804) 263-8671

Their July 1992 catalog has over 175 titles, some rare and out-of-print and many "field guide" type books written by various well known field biologists.

My personal opinion, seconded by Kris Kroner who sent this catalog to me, is that the best way to learn how to manage and possibly breed the more unusual species in captivity is to read about their habits and their habitat in the wild.

The Editor.

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THE 1992 NFS CENSUS ROLLS AROUND

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Yes, it may seem like just a few months since you stood in your bird room with tablet and pencil in hand and tried to count the little derlinga as they merrily flew past you, flipping seed hulls and those adorable teeny tiny little body feathers onto your shirt and some more solid and more sticky material unto your shoes. As a matter of fact, it might have been just a few months ago but now it's time to do it again.

I have a suggestion. Let's copy a very succesaful idea that the Audubon Society put into action years ago. Audubon members take part in a "Christmas Day Bird Count". Now you know that our dedicated Census Chairman, Tom Rood is a school teacher -- Oh, you didn't know? Well, anyway he is and that means that he has a vacation during the time from Christmas to New Years which the rest of us envy wildly!! So if we copy Audubon precisely it'll mean that our Census forms reach Tom on the last day of his vacation. It might be grand revenge for the rest of us who work during his week off but not fair to poor dear Tom!

Let us modify Audubon's excellent idee. Let us do our Census on the same day each year, as works so well for them but let us choose another day. I leave the choice to you...Halloween? Thanksgiving? Veterens Day? First Day of Winter? Chenukah? Columbus Day? Choose the one that is most suitable and leest likely to interfere with other celebrations in your life and do your Census that day each year....just be sure that you do it and that it reaches Tom at a reasonable time. He has agreed to make the deadline 12/31 again but it would be eesier for him if he had them by 12/15 I'm sure.

For those of you (and I'm pleased to say that there are more of you each month) who are participants in FINCHSAVE, please jot a note to Tom telling him that and mark the species that you are enrolled in FINCHSAVE with on the cenaua form.

The form is printed in the middle of this issue again to make it eesy to remove end with an "envelope" printed on the back to make it easy to mail. However, Tom tells me that about 10% of the forms from last year got mengled by the Post Office equipment. PLEASE.. more tape and/or more staplea this year or better yet put the form in an envelope to mail it.

=====

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN

THE 1992 CENSUS !!

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IN MEMORY OF DR. VAL CLEAR

This is a eulogy from his home-town newspaper, written by a friend, Jim Bailey, an editor of that paper and sent to the members of NFS by Val's son Todd.

Few individuals on this earth have put their faith into action to any greater degree than Val Clear.

Dr. Clear, who died August 21, 1992, at age 77, was a missionary teacher in Peru, a college professor and an activist in the field of sociology, social work and criminal justice. He not only taught, he lived out his teachings.

He taught 33 years at what was then Anderson College. As I had minimal academic interest in his field, our paths never crossed in the classroom. But from extensive contacts in Sunday school class sessions, committees, seminars of various sorts and in church activities, as well as being neighbors for about a decade, I knew him well.

Valorous Bernard Clear was one of a kind.

He was born in Kendallville in 1915, moving to Detroit in early childhood. As a result of church contacts, he came to Anderson College in 1936, was ordained to the ministry and subsequently became a missionary teacher in Lima, Peru. It was there he met and wed Evelyn Clark.

The Clears returned to the United States in 1944, and in 1947 he began teaching at Anderson College.

But being a minister and teacher wasn't enough. What he preached and taught, he chose to put into action, often in dramatic ways.

He rented out the upstairs apartment in his Third Street home to college students. Most of the time his tenants were minorities - something that wasn't done in that era, and indeed technically was forbidden by real estate covenants of the time that restricted residence to white Christians. He was a co-founder of the Anderson Urban League and for years was active in race relations in Madison County. His interest in the field didn't develop overnight or from his academic background, either; straight out of college he had lived briefly in New York City's Spanish Harlem, where he worked with an E. Stanley Jones-associated ashram.

Another logical step was an interest in criminal justice. Anderson University, owes its strong criminal justice program to the groundwork laid by Dr. Clear. He helped found the Re-entry program by which former offenders are re-integrated into society. After his retirement from AU, he went to work for

the Unified Courts of Madison County as coordinator of sentencing service.

But Val Clear didn't fit into any traditional mold as a social activist. For one thing, he was a Republican. As such, he brought different perspectives to the local political scene. Nor was he a sign-carrying crusader; his style was to work with the nuts and bolts of society, effecting change through personal contact. And he wasn't just a pacifist, but a self-described "Christian pacifist"

As a college professor, social activist and family man with three sons, you wouldn't think much time remained for avocational pursuits. But, Dr. Clear was equally well known for another interest: his love of birds.

A visit to his home let you know of this interest, even before you saw or heard the many varieties of exotic fowl he kept. He was an active member of the American Federation Of Aviculture and was a long-time contributing editor to American Cage Bird Magazine.

Evelyn's sudden death on Christmas Day 1981 during a trip to Mexico City brought adjustments, as did advancing age. But he kept unusually active until felled by a recent stroke.

It seemed only fitting that one who had given so much during his lifetime would keep on giving as he did by willing his body to medical science.

You didn't always agree with Val Clear. But you always knew where he stood. He was more concerned with respect than friendship. And he had plenty of both

Todd, thank you very much for taking time to share this with us.

One of Dr. Clear's many friends, John Bennett of Ontario suggested, and the Board agreed, that the National Finch and Softbill Society will sponsor an annual trophy to be awarded to the Best Softbilled Bird in The National Cage Bird Show. It will be in honor of Dr. Val Clear and will bear his name.

We'll all miss Val at the National, and his hummers and his tanagers and his sense of humor. It was a real pleasure to know him. I'm so glad I had the opportunity.

The Editor.

Valorous Bernard Clear was one of a kind.

=====
CLASSIFIED ADS
=====

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list. Ed & Susan Singh. Aardvark Imports, Santa Monica, CA. USDA Approved
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THE 1992 NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY CENSUS

=====

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Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____

=====

Name of Species, common and/or scientific

Mutation, type or color

Number in flock
Cocks Hens Unk.

Breeding success?

How many raised in 1991?

Chicks available?

Name of Species, common and/or scientific	Mutation, type or color	Number in flock			Breeding success?	How many raised in 1991?	Chicks available?
		Cocks	Hens	Unk.			

PLEASE...LIST FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS ONLY !

Are you willing to exchange information with other NFS members? YES _____ NO _____

Please check "yes" above. NFS will not publish or give out addresses, only phone numbers.

At this time when many species are becoming harder and harder to find, we feel it is important that information be shared. If you want the information that you supply to be for statistical purposes only, check "no".

TO HELP OUR DEVOTED VOLUNTEERS TO TABULATE THIS CENSUS AT A TIME THAT IS CONVENIENT TO THEM WE MUST INSIST ON AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM.

THIS CENSUS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY TOM ROOD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 1992.

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WANTED: Scarlet-crested Australian Grass Finch. Mike Mariscano, 1600 Arthur Street, Hollywood, FL 33020 (305) 929 1606. jf93

SHOW CAGES: Built to NFS specs. Assembled or kit. Send SASE for price list to: LeRoy Aden. 1816 Independence, Conway, Arkansas 72032 (501) 329 2513. nd

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FINCHSAVE CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE: 1992 domestically raised Scaly Crowned Weavers. Unrelated pairs. Adorable, feisty birds, but agree well with other species. Jodie Davis, (VA) (703) 754-9643.

WANTED: To trade or buy new blood, Blue faced parrot finches. Jodie Davis, (VA) (703) 754-9643.

WANTED: Blue-grey Tanager, (*Thraupis episcopus*). I need a hen and want another pair. Must be surgically sexed or proven. Brenda Geesey, (717) 854 2604.

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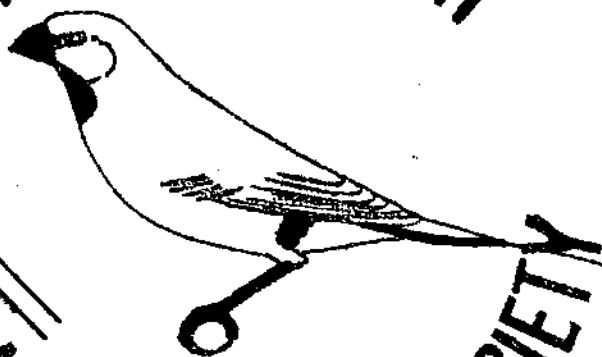
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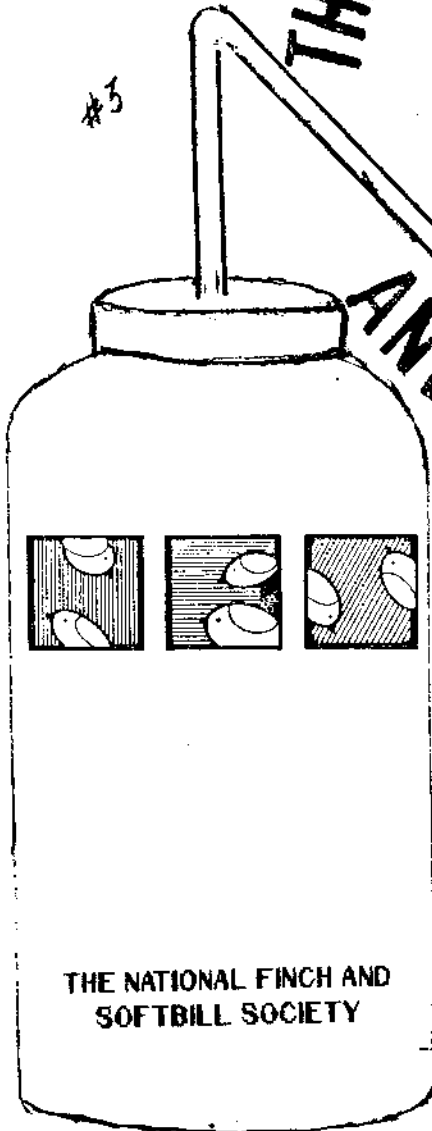
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#3.

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THE NATIONAL FINCH AND
SOFTBILL SOCIETY

AND...Bruce, the cut and paste master, got them all on one page! Hooray! The Editor.

=====

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CAGE-BIRD EXHIBITION
November 19-21, 1992**

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For Further Information Contact:
Harold Sodamann, Route 5, Box 367A, Paola, KS 66071

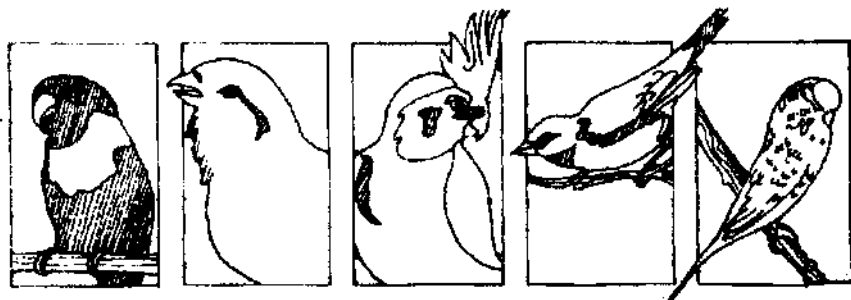
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Cockatiels - **Charles Krueger**
Fifes - **Sal DiPasquale**
Finches & Softbills - **Bryan Binns**
Glossers - **Larry Wilson**

Hartz - **Ted Kirby**
Lipochrome Colorbred - **Geoff Walker**
Lovebirds - **Nancy Polloreno**
Melanin Colorbred - **Tony Munoz**
Old Varieties - **Mac Saedi**
Parrot - **Jon Hoffman**
Type Canaries - **Francis Martin**

(All Show Divisions will enter Thursday afternoon or early Friday morning and remain on exhibit until checkout time which takes place after the banquet on Saturday night.)



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NFS OVERSEAS AWARD PROJECT NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW

by Tom Rood

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For several years now, the National Finch and Softbill Society has participated in an overseas exchange project with several bird clubs throughout the world. The purpose of this project is to acquire international awards for presentation at the National Cage Bird Show. The overseas clubs are very cooperative in this effort and have sent numerous unique awards to be used at our National.

It looks like this year's National in Oklahoma City will again be well supported with many overseas exchange awards. Several clubs in England, Scotland, Australia, and other countries have sent over various awards to be presented in Oklahoma City. In exchange, we have sent over several N.F.S. awards to these countries.

At this printing, we do not have a complete list of the actual overseas awards to be presented at the National. It is safe to say that every section will be covered in our National classifications. Many "unflighted" section awards will be presented. Zebras and Societies (Bengalese) will be covered with numerous awards as several of the clubs we exchange with are Zebra or Bengalese specialist clubs.

The overseas awards we have received to date are quite unique to the type of awards we give in the U.S. Lots of colorful rosettes have been received along with small plaques, diplomas, and medals. Many clubs in England and Scotland offer "traveling" trophies which must be returned at the next year's show. The winner keeps the trophy or cup for a year and must return it at the next year's show. He usually receives a small replica of the award for permanent possession. Quite possibly we may have something along this line for our 1992 National.

The awards that have been received will be present at the National Show and awarded to the winners at that time. Plan on bringing along a few extra birds and hopefully, you will be one of the lucky winners. We should have a complete list of the overseas awards on the day of the show.

The bird you leave at home just might be the winner!!

Good luck and best wishes for a successful show season.

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The Editor reminds you that if you win one of these "Overseas Exchange" awards you should thank Tom - this project is his and he does an enormous amount of correspondence and shipping of our NFS awards to arrange for these exchanges - plus he transports them to the show site each year. Thanka Tom. Nice job.

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NEWS & NOTES

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We've concluded a Board Meeting-by-mail and this time 13 of the 18 members participated. That is the good news. The not-so-good news is that we're about to lose one of the members of the Board. Don Locke, Jr., Regional Vice President for Region 5, Mountain to Desert (in Martha Wigmore's words) has submitted his resignation. Due to personal considerations beyond his control he says that he has withdrawn from the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture and he feels that "he cannot serve NFS to your best interests." Don, the Board and the membership want to thank you for what you have done and to wish you all the best in the future.

NFS members in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.....this is a call for your assistance. We need a nominee to fill Don's term until January 1994. Please consider NFS members who you feel will be active in your area and send their names, after seeking their approval of course, to the home office.

Our Band Secretary reports that we've (or rather she, with her usual efficiency) has sold 27,810 bands as of September 8th. WOW! As things stand now Denise will be in Oklahoma City with order forms for the 1993 bands. Hate to tell you this but there will have to be a price increase to cover our costs. Not much of a jump though...just to \$2.75 a string of ten. Still just costs you 27 1/2 cents to make your domestically bred chicks eligible for NFS Championship points. Cheap (or is that Cheep?).

Miki Sperzak, the treasurer, reports that we have total cash assets of \$13,550.44 ea of 9/11/92. and all bills are paid up to date. She's the Membership Services Chair too and says "the actual member count, including affiliated clubs is up to 951. Renewals are coming in very well, the new labeling/stamping system is working well and everything is wonderful now that all the bugs have been worked out of my computer. I love my position in Membership Services and hope to add to the new and improved Society". What more could you ask?

Russ is cool, calm and competent - as usual - he got one very late affiliation this year and handled it with his usual efficiency. Things are rolling along well with the NFS Affiliated clubs.

Al's sending letters to all heads of all Standards Committees, asking for written reports on their progress to be reviewed in November. The Mynah Standard Committee needs a Chair and he is looking for volunteers for that...lots of help available...we just need a Chief! He says all is quiet in the reporting of points right now...that'll change in the next few months! He has one apprentice scheduled to take a test this fall and is expecting to schedule at least two more.

I'm thrilled to tell you that Linda Oja's report on FINCHSAVE is so good and so extensive that it deserves and got a page of its' own!! Three things I want to mention here are that she's looking for a special logo...see the neat one that Laura Sherman sent in...do you have an idea too? Also, those of you who are skilled on computers could be of assistance to the FINCHSAVE Committee if you would contact her and network with them on a format for a FINCHSAVE Census. We need a liaison to the United States Postal Service to attempt to change their regulations about Express Mailing finches. Do you work for them? Do you have a contact person with them? If so, please contact Linda.

Jerry's new job is keeping him on the road or in front of his computer for 60 to 70 hours each week. He reports that all of the FINCHSHOP orders are "basically caught up" (some may be tardy due to me...I had to photocopy some things to send to him so he could send them out and I had a tough time finding the time to do it) and that all is going semi-smoothly. (Again, it may be my fault if it's not all smooth...check before you blame Jerry.) What with all of the tension he is under he might not make it to New Orleans or Oklahoma City. Can you imagine one of those big shows without his help?

Even worse -- Chris Voronovitch isn't able to come to the Nationals this year! One of the Founding Mothers who has done a dozen jobs very well for the Society and is quietly carrying a very heavy load sorting and sending out those plaques and rosettes with no complaints or quarrels and now we won't get to hug her this November!

Speaking of hugs, you'll want to look for Martha Wigmore and Jon Hoffman on the show circuit this year and hug them! The new version of the Handbook is GRAND and they are responsible. It should be available by the time you receive this issue...no price set yet...check with Jerry.

We're hoping (not sure yet) to have Jon's videotaped slide show "An Introduction to Finches & Softbills" in New Orleans and we're 99% sure it'll be at Oklahoma City. Jon says it's great and he is a tough critic.

Regional Vice Presidents 1, 2 and 3 are reporting affiliations are up, memberships are up, and enthusiasm for FINCHSAVE and the show season are up!

New business that the Board considered included accepting Jim Foxwell's suggestion to order canvas tote bags with the NFS logo imprinted. We're planning to have them for sale in Oklahoma City for the first time.

The Board voted to have the owners of the Champion birds decide which worthy avicultural cause the cash donation should go to, and the Board decided that the appropriate amount would be \$50 in honor of each NFS Champion bird. Of course, this is in addition to the commemorative award made to each owner at the National Show. You might find it interesting that Tom Rood (owner of two of the first Champions) suggested that the award to the owners should be a brand-new Chevy mini-van. When that idea got stomped by the rest of the Board he tried a compromise by suggesting a used Chevy minivan. We stomped that one too. Unanimously. Sorry Tom, nice try. Chris Voronovitch is keeping the descriptions of those awards a big secret - you'll have to be in Oklahoma City to find out!

Thanks to the advice of several NFS computer experts NFS is now the

GUIDE TO ORDERING 1991 NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY CLOSED LEG BANDS

Thanks to the work done by the Band Size Committee we are able to offer an expanded list of suggested sizes for more species of finches and softbills. We're hoping to get more updates from societies overseas in 1991. We also welcome members suggestions for the list.

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-
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-
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-
- D Zebras, Gouldians, Pictorellas, Yellow-rumps, Chestnut-breasted, Blue-faced Parrot, Pintail Nonpareil, most other Parrot finches, most smaller Mannikins and most Twin Spots.
-
- E Society, Spice, Siskins, Golden Song Sparrows, Diamond Sparrows, Muns, Peter's Twin Spots and Black Crested Finches.
-
- G Magpie Mannikins, and other large Mannikins, European Goldfinch and small Tanagers.
-
- J Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias and other small softbills.
-
- K Java Rice, Shama Thrush, Saffron and Red-crested Cardinal.
-
- L Diamond Doves, other small doves, Quail and other softbills.
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See expanded list of sizes recommended for particular species on previous page.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY.

owner of a scanner which is working like a champ and a modem which will make it possible for a direct link between this computer and the membership services computer, Region Two's Vice President's computer and the FINCHSAVE Director's computer. Isn't high-technology great?

We still need more volunteers to man (woman?) the NPS table in New Orleans and Oklahoma City and to help as secretaries and stewards. I was really pleased to get a call from a novice member who really wants to be either a secretary or steward in New Orleans. What a neat opportunity for her to learn a lot in a hurry and have a good time doing it! You should seize this opportunity too!

We're looking for new ideas for designs for T-shirts, a FINCHSAVE logo and a replacement for the rather cryptic logo down in the left corner of the Bulletin cover. Help! I can't even draw a stick figure that is recognizable, let alone a bird.

The Board approved donating five free memberships as raffle (or whatever) awards to the very first Puerto Rican National show, scheduled for this December. Also the Board voted to permit any Board member to give away three (3) free memberships annually to deserving finch fanciers. It is suggested that these go to exhibitors who do well in shows and are not members, to novices who express a sincere interest, as awards at shows for most entries, first time exhibitors, best novice, to folks who come up with the best design ideas for logos, etc. The final decision on who to give these free memberships to will rest with each Board member. We all have confidence in each others common sense and good judgment and we know that the members do too.

Our last item of business is the Board approval of an award to be given annually to the best softbill in the National Cage Bird Show. This award will be in honor of Dr. Val Clear and will carry his name. The original suggestion was made by John Bennett, one of the many friends and admirers of Dr. Clear. I think it is a very suitable way to honor his memory and the contributions he made to the cage bird fancy.

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REVISED VERSION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY'S
APPRENTICE JUDGE PROGRAM

As approved by the Board of Directors. November, 1990.

1. Any new apprentice is required to write a letter of request to the Panel Director, listing her/his qualifications.
 2. Qualifications MUST include:
 - a. Have bred finches for five years.
 - b. Have exhibited under own name (or own aviary name) for three years.
 - c. Must have placed five (5) times in top ten in shows under (at least) three (3) NFS Panel Judges.
 3. Must take and pass a written test with 90% or better. If not passed, must study for one year and take the test again. (Not within one year.) The test to be taken only at: AFA Convention, The Kaytee Great American or the National Cage Bird Show, by pre-arrangement only.
 4. Cannot apprentice until the test is passed. Each of three apprenticeships to be pre-approved by the Panel Chairman, the Panel Judge involved and the Show Manager of the show involved.
 5. Once three apprenticeships are completed and satisfactory reports are received from the judges involved, the apprentice must submit a request through the Panel Director for final Board approval.
 6. The Apprentice must appear before the Board, (or submit a notarized statement) indicating she/he understands and agrees to the following:
 - a. When requested to write a report, it must be done immediately. (Example - the three reports of shows to be judged.)
 - b. All show reports must be in within two weeks.
 - c. All judges must respond to all inquiries and must participate on Standard committees.
 - d. NFS Panel Judges must adhere to all NFS Judges rules and must judge by current NFS Standards.
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"TAKING A CLOSER LOOK"

--- ON APPRENTICING ---

by Tom Rood
Shelbyville, Illinois

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When looking back over the past 12 or 13 years of exhibiting cage birds, I think I can finally blame it all on my good friend, Charlie Anchor of Addison, Illinois. I remember the very first time I exhibited finches at a local bird show in Alton, Illinois. Charlie Anchor was to be the Finch and Exotic Bird Judge. In "those days" the finch division at many local bird club shows consisted of a Zebra Finch section and a Wild Bird section. The Wild Bird section included anything from a Society Finch to a Toacan to the rarest of Hummingbirds. The Exotic Bird division consisted of anything that wasn't a canary or a finch.

Aaaay, I read the Alton catalog from cover to cover many times, still not knowing who Charlie Anchor was. I showed up at the show hall with my "brand new" (that meant used \$5.00 canary shelf cages that were freshly painted -- black of course -- but had new department store door rads for perches and even had the glass canary feed and water caps that eventually drowned a Gold Braasted Waxbill!) show cages. I remember entering a few Zebra Finches (pat variety of course), a Red Ear Waxbill, a Brazilian Cardinal, a tailless Whydah, and (don't hold this against me!) a Hartz Canary. Actually, the canary did better than my finches!

Well, after all the registration hub-bub was over, I took my place in the gallery to watch the judging. Jaat oae problem. The Judging benches were set up so the judge faced the audience, which meant I was looking at the backs of the black show cages. Fanny how they all look the same from that angle! As Charlie started judging the first class of finches, he looked out at the gallery and saw me and about a dozen empty chairs. I ass the gallery! He introduced himself to me and told me to bring my chair around to the front of the cages so I could "take a closer look"! He explained everything he was doing as each new class and section came up for judging and from that day on I was hooked! I guess that's why I blame Charlie for the past 12 years.

The real purpose of this article is to talk a little bit about the experience of serving my 3 NWS apprenticeship during 1992. For this, I blame Dr. Al Decoteau. During the summer of 1991, my good friend and cockatiel breeder, Carl "Stubby" Helton, discussed working toward becoming panel Judges for our particular specialty clubs. When our discussions went from simple whims to more serious talks I called Al Decoteau to see what would be involved in applying for the judges' panel. What turned out to be an "informational call" on my part ended up being an "appointment call" on Al's part. Before I

know it (and I think even realized it) Al had scheduled me to take the written test at the 1991 National Show in Dearborn, Michigan! When we both hung up, I kept asking myself, "How did that happen?" November came. Al handed me a test. I wrote for two hours (I still think some of my questions were "wet-pan") and passed. Next -- through apprenticeship.

In early 1992, I contacted three NFS panel judges asking permission to serve as apprenticeship under them. All three were very cordial and accepted. With final approval from Al, I was ready and looking forward to the show season.

My first apprenticeship came with the Illini Bird Fanciers Annual Show under Dr. Val Clear. With the passing of Val this past August, this first apprenticeship became even more special to me. I'm wondering how many future NFS judges could have benefited by serving as apprenticeship under him. Apprenticing at the Illinois Show proved very challenging as their finch entry exceeded the 150 mark. All sections were very well represented with good quality in each one. Even though this show takes place early in the year, most of the birds on display were in very good condition. From the start, Val allowed me to take an active part in the judging process rather than being a bystander and just listening to comments. We discussed many placements throughout the day. I could tell by many of his questions that he was quizzing me -- I just hope the answers were correct! I wasn't sure what would happen when it came time for the Top Bench, but Val allowed me to work with him just as I had done all day. In the end, the Australians took our eye as a beautiful Cherry won the show followed by a Star. A nice Orange Chantrelle Wrenbill won the third spot. Having made it through the first apprenticeship, I was now looking forward to the next two, I must admit, that Dr. Val Clear left a good feeling with me in the hopes of becoming an NFS judge.

The second apprenticeship came under Mr. Conrad Meinert with the Central Indiana Bird Club. Again, a very nice entry of nearly 70 finches proved for a very busy day. From the beginning, Connie made me feel very at ease in working with him. With a smaller number of finches to work on, but still a nice entry, we were able to take a bit more time for discussion during each section. Like Val Clear, Connie allowed me to take an active part in the judging process. He listened to my comments and was happy to answer any questions I had. I think on a few occasions, he even let me "have my way". A gorgeous (and very well behaved) normal Java won the show followed closely by a normal Sheftail. I think the bird that surprised both of us was the third place finisher, This was a female Button Quail. I'm not sure either of us wanted to admit it to each other, but when we finally did, it surprised us to have the same feelings for this little bird. Her attitude and disposition commanded attention all day. She was one of those "you can't take your eyes off an" birds! An interesting part of this show came after the Top Bench judging. Connie was also employed as the hookbill judge, so he left me to field all the questions from the finch exhibitors following the show.

This article is being written the day after my third and final

apprenticeship so it is really fresh in my mind. I worked under Mr. Earl Courts at the Springfield Pat Bird Club Show. I think Earl and I were both surprised when the show officials told us that the total finch entry was 110 birds! Having shown under Earl several times and having worked with him at the 1991 National Show, I was hoping he would let me take an active part in the judging process. Well, I got my wish! A few times while now classes were brought up to the judging bench, I turned around to find Earl at the food stand buying cookies and motioning to me to go ahead and get started! I don't know how many cookies Earl ate that day, but I do know I placed lots of birds! Of course, we discussed all placements, again with many questions being asked. Like Val and Connie, Earl allowed me to become a very active part of the apprenticeship process and I am certainly appreciative of the chance.

After all section winners had been selected, it was time for the Top Bench. Once again, I saw Earl walking away. This time he was heading for the men's room (probably all those cookies!). In his calm low tone I heard him say, "See what you'd do with them" as he disappeared into the restroom. At first, I thought of trying to yell after him, but I wasn't sure how many cookies he'd eaten, so I gave the Top Bench a shot. In the end, we were in total agreement of the top half of the bench -- I was able to stall a little! The top winner of the day was a flawless Ringneck Dove that stood like a statue on the perch. A well-groomed and vocal Green Singer was second followed by a beautiful Red Headed Finch.

My total apprenticeship experience was a complete joy. All three NFS panel judges were as cooperative as could be and great teachers. I would like to extend my sincere THANK YOU to Earl Courts, Conrad Mainert, and the late Val Clear for the opportunity to work with them. For any NFS member who may be in the "thinking" stages of working towards becoming a panel judge, my advice is give it a shot. It is a truly rewarding experience. It will definitely allow you to take "a closer look."

A special 12 year old THANK YOU to Charlie Anchor for starting all of this!

=====

NFS Judges Panel Director, Dr. Al Decoteau reports that we have three apprentices tentatively scheduled to take their tests this fall. The Apprentice Program requirements are printed in this issue. As Tow says, "get a closer look", join the apprentice program. If you're not quite ready for that, volunteer to stand or to be a secretary at your local show. From those positions you can see what the judge is seeing and you can hear the judges comments. Those two positions (and ribbon-hanger) get you an almost-front-row seat but nothing compares to the apprentices spot!!

The Editor.

=====

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the preservation of all finch and softbill species.

1. Our bi-monthly Bulletin connects you with other finch and softbill-keepers around the country. It includes articles on diet, breeding, management and the experiences of other aviculturists. NFS keeps you abreast of the news on legislation.
2. NFS has a program named "FINCHSAVE". The goal is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture. All members are encouraged to enhance the propagation of finches and softbills.
3. NFS maintains an annual census that can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging information or breeding stock.
4. NFS offers, to members, closed, traceable, leg bands.
5. NFS has an affiliation program. Your club can affiliate and receive plaques and rosettes as show awards. Non-show clubs can affiliate and receive service awards for members. Speakers are available, with slide programs that feature finches and softbills.
6. Each year NFS holds a National show. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. An International Patronage Exchange brings awards from foreign countries.
7. NFS has a Judges Panel, composed of individuals who have completed the apprenticeship program. All judge by the NFS Standard of Judging, are approved by the Board of Directors and are available to local clubs.
8. NFS has established exhibition standards for; Cordon Bleu Waxbills, Gouldians, Green Singing Finches, Java Rice Birds, Shafttails, Society Finches and Zebra Finch Standards. Lavenders, Star Finches, Fire Finches, Diamond Sparrows and Pekin Robin Standards are now "in the works".
9. NFS sponsors a "Championship Exhibitor" award program and a "Championship Bird" program. Both reward high achievements on the show bench.
11. "Finchshop", the sales division, offers various items for sale to members. The profits are used to support the Society's other programs.

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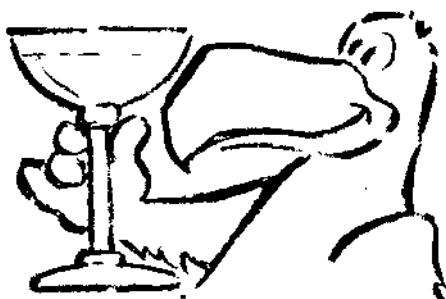
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