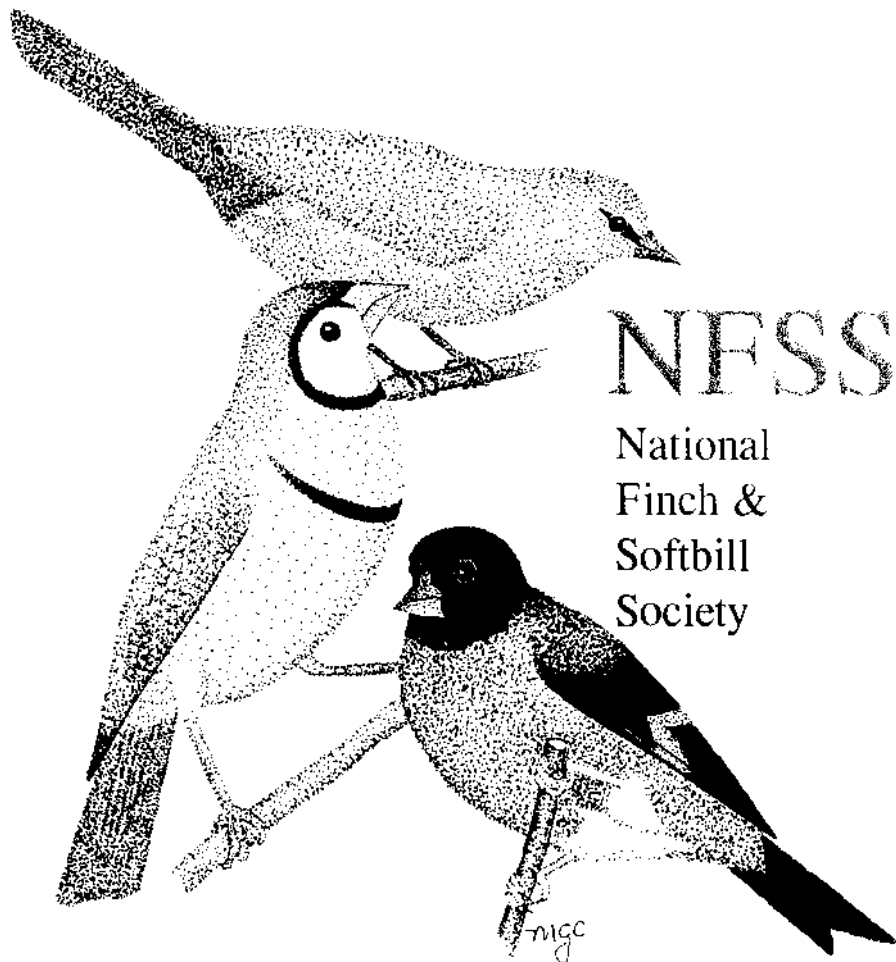


# The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 12, No.1



# NFSS

National  
Finch &  
Softbill  
Society

January—February 1995



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## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor	Martha Wigmore 18813 Boston St. NW Flk River MN 55330	(612) 241-0071
Liaison Officer		
Club Delegates, Show Dates	Ginny Allen	(205) 749-7168
Band Secretary	Eileen Laird	(407) 657-7989
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# The NFSS Bulletin

Home Office

18913 Boston St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330-1155

## Publisher

The National Finch and Softbill Society

## Editor:

Martha Wigmore

## Advertising and

## Mailing Addresses:

Lynda Bakula

## Assistant Typist:

Susan De Busk

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**Deadline for the next issue is  
February 1st.**

## In this issue:

Some fun and fascinating reading this issue—including a visit to the aviaries of one of NFSS' premier breeding and exhibiting couples - **Gene and June Miller**. And 'visits' with breeders of **African and Australian finches**, a look back at those **unbelievable bird prices** of not so long ago, and **so much more!** *Thank you to all our contributors!*

This issue also includes thoughtful commentary on **reaffiliation with AFA** and the **exhibition of pairs**, and thought-provoking news of the continuing implementation of the **Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992**.

In the first of a series, the latest on **finch medicine** is shared with us from a featured speaker at the 1994 AFA summer convention, and the first half of the exciting **results of the 1994 NFSS show season** are included in this issue.

Start your year right—complete and return the NFSS Census form and First Vice President ballot (included in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue) today. And thank you for the insightful comments we are receiving from the *Bulletin* survey. Your interest in *so* gratifying!

May all your efforts this year be on upward wing!





# The NFSS Bulletin

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### **Cover Credit:**

**Lavender Waxbill, Owl (Bicheno) Finch  
and Venezuelan Red Hooded Siskin**  
by Mark G. Churchill of Athens, Georgia.

Mark also writes for the *Bulletin*, including a book review in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue and an article "Subspecies and Aviculture" in an upcoming issue. Mark is editor of *The Yellowthroat* for the Oconee Audubon Society in Athens.



## President's Message

*By Steve Hoppin*

For many years, the show season has been both challenging and fun for NFSS breeders and exhibitors, as this is the time to bring forth the best of their fruits and labors and compare their efforts against other breeders. Numerous members involved in breeding finches and softbills have been rewarded with much success on the show bench. In November of 1994, true distinction on the National Show bench was achieved by an NFSS husband and wife team and their Parson Finch.

The National Finch and Softbill Softbill Society has held its National Show in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show since 1986, and this show attracts the cream of the crop of exhibitors and entries.

The first National Cage Bird Show was held under the auspices of

the Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club in 1949. Henry (Pat) Scannell, then head of the Kellogg's Seed and Supply Co., provided trophies for Best Unflighted. Soon, these were designated as Best in Division Awards, designated "Kellogg" trophies, and since the early 1950's have been of distinct design each year.

Don Stein, owner of Kellogg, instituted an award to memorialize the years of effort and support by Henry Scannell. This is the top award of the show, the Pat Scannell Memorial Trophy for the Best Bird in Show — the "Scannell".

In the 45 year history of the National Cage Bird Show, a Canary has consistently been the favorite amongst judges and earned the Scannell. Only a few select times has a bird other than a Canary ever won the top award — a Cinnamon Cockatiel, a Toco Toucan and an Eclectus Parrot, but never had a finch won the Scannell.

On November 17, 18 & 19th of 1994, the 46th Annual National Cage Bird Show was held in Manchester, New Hampshire, hosted by Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society. This was the first time the National was held in the Northeast. The location was the Center of New Hampshire - Holiday Inn Complex, convenient to the Manchester Airport. For northerners, the weather was considered very nice for that time of year. For individuals coming from the south, like myself, it was down-right cold! Approximately 2,400 birds were entered in fourteen Divisions, including Finches and Softbills. Parrots,

Lovebirds, Budgerigars, Cockatiels and several varieties of Canaries. Judging of the Divisions took place on Friday.

The Finch and Softbill Division consisted of 158 entries from all over the U.S., including Puerto Rico and Canada. The number of entries was down slightly from the previous year; however, the quality of the birds entered in this Division were exceptional! *Sixty* Zebra finches filled their respective Section, and the quality of Softbills entered was strong. NFSS Panel Judge Daren Decoteau, of Stratford, Connecticut, had been invited to judge the Division. He finished judging in the late afternoon, and the winning bird, a Fawn Parson finch, was whisked away in preparation for the over-all Best in Show Judging to take place on Saturday. At the NCBS Banquet Saturday night, Division awards were to be presented, following which the undisclosed Scannell winner would be revealed.

At the banquet, aviculturists listened to a relaxing band, engaged in discussion and comradery while enjoying their evening meal. Acknowledgments were then made in recognition of various services, and presentation of awards followed.

The big moment had finally arrived, and the presentation of the prestigious Scannell Award was presented to... **Pat and Mary Krich-  
teu of Hanover, Pennsylvania** for their bred and NFSS closed banded Fawn Parson finch! Their finch was a beautiful Australian specie

## Notice of Upcoming 1995 NFSS Board of Directors' Meetings

### 1ST QTR 1995

FL. State Fair Exotic Bird Show  
Fri., Feb. 17, 1995 at 9pm  
Tampa, Florida

### 2ND QTR 1995

"By Mail"

### 3RD QTR 1995

Kaytee Great American Bird  
Show - Concord, California  
October 7 & 8, 1995

### 4TH QTR 1995

National Cage Bird Show  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
November 16-18, 1995

demonstrating exquisite conformation, color, condition and demeanor. The Krichtens did not even have time enough to recover from the shock of the presentation before they were mobbed by fellow exhibitors of all Divisions wishing to congratulate them for a well deserved win.

Pat Krichen is on the NFSS Board of Directors, and both he and his wife, Mary run FINCHSHOP. They are avid finch and softbill breeders and exhibitors, and have supported NFSS for many years.

NFSS is very proud of Pat and Mary and wishes to congratulate them on their huge win and breeding efforts!



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**FOR INFORMATION  
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*Give Something Back to  
Aviculture!*

## **NFSS News & Notes**

*Compiled from NFSS Directors*

### **End-of-year 1994 Band Orders - Apology**

As announced in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue, NFSS' new Band Secretary Eileen Laird geared up to take over beginning with the 1995 band orders, but the remaining 1994 bands were unexpectedly sent to her also at the beginning of December. NFSS apologizes to anyone whose order for 1994 bands was delayed because of this unanticipated change in the handling of your 1994 orders.

### **NFSS Conservation Committee**

In early 1994, in response to Board comments, a Committee was created to establish policy and procedures and a budget for NFSS contributions to qualified conservation programs. Kris Kroner, Chairperson of this Committee is once again requesting involvement from interested NFSS members in this activity to help get it off-the-ground. If you are interested in this valuable undertaking, please contact Kris.



### Breeder Recognition Within NFSS

At GABS this year, a committee was formed to develop a NFSS Breeder Recognition Program. The group of chairman Jerry McCawley, Miki Sparzak and Lynda Bakula would like to hear from you. This is one of the most requested new NFSS activities. Now is the time to share *your* ideas.

### Is Your Local Club Affiliating With NFSS in 1995?

*We hope so!* NFSS Liaison Officer Ginny Allen sent, in the first weeks of January, a 1995 Affiliation Packet to each of our 1994 affiliates. Your club has a variety of rewarding options with NFSS, including a Service/Breeder Award, Best, Second Best and/or Third Best in Show plaques, Best Softbill in Show plaque and/or show rosettes. And this year every NFSS 1995 affiliation includes a beautiful Eric Peake "Diamond Firetails" Lithograph for use as the club wishes, as well as a club copy of *The NFSS Bulletin* every two months. If your club does not have an Affiliation Packet please contact Ginny today! **The deadline for Affiliation this year has been pushed up to April 30, 1995.**

### Regional Shows in 1995

If your club wishes to host an NFSS Regional Show in 1995 the **deadline for applying is March 31, 1995**. Send applications (found in the Affiliation Packet) to Ginny Allen.

## When is Your NFSS Membership Due for Renewal?

### How to Read Your Mailing Label:

Your mailing label shows the issue through which your membership is paid (i.e. **Expire: 1/01/95**). If you have not paid by the time of the mailing of this issue you will see highlighted the sad tidings: **LAST ISSUE. RENEW TODAY!**

### An Affiliation Reminder:

The **delegate** that your local club selects to represent your club in dealing with NFSS **must be an individual member of NFSS**. If a delegate's membership lapses with NFSS, NFSS will hold its mailings to the club sent in care of that delegate, such as the club's copy of the *Bulletin*, until an active NFSS member is selected to serve as delegate. If your local club did not receive all of its *Bulletin* copies during 1994, perhaps your NFSS delegate was no longer a current NFSS member. If you have any questions, please contact NFSS Liaison Officer Ginny Allen. Back issues can be obtained.

### Special Recognition Awards Given at NCBS

In November three special NFSS awards were handed out to deserving NFSS volunteers at the NCBS. Certificates of appreciation in recognition of service were awarded to **Russell Armitage Jr.** and **Denise Capazzi** for their many years of

## NFSS Board of Directors 1994-95

Stephen Hoppin  
**President**  
 3836 Hidden Acres Circle  
 N. Fort Myers, FL 33903  
 (813) 997-NFSS  
 Phone & Fax

Position Open  
**1st Vice President**  
**Regional V.P.'s**

Martha Wigmore  
**2nd Vice President**  
**Publications/Education**  
**Editor**  
 18913 Boston St. NW  
 Elk River, MN 55330  
 (612) 241-0071

Linda Oja  
**3rd Vice President**  
**FINCHSAVE**  
 268 Exeter Rd.  
 Newport News, VA  
 23602-7350  
 (804) 874-8581

Dr. Al Decoteau  
**4th Vice President**  
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**Points Chairman**  
 P.O. Box 369  
 Groton, MA 01450  
 Phone (603) 672-4568  
 Fax (603) 672-3120

Lynda Bakula  
**Membership Chairman**  
**Advertising Manager**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
 P.O. Box 3232  
 Ballwin, MO 63022  
 (314) 394-3530

Eileen Laird  
**Band Secretary**  
 1166 Village Forest Place  
 Winter Park, FL 32792  
 (407) 657-7989

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**Recording Secretary**  
 976 Long Cove Rd.  
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 (203) 464-6961

Marion (Miki) Spartzak  
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 (410) 288-5130

Ginny Allen  
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 Opelika, AL 36801-3657  
 (205) 749-7168

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 506 Candlewyck Rd.  
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 (717) 560-7978

Pat and Mary Krichten  
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 419 Third St.  
 Hanover, PA 17331  
 (717) 632-8092

William Parlee  
**President Emeritus**  
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 (203) 569-0200

Kris Kroner  
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**Region 1 - Northeast**  
 433 Houston Rd.  
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 (215) 628-4143

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 (407) 657-7989

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 313 N. Broadway  
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### *News & Notes, continued*

service to NFSS. And a Certificate was also awarded to **Dr. Al Decoteau** in recognition of a special individual for his over ten years of outstanding service and contributions to NFSS.

Thank you all for setting such high standards!

### **New Judge Selected to Panel**

Congratulations and welcome to NFSS' newest panel judge, Marion (Miki) Spartzak of Baltimore, Maryland!

### ***The NFSS Handbook 1995***

The NFSS Handbook, previously available as a separate purchase through FINCHSHOP, will become a regular part of your membership. Previously, the contents of the *Handbook* were scattered during the year throughout the pages of the *Bulletin*, and every few years reprinted in the *Handbook*. To allow for more uninterrupted reading about aviculture through most of the year, and to make available in one source on a regular basis current important information for NFSS members, the May/June issue of *The NFSS Bulletin* will become the NFSS yearbook — for this year *The NFSS Handbook 1995*. Watch for your copy!

*The NFSS Judges Handbook*, including standards and procedures for judging will be issued as a separate publication, available through FINCHSHOP. More details about an updated *Judges Handbook* will be published soon.

### **1994 Show Results**

The first half of the Show Results for 1994, through October 16, 1994 are included in this issue. The second half, as well as more of Points Chairman Dr. Al Decoteau's interesting summaries of the show season will be included in the Mar/Apr 1995 issue.

### **Eric Peeke's "Diamond Firetails" Print still on sale!**

Through *January 31, 1995*, this limited edition print, signed by internationally renowned artist Eric Peake and available only through the NFSS FINCHSHOP, will be on sale for only \$35.00! See *Nov/Dec 1994* issue for an illustration of the print.

### **1995 NFSS Census**

To be included in the annual 1995 Census of finches and softbills, please complete and return, prior to *March 31, 1995*, the Census form included in the Nov/Dec '94 issue of the *Bulletin*. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting FINCHSAVE'S Linda Oja.

### **Special Election - NFSS 1st V.P.**

A special election to fill the position of First Vice President is underway. Ballots were inserted in your Nov/Dec 1994 issue and should be returned by *January 25, 1995* to Diane Pittman, 1507 NE 17th Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33909.

### **Raffle Winner—*Estrildid Finches of the World***

The winner of the special raffle prize offered by NFSS in 1994 was **Alfred Brugueras** of Puerto Rico.

The hook, donated by NFSS Board Member and Panel Judge Tom Rood, raised nearly \$300.00 for NFSS before the drawing was held at NCBS in New Hampshire in November 1994. *Thank you everyone for your generous support of NFSS!*

#### **In Recognition of *Bulletin* Contributors**

As was done following the first half of 1994, a random drawing from the names of the contributors in the *Bulletin* from July through December 1994 was held recently. For the drawing, contributions from Board members in the "line of duty" were not included, but submissions from Board members of articles, photos, etc. were included.

*And the winner is . . .*

**Barbara Collins** of Greenwood, South Carolina. We've sent an NFSS video and pin to Barbara.

Thank you all for thinking of the *Bulletin's* readership. It was a pretty good year, wasn't it?

#### **Cleaning the Cage — Corrections**

Contributors to awards for the Finch and Softbill Division at NFSS' National Show (at NCBS) in 1994 also included **Frank and Sandy Hudson**. *We appreciate and recognize your support!*

#### *Feather trivia*

### **Greens and Blues**

Turacoverdin is a green pigment found only in the Touracos of Africa. It is also the only green pigment found in any bird. All other green color seen in birds is a combination of yellow pigment and blue structural color created when light bounces off air bubbles in feathers.

There are also no blue pigments in birds; all blue color is due to the structure of the feather itself. Tiny bubbles are incorporated into the feather as it is made and light bounces around in the feather and is reflected back to our eyes. This effect is called the Tindell effect, the same thing that makes the sky blue during the day, though in the sky the light is bouncing off dust particles.

*from Robert Hole, Jr.  
Mississippi State, Mississippi*

#### **Can We Help You Write It?**

If you have an idea for an article but would appreciate a kick in the... er.. some assistance of any kind getting it on paper, please just contact the Editor.

#### **NFSS Classifieds Really Work!**

*A testimonial from one of our advertisers:* "Within days of the publication of my advertisement in the *Bulletin*, I had the perfect response to my ad!" . . . from Martha Wigmore, Minnesota.

And a *giant* thanks to **Sue De Busk** of S. Miami, Florida for the terrific typing she has expertly done for the NFSS *Bulletin*!

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## Letters to the editor

### Let's Join AFA

*by Janis L. Clark  
Blissfield, Michigan*

I'd like to add a few comments to Mr. Charles Anchor's letter to the editor in the last issue, but first I have to say HOORAY for saying it like it is.

Based on Mr. Anchor's letter, I take it that not too many of the members of NFSS are members of AFA. This truly surprises me and is a bit disappointing also. This organization is truly working long, hard hours to reach goals and create programs that are going to benefit all of us bird folks out there. This is regardless of the form of bird keeping you do, single bird pet ownership or the large breeder.

Both branches of our wonderful government, local and federal, are looking at ways to regulate our industry with possible licenses or inspection programs or both, and maybe even more!! Do you really want some non-bird person traipsing through your aviary when breeding is going on, or the bigger and scarier thought, where were they before coming to your facility? What contaminants are they carrying on them that could ruin all your hard work? More than likely, they are not going to inspect only one facility per day. One of the programs being created by AFA members is the Model

Aviculture Program. The idea behind this program is self-regulation and inspections done by the Avian Veterinarian of YOUR choice. So you don't think I'm just talking to hear myself, I am in the process of setting up my aviary to meet the MAP's guidelines. If you want information about this program, contact AFA's office in Phoenix, Arizona.

My suggestion is this, join AFA on a club level and print their updates in your *Bulletin*. They provide this information to you. They have people that are monitoring the various pieces of legislation that come up all over the United States and then report back to their members. They also publish a wonderful magazine that usually has good coverage of a variety of softbills and finches. And, no, I do not work for them. I am a member who truly believes they are an organization working for me and all other bird people.



### "Pairs" Should Be Breeding Pairs

*by Clayton Jones  
Soquel, California*

I am also a NFSS judge. I have read Martha Wigmore's article on showing pairs (in the Sep/Oct '94 issue), and I am not sure I agree with her.

I believe there are two ways of looking at pairs. In the past years here in California we showed "pens

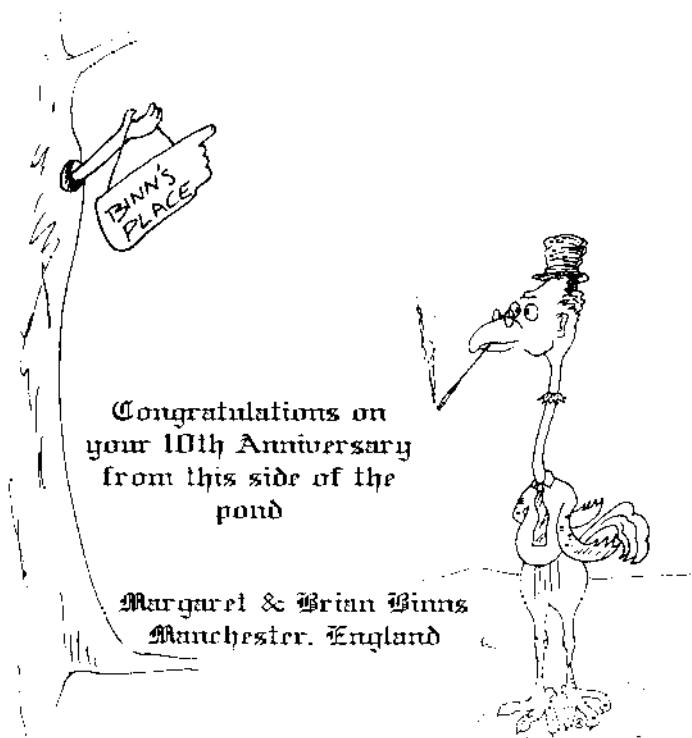
of four". These birds were to be four matched birds, not "pairs".

I believe when you are judging "pairs" you are judging breeding pairs. One would not breed two crested or two white birds together. You must start somewhere, even if you don't know the background of two birds — if they show the characteristics you are looking for, you would pair them together.

I have found when talking to the gallery they do not always know

about breeding crest to crest or white to white. This past weekend (10/22/94) I judged a show here in California and during the judging of pairs I brought up the article for discussion. Everyone agreed "pairs" should represent breeding pairs. If we were to change the name to "two matched birds" then we are speaking of a horse of a different color, so to speak.

I enjoyed the article.



## Finches Are Not Just Golden

by *Karen Anson*  
*Events Editor*  
*The Seminole, Oklahoma Producer*

If the word "finch" brings to mind a caged gold bird, the program next weekend at Seminole Public Library is a must.

Seminole resident Gene Miller

fawn to a brightly geometric-patterned green, yellow, purple, red, black and turquoise bird, Miller's feathered creatures will demonstrate the range in hues possible for finches.

The Millers have more than 500 finches from Africa, Australia, Venezuela and Canada, and Cuban

Photo by Karen Anson



Gene Miller's bird house is as large as his own home. He has over 500 birds, which he breeds and shows all over the U.S.

will dispel the common misconception: finches are not only golden, but every color in the rainbow, including polka-dot.

The program is set for 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Miller and his wife, June, will show off their prize-winning birds and tell how a bobby can become a paying business with opportunities to travel all over the country.

Although Miller plans to bring 14 finches, none of them are gold. From one show bird, colored a pale

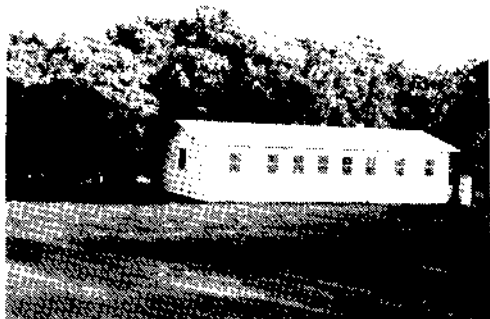
Melodious and Red Siskins from Central and South America. U.S. regulations no longer allow the birds to be captured, which caused the price of pedigreed birds to jump from \$75 to \$200 a pair.

Miller said the Venezuelan Black-hooded Siskins are an endangered species; less than 500 exist in the wild. He has ten pairs. A federal permit is necessary to transport them across state lines and no new bloodlines may be brought into the U.S.

"Their gene pool is getting very short," Miller said.



Photo by Gene Miller



The Miller's finch building is a 20' x 40' facility.

Breeding and showing birds (he won a first and a fourth in last fall's National Cage Bird Show in Oklahoma City), requires not only technical knowledge, but a genuine love for the tiny creatures.

Miller's passion for birds began when his mother gave him a canary when he was six years old. Through the years, he said he's always had birds — he's raised parakeets, parrots, racing pigeons and ring-necked doves.

In 1984 he began his finch-breeding business with three pairs in cages in his bedroom. Soon he had to build a little shed out back, then a bigger shed, and finally an aviary as big as his own house.

An aisle passes through the middle of the aviary and on either side are fenced sections, giving the birds varying spaces to fly. The cages hold different species in different stages of their reproductive cycle.

Miller allows his birds three clutches each year; each clutch includes four to six eggs.

"They'd nest all year long, but it wears the birds out," he said.

Mortality rate is only about ten percent, Miller said. If birds die, it is usually about the time of the first moult, which Miller said is very stressful to

birds.

To compensate, Miller turns up the heat in the bird house and feeds them extra rations of protein.

In addition, he has to remember where the birds come from in order to breed them. Because the seasons in Australia are backwards to American seasons, the Australian birds breed from September through April.

"I can trick them into nesting," Miller said. By turning up the temperature to 75 degrees and giving the finches 15 hours of daylight, the birds believe it's time to nest.



Photo by Karen Anson

Gene with some of his awards and his Fawn Diamond Sparrow that made NFSS Champion in 1994.

He breeds birds for color and configuration, which is body shape and posture.

"See how this one stands at a 45 degree angle?" Miller asks. "That's perfect, that's what the judges are looking for."

At the shows he attends, Miller said, judges use a stick to reach in to the birds, making them turn so he can see all sides.

"This one here will talk to the judges: they like that," he said, rocking and ducking and sticking his chest out, showing how his finch interacts with judges.

He has sold finches for prices from \$75 to \$500. He's studied genetics, bird habits, nutrition and reproduction enough to become an expert: in fact, veterinarians and bird breeders from all over often call him for advice.

Sometimes it's a lot of work, Miller said. He and his wife have hand-fed 13 finches this year, including Fire Finches, Cordon Bleus and Cuban Melodious. The African birds throw their young out as soon as they are hatched.

They keep 45 pair of Society finches for foster parents.

Usually, Miller said, he spends about two hours a day at his business, and about five hours once each week, cleaning cages, feeding, watering and grooming.

Mostly the birds groom themselves, but before shows Miller sprays them with a mixture of glycerin and water, which works like hairspray to keep their feathers in place.



Photo by Gene Miller

Cuban Melodious finches being hand-fed by June Miller.

One of his favorite parts of the business is sharing his knowledge with rookies. He won the Founders Award from the National Finch and Softbill Society in 1992 for teaching and training other breeders through seminars and workshops nationwide.

Another favorite aspect, both of Miller's and his wife, is the traveling necessary to show the birds. Each trip is like a vacation, and they've visited cities nationwide, except they travel with up to 20 birds in their back seat.

"American Airlines lets me travel with a cage under my seat," he said.



*This article first appeared in The Semi-weekly, Oklahoma Producer, August 22, 1993, and is reprinted here with their kind permission.*

# FINCH MEDICINE UPDATE

## Part One

by Louise Bauck, BSc, DVM, MVSC  
Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Much interesting new information is available on the medical and surgical conditions of the finch. In North America, some of the more common conditions encountered include bacterial enteritis (bacterial diarrhea), bacterial septicemias (generalized bacterial infections), virus infections (polyoma virus, paramyxovirus type 3/twirling syndrome), mite infections (usually air-sac mites), tapeworm infestations, egg binding and/or nutritional disease, foot and toe problems, amyloidosis, and trauma. Rarer problems include trichomoniasis, tuberculosis, chlamydiosis, mycoplasmosis, coccidiosis, and cryptosporidiosis. In Europe, herpes virus infections (eye lesions, Gouldians), reovirus, megabacteriosis, and toxoplasmosis are also clinical finch problems (and may be seen here). Similarly *Cochlosoma* (a parasite) avian

malaria and campylobacteriosis (bacterial diarrhea) are seen in Australia but are presumably rare here. Brief notes on most of these disorders follow or will be covered in the lecture:

At our own finch facilities in Montreal (a 1,000 finch holding facility for American and Canadian-bred finches, plus a smaller number of imports, as well as a small breeding and research facility located off-site) bacterial infections still remain the number one killer. However, we

...bacterial infections still remain the number one killer. However, we are finding that bacteria contribute to, or result from CONCURRENT problems

are finding that bacteria contribute to, or result from CONCURRENT problems, and the actual death rate could be lowered by treating the finches for the bacteria. Here are a few examples:

**PICKED BIRDS:** Many of these birds are lost to bacterial septicemias (blood borne infections caused by an immune system failure) as the stress and trauma set the bird up for problems. Also the loss of body heat can be very significant. Birds like society finches also frequently have breaks in the skin (usually tail picked) allowing easy access to the blood stream by the bacteria. Picked birds should always be separated out, of course, and any that appear depressed or have any bleeding may benefit from antibiotic therapy (see following). Prevent picking by

using visual barriers (heavy foliage, burlap screens) and multiple feeders (in addition to low stocking density and extra perches).

**AMYLOIDOSIS:** This common cause of death in older birds is now thought to be related to chronic infectious diseases, including repeated bacterial infections (many of which may be inapparent). Amyloidosis may present with difficulty in breathing as the liver is sometimes enlarged and interferes with air sac inflation. The liver and kidneys are pale and firm in deceased birds. Wild finches live in an environment largely free from fecal or human bacteria. We must make every effort to avoid constant bacterial exposures — protecting water supply, frequent changing of perches, elevated cages, etc.

**DIARRHEA:** E. coli (coliform enteritis) is a sporadic killer of stressed birds. Recently shipped finches are particularly prone, as the stress weakens the immune system. These coliform bacteria set up shop in the gut and quickly result in dehydration and weakness. In some birds, the bacteria may gain access to the bloodstream and travel to locations such as the lungs, liver.

Diarrhea can be difficult to spot in the finch as their droppings are so small. Any weak, fluffed up or dyspneic (heavy breathing) finches should be separated out and have fresh paper placed underneath to check for diarrhea. True diarrhea is a liquid pale brown or yellow stool, often with

stained urates (the "white stuff"). Differentiate from the DARK (often black) liquid stool of the anorexic (not eating) or dying finch. NO stool will result in yellowish or greenish urates being produced — not the same as diarrhea as these are kidney products. True diarrhea should always be cultured if possible; preferably from a mini-swab used right in the cloaca (vent) of the finch, and not from the droppings. However, very fresh droppings may also suffice. Ask your veterinarian to sell you a supply of mini-tip culture swabs. The culture will find out which bacteria is involved (if any), and what antibiotic will work best. E. coli is the most commonly recovered disease-producing bacteria at our facility. In general (depending on previous or current culture results) water medications such as Baytril or nitrofurazone are used for E. coli. Whenever possible (i.e. for singly affected birds), more intensive therapy is used SUCH AS amikacin injections (combined with subcutaneous fluids) OR Baytril injections (diluted with fluids, also given subcutaneously or directly into the mouth), OR an oral syrup such as Septra are given. Of course, high humidity and heat with electrolyte (oral) support are also vital. We use products such as Pedialyte right in the water dish.

**TUBERCULOSIS:** Several recent reports have appeared in the literature regarding tuberculosis (mycobacteria) in Gouldian and other finches. Signs include chronic weight

loss, lameness, abnormal droppings, dyspnea, and death. These bacteria are usually the AVIAN form of tuberculosis, but occasional other strains have also been reported. Very few humans are susceptible but this is certainly a problem of great concern. Another good reason to have as many losses as possible immediately sent for necropsy (autopsy). Treatment is not recommended except for endangered specimens.

**MEGABACTERIOSIS:** Not really a problem in North America (yet), but worth mentioning as this may be increasing in the pet bird population. These bacteria are usually only found at necropsy (gram stained smears on a slide from the stomach lining) and are difficult to treat. They are another cause of chronic weight loss. Diarrhea and occasional vomiting efforts are also noted. Here we have tried ascorbic acid (vitamin C) combined with Baytril with good results.

**CHLAMYDIOSIS:** Finch mortalities due to chlamydiosis (psittacosis, ornithosis) are fortunately rare, but no one is sure how frequently they may serve as carriers. And it is quite possible that mild respiratory effects could be seen (eye problems, nasal discharge, sneezing). The test using fresh droppings performed by California Avian Labs (916) 722-8428 (also the Ames lab or perhaps the Kodak Sure Cell) might be useful, particularly in collections housed with cockatiels or other psittacine birds, or if chronic

unresponding respiratory disease has been a problem.

**MYCOPLASMOSIS:** This is thought to be a problem in the canary, and in our facility we have also suspected it as a problem in the Coridon Bleu (both types), Green Singer and the ever-sick Gouldians. Feather loss around the eyes and nostrils is seen, along with sneezing and discharges. It is likely that the stress of transport, weaning, or air sac mites contributes to this problem. IN THEORY this should be easy to IMPROVE but difficult to cure. In other animals the mycoplasma tend to resist abandoning their nice moist home in the lungs. We have treated suspected cases with Tylocine, oxytetracycline, and Baytril in the water. Tylocine and Baytril can also be given by injection to individual birds. It is not uncommon for us to start off a small group with a single injection each and then place them on the matching water medication if we cannot dose them all individually for a week.




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*Part One in a series. Dr. Bauck was a speaker at the 1994 AFA Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the information here is included in the A.F.A. Annual Conference Proceedings 1994, reprinted here with her kind permission.*

## *Breeding the Africans* **The Problematic Redhead**

*Amadina erythrocephala*

by Robert S. Petrie  
 Kansas City, Missouri

The first species of wild-caught finch that successfully reproduced for me was the ever-popular Cutthroat (*Amadina fasciata*). Because of this, I have a special fondness for them. While researching the Cutthroat I found out they have one very closely related species, the Redhead finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*). The natural range of the Cutthroat is widespread throughout Africa, except for the Sahara desert in the north, the rainforest belt in the center, and the tip of the continent in the south. There in the south, in the absence of the Cutthroat is the Redhead finch. Redheads were referred to as rare in captivity, so it was no surprise that I purchased the ones I encountered without regard to price.

During the quarantining of my new Redheads they acted like slightly over-sized Cutthroats. So after this period I decided to set the new birds up like their close relatives. I previously found Cutthroats too aggressive for mix-species flights so I used cages with at least eight cubic feet of area for them. The Redheads were placed in a cage and

observed for several months where they remained nervous and never showed any inclination to breed despite the constant singing of the male.

Finally I decided to nervously try the Redheads in a flight cage with smaller waxbills. The Redheads proved to not be aggressive to co-habitants. They settled down in the flight and immediately began to construct a nest inside a large, woven-wicker nest basket.

*This time I tried  
 the waxworms  
 while the Redheads  
 had chicks in the  
 nest. It worked!*

situated at the highest point in the flight. The pair then laid four eggs and commenced incubation. Twelve days after the first egg was laid a chick hatched

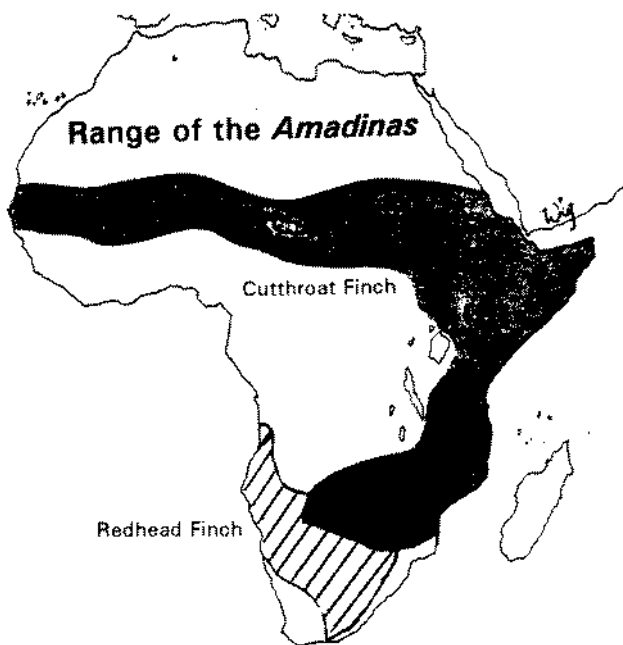
out and another for the next two days. The parents seemed to be feeding the chicks ideally. The diet was a vitamin-fortified finch seed mix, an eggfood mixture, and mealworms.

Then around day five one chick died, then the other two the next day. This scenario repeated just about every three months for the next year and a half. The chicks would die anywhere from four to ten days old. The really odd thing was that the chicks were never thrown out and the parents would continue to incubate the dead bodies even after the odor became very strong. I changed everything possible including the species in the flight, the nesting material, the day length, my nest checking behavior, the diet and disinfected everything in the flight. Previously I offered waxworms (they are the larva stage of a moth) to all

the finches and did not have any birds touch them, including the Redheads. This time I tried the waxworms while the Redheads had chicks in the nest. It worked! Thinking back, it seems obvious. I believe the chicks became impacted with the mealworms' exoskeleton because Redhead finches swallow mealworms whole, unlike the smaller waxbills that suck out the inside leaving the exoskeleton uneaten. Without the mealworms the chicks lacked sufficient protein. Either way the young would die.

I have worked with quite a few pairs of Redheads since that time and nestling mortality is now essentially zero. The Redheads only eat the waxworms while they have chicks in the nest. Now that I have several captive generations, they more readily eat the eggfood mixture relying less on the live food.

The sex ratio of young has been about 50:50 for me. Yet there is a shortage of females in captivity. I feel this is because Redhead females often die of egg binding due to calcium deficiency. These females lay a lot of eggs because of over-zealous males and their typical diet is low in calcium (seeds, mealworms, and waxworms). So I recommend



Source: D. Goodwin's *Estrildid Finches of the World*, 1982.

calcium supplementing and I do it through the eggfood mixture.

Since solving this problem, I have found Redheads to be free breeders, as long as I keep them in flight cages. Redheads are more consistent breeders and better nest builders than Cutthroats. Although Redheads are not aggressive to smaller birds, they are clumsy and unintentionally intimidating. I now only keep them with Mannikins and larger species since several fledgling Redheads accidentally knocked apart a nest containing four fertile Violet-eared Waxbill eggs. So I hope this experience I have had with Redhead finches can help anyone having difficulty with them now.

*A discussion of a book useful to the hobby*

## **Finches & Sparrows: An Identification Guide**

By Peter Clement. 1993.  
Princeton University Press,  
Princeton, New Jersey.  
500 pp. illus. by Alan Harris and  
John Davis.

*Review by Stash Buckley and  
Carol Anne Calvin  
Magnolia, New Jersey*

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This new book, published in 1993 is on the whole a very complete, useful guide for identification and background information on all 290 species in the families Fringillidae, Estrildidae, and Passeridae. Its 73 color plates include, in addition to the usual illustration of cocks of each nominate subspecies, renderings of the previously neglected hens, juveniles, and subspecies which should prove very useful for use in the field and in aviculture. Range maps and basic species information accompanying the plates are further enhanced by a detailed text which is easily located by page numbers given with each species in the plate section. The scientific name is also given in both plate and text sections which is very helpful in identifying a particular species since common names can so often be misleading.

A complete table of contents facilitates the location of a particular

species, giving the bird's reference number, common name, scientific name, and text page number. The addition of plate numbers would have been desirable to save time and avoid confusion, as one might think the number given was the plate number when indeed it was the arbitrarily assigned reference number. Preliminary notes and labelled diagrams of avian anatomical features as well as the glossary of terms, bibliography, and index (by scientific and common name) add to the book's usefulness as a reference tool.

Being familiar mostly with estrildid finches, we must limit our following critique to the section on this group. Our comments reflect mostly our experiences as aviculturists rather than field investigators.

### **"Right on" —most of the time**

Having worked closely and lived rather intimately with many of the estrildid finches over the past seven years, we have come to know a good deal about their morphology and behaviors. In many instances the authors are "right on" with their plates and narratives. There are, however, some errors with what we have found to be true of not just one or two representatives of a given



species, but of groups of a species, observed over several generations.

One error, which could prove to be very misleading in the field, is the illustration of the Chestnut-breasted Negro-finch (*Nigrita bicolor*), which depicts the bird as stocky, with a short, thick bill. In

fact, the Chestnut-breasted Negro-finch is a slim, streamlined bird with a long, narrow pointed bill, rather like the Violet-eared Waxbill (*Uraeginthus granatina*) in body shape and size. Its long, pointed bill is at least twice as long as illustrated, in-

dicative of an insect-eater, not a seed-eater, consistent with *Nigrita bicolor's* dietary preference—insects and softfood, not seeds.

Another glaring flaw concerns the Blue-breasted Parrot finch (*Erythrura tricolor*). The authors suggest that this bird is rare and unknown. In fact, this bird has been in European aviculture for quite a few years. The suggestion that cock and hen differ only slightly is misleading. The cock exhibits the deep blue of an Indigo Bunting, while the hen is much paler, similar to the cock Cordon Bleu. Also, hens are smaller than cocks. As this species appears to be currently trapped from different islands than in the past few years, more recently trapped birds are much smaller in size, suggesting

island variation. The call, a descending trill, is superficially similar to that of the Blue-faced Parrot finch (*Erythrura trichroa*) to which it is closely related. We strongly suspect the skin used for the illustration is the same one used by Derek Good-

win in *Estrildid Finches of the World* (1982), only from a different angle. The flaw is immediately apparent as it is in Goodwin's illustration: the bird is not only blue-breasted but, is indeed, in life, a blue-bodied bird with green wings and a red tail.

Although it is interesting and im-

portant that the authors mention the naturally occurring yellow-headed mutation of the Royal Parrot finch (*Erythrura cyaneovirens*) they have overlooked the naturally occurring red-headed mutation of the Crimson-winged Aurora (*Pytilia phoenicoptera*). Indeed, our original stock of red-headed mutations were wild-caught.

## Abridged attention to calls

Another problem we have with the book is the abridged version of the calls. We have videot bird behaviors and calls for many years now and have worked with the Kulikoro firefinch (*Lagonosticta virata*) for at least three generations and have not

Our major criticism of the book is that it is mainly a rehashing of Derek Goodwin's classic work, *Estrildid Finches of the World*, with many of the "unknowns" incorrectly filled.

heard the whistling call the authors describe. However, if you go back to the original Goodwin text where he describes the call as whistle-like, similar to that of a canary, that makes sense. The calls of both cock and hen, although slightly different from each other, are a series of bell-like tones. Another example is the Bamboo Parrot finch (*Erythrura hyperythra*), where they completely omit the crackling tones. This is the most salient aspect of their mating call, especially among birds that are performing the fencing ritual.

### Aviculturists' knowledge omitted

Our major criticism of the book is that it is mainly a rehashing of Derek Goodwin's classic work, *Estrildid Finches of the World*, with many of the "unknowns" incorrectly filled. With the exception of Robin Restall, the authors seem to have almost completely ignored the avicultural community as a source for current information. For example, although most of the current stock of Mindanao Parrot finches (*Erythrura coloria*) are suspect due to their hybridization with the Blue-faced Parrot finch, new birds have been recently imported into Europe, and one can immediately see the dimorphism between cock and hen, even down to the shades of green. Perhaps most interesting is that not only do the cocks sing (a rather guttural trill), but the hens do also, a much sweeter version of his song. Granted, this sort of information is hard to

come by, but can be acquired if one keeps close tabs with the avicultural community.

In many instances, however, the book is remarkably perceptive as, for example, in the case of the Crimson finches (*Neochmia phaeton*). The

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*In conclusion, we feel this work to be a relatively complete and useful treatment of the family. Its beautiful color plates and informative text go beyond any previously published field guide.*

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authors' comparison of the appearance and behavior of the Crimson to that of the African grenadiers (*Uraeginthus*) is very accurate.

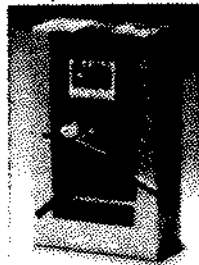
We also agree with the authors' difficulty in properly classifying the Blue-bills and Seedcrackers and their possible relationship to the Twin-spots. This is evidenced by the fact that the chick Crimson Seedcracker (*Pyrenestes sanguineus*) and the chick Peters' Twin-spot (*Hypargos niveoguttatus*) are quite similar, being the same skin shade—a dark grayish-blue—and are quite downy. The Red-breasted Blue-bill chicks (*Spermophaga haematina*), on the other hand, are light-skinned, not as downy as the aforementioned chicks, and have a broad yellow border on upper and lower mandible which is absent in the Seedcrackers and

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Twinspots. Also, the Blue-bill chicks have a unique begging response at a few days of age. They tend to stand up in the nest with their huge mouths agape, a response we have not observed in any other estrildid finch. This is probably an evolutionary adaptation in response to the huge bill of the parents, making the chicks easier to feed.

One of the most interesting and fascinating aspects of the book for us is the illustration (showing both cock and hen) of the subspecies of the Pintailed Parrot finch (*Erythrura prasina coelica*) from Borneo. This is indeed an attractive bird and one we would like to see.

In conclusion, we feel this work to be a relatively complete and useful treatment of the family. Its beautiful color plates and informative text go beyond any previously published

field guide. It is a pity that the authors did not consult with the many aviculturists worldwide who have gained intimate knowledge of their charges, especially the rarer finches, through years of close observation and study and could have added so much to fill in the gaps to make this an even more complete work.

❖

*Stash Buckley and Carol Anne Calvin co-author the column "Estrildid Finches in Aviculture" in the AFA Watchbird, and conduct, in conjunction with Dr. Luis Baptista, the Estrildid Research Project. The Research Project is an international endeavor to bring the serious aviculturist and researcher together through a sharing of significant observations and findings. For more information, contact Stash and Carol Anne at 215 W. Washington Ave., Magnolia, New Jersey 08049-1703. (609) 783-2039.*

## The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992

# The Impact of the Legislation

by *Martha Wigmore*  
*Elk River, Minnesota*

### Final regs

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its final rule implementing "the establishment of an approved list of species...that may be imported without a WBCA permit." The rule, published in the December 2, 1994 *Federal Register* (pgs. 62255-62263) addresses the law, regulations and the many specific species which commenters suggested for inclusion in the approved list of captive-bred species. It is (surprisingly) an interesting read, and informative far beyond what has been written about WBCA in the trade publications. To get a copy, contact your local library, or write to

Office of Management Authority  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Rm. 420C  
 Arlington, VA 22203

### Yet more to come—watch!

And now, what's all the fuss? While the issue of how and what to include on the approved list of captive-bred species for importation has completed its first round, there are still two other aspects of WBCA which have yet to be addressed by USFWS.

On October 19, 1994 the Service invited WBCA "Cooperators" to a meeting "some time in early 1995" to discuss and exchange ideas about Section 114(c) below. Some NFSS members residing in the mid-East Coast are planning to attend this meeting when held. If you are interested, contact NFSS President Steve Hoppin or Treasurer Miki Sparzak.

And while this section of the law requires only a "review of opportunities", which may lead to bird registries and certification of your breeding facilities, the following requirements of the law (Section 115), not apparently the subject of this first meeting in 1995, will quite certainly impact each of us in

the finch and softbill fancy. I present the text here for your thoughtful consideration, in preparation for a continuing challenging year for aviculture.

Public Law 102-440-Oct. 23, 1992, Section 114(c), the subject of the upcoming meeting reads:

The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate representatives of industry, the conservation community, the Secretariat of the Convention, and other national and international bodies, shall—

(1) review opportunities for a voluntary program of labeling exotic birds, certification of exotic bird breeding facilities and retail outlets, and provision of privately organized or funded technical assistance to other nations; and

(2) report to the Congress the results of this review within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The following section of the law has specific requirements, but I have not yet seen mention of new regulations in the communications from USFWS.

### Sec. 115. MARKING AND RECORDKEEPING

(a) IN GENERAL—The Secretary is authorized to promulgate regulations to require marking or recordkeeping that the Secretary determines will contribute significantly to the ability of the Secretary to ensure compliance with the prohibitions of section 111, for—

(1) any exotic bird that is imported after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any other exotic bird that is—

(A) hatched after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) offered for sale; and

(C) of a species—

(i) the export of which from any country of origin is prohibited; and

(ii) that is subject to a high level of illegal trade.

(b) AVOIDING DETERRENCE OF BREEDING—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that regulations promulgated under this section will not have the effect of deterring captive breeding of exotic birds.

Sometimes, does thinking about your government keep you awake at night?



# Finch and Softbill "Best in Show" Winners—1994

by Dr. Al Decoteau  
NFSS Points Chairman

This was an interesting show year and, like previous years, the top Best in Show winners were more often Gouldians, Shafttails and Zebras. Goulds took Best on eight occasions, while Shafttails took the top honors six times. Seven Zebras ended up on top.

Cinnamon Javas took Best in Show four times—all the same bird, owned by Patrick Vance. Likewise, the Fawn Parson, owned by Pat and Mary Krichten took Best in Show four times *and* took the Kellogg at the National Cage Bird Show. It was the first finch in history to take the Scannell, a most coveted award for the Best Bird in the entire NCBS show.

Gene and June Miller's Fire Finch won Best in Show twice, as did Dale Laird's Tri-colored Nun. Frank and Sandy Hudson's 1993 Kellogg winning Lilac-breasted Roller did Best in Show twice in 1994, as did the twice Great American Best in Show, Jacky Eckman's Starling. This was indeed the year for NFSS and its finches and softbills.

Daren Decoteau selected the Fawn Parson Finch that fourteen other judges selected for the Scannell

winner at NCBS—Best Bird over 2,400 entries. Daren then went to Puerto Rico, selecting a magnificent Yellow-bodied Gouldian owned by member Alfredo Brugueras: five other judges elevated this bird to get the top Puerto Rican award which parallels the Scannell.

Martha Wigmore had the keen eye to select the magnificent Starling as her best bird at GABS, repeating what Charles Anchor did a year previous. Eight different judges each year agreed with Martha and Charlie, and the grand Starling took the \$1,000 award twice, an unprecedented event.

This was indeed the year NFSS should be quite proud of reviewing. The first half of the results of 1994 NFSS shows (through 10/16/94) are printed here. The second half of the show season will be printed in the next issue.

Finally, look what also placed Best in Show at least once:

Painted Star	Diamond Sparrow
Society - 3 times	White Java
Black Crested	Red-headed Parrot
African Silverbill - twice	Finch
Orange Weaver	Cordon Bleu
Greenfinch	Black Cheek
Red-ear	Waxbill
Cherry	Blue-capped
St. Helena Waxbill	Waxbill
Spice - twice	Gray Singer
	Cutthroat
	Timor Sparrow

And the Softbill Best in Shows:

Persa Touraco  
White Eye  
Blue-gray Tanager



**Florida State Fair, — Saturday, Tampa, FL. February 19, 1994**  
**Judge: Earl Courts — 20 Exhibitors, 125 Entries**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Band # (Yr)</b>
10	Dale Laird	White cheek Touraco	SPBE -DJL 37 (93)
9	John Dapas	White-breasted Gouldian	
8	Moses L. Linn	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	D 330 (93)
7	Bob & Vera Hollaway	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
6	Moses L. Linn	Pr. Chocolate & White Societies	
5	Jerri C. Wiesenfeld	Crested Chocolate Society	E 4085 (92)
4	Stephen L. Hoppin	Black-crested Finch	D 11431 (92)
3	Stephen L. Hoppin	Fire Finch	
2	Wayne Davis	Glossy Starling	
1	Miki Spartzak	Indian Hill Mynah	

**Florida State Fair, — Sunday, Tampa FL. February 19, 1994**  
**Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 17 Exhibitors, 110 Entries**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Band # (Yr)</b>
9	Stephen L. Hoppin	Black-crested Finch	
8	John Dapas	Black-headed Red Siskin	
7	Stephen L. Hoppin	Red-crested Touraco	
6	John Dapas	White beasted Gouldian	
5	Stephen L. Hoppin	Pin-tailed Nonpariel	D 12065 (91)
4	Dale Laird	Diamond Sparrow	
3	Dale Laird	Lavender Waxbill	
2	Wayne Davis	Grey Tree Pie	
1	Jerri C. Wisenfeld	Normal Java Rice Bird	K 259 (93)

**Amerlcan Family Bird Show, Pomona, CA, April 23, 1994**  
**Judge: Joe Krader — 4 Exhibitors, 15 Entries**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Band # (Yr)</b>
	Kay McVay	Timor Sparrow	
	Kay McVay	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
	Greg Aden	Shafttail	

**Illini Bird Fanciers, — Saturday, Shelbyville, IL, June 4, 1994**  
**Judge: Tom Rood — 16 Exhibitors, 97 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
8	Charles Anchor	European Greenfinch	
7	Dennis Burhans	Cherry Finch	D 4948 (92)
6	Virginia Patrick	Green Singing Finch	C 511 (91)
5	Dennis Burhans	Chocolate & White Society	
4	Dennis Burhans	Pair Cherry Finches	D 2240 (93) C 352 (93)
3	George & Joyce Alles	Blue Bodied Gouldian	
2	Betty Brandt	Dilute Society Finch	E 995 (94)
1	Jan Marcott	Green Singing Finch	C 653 (92)

**Illini Bird Fanciers, — Sunday, Shelbyville, IL, June 5, 1994**  
**Judge: Conrad Meinert — 10 Exhibitors, 73 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Dennis Burhans	Cherry Finch	D 4948 (92)
6	Tom Rood	Yellow-billed Zebra Finch	D 4258 (93)
5	George Alles	Blue-bodied (back) Gouldian	
4	Sue & Bob Rahe	Violet-eared Waxbill	
3	Dennis Burhans	Pair Cherry Finches	D 2240 (93) C 352 (93)
2	Pat & Virginia Patrick	Green Singing Finch	C 511 (91)
1	Dennis Burhans	Parson Finch	

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Grandview, MO, June 11, 1994**  
**Judge: Paul Williams — 10 Exhibitors, 59 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Dennis Burhans	Shafttail	D 11918 (93)
5	Tom Rood	Pair Zebra Finches	D 4266 (93) D 4240 (93)
4	Tom Rood	AOV Zebra Finch	D 4231 (93)
3	Tom Rood	Society Finch	E 1267 (93)
2	Tom Rood	Pair Society Finches	E 385 (94) E 373 (94)
1	Dennis Burhans	Cherry Finch	D 4948 (92)

**Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida, Margate, FL, August 20, 1994**  
**Judge: Martha Wigmore — 22 Exhibitors, 189 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
12	Oale & Eileen Laird	Tri-color Nun	
11	John Oapas	Aurora Finch	
10	John Oapas	Yellow-headed White-breasted Gouldian	
9	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pagoda Myna	
8	Phil Barth	Pintailed Nonpareil	
7	Jerri Weisenfeld	Normal Java Rice Bird	
6	Ellen Buchanan	Normal Shafttail	C 1552 (93)
5	Jerri Weisenfeld	Red-cared Waxbill	
4	Phil Barth	Crimson Pileated Finch	
3	Felipe Bonilla	Oilute Chocolate Society	E 2254 (94)

**Bay Area Cockatiel and Cage Bird Club, Galveston, TX, September 3, 1994**  
**Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld — 7 Exhibitors, 35 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Sandy Hudson	Spice Finch	
3	M. & H. McBrayer	Gouldian	
2	Sandy Hudson	Red-headed Gouldian	
1	M. & H. McBrayer	Gouldian	11460 (92)

**TCC Feather Show, Galveston, TX, September 4, 1994**  
**Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld — 7 Exhibitors, 38 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Margie McBrayer	White breasted, Orange-headed Gouldian	
3	Gertrude Osseweiger	Parrot Finch	
2	F. & S. Hudson	Spice Finch	
1	Margie McBrayer	White-breasted, Orange-headed, Gouldian	



**Midwest Cage Bird Club, Westland, MI, September 10, 1994**  
**Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld — 11 Exhibitors, 54 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
5	Patrick Vance	Red-headed Star Finch	E 74 (94)
4	Bob & Sue Rahe	Bicheno Finch	
3	Patrick Vance	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	D 936 (94)
2	Bob & Sue Rahe	Violet-eared Waxbill	
1	Bob & Sue Rahe	Pr. Bronze-winged Waxbills	

**Chester County Bird Breeders, Valley Forge, PA, September 10, 1994**  
**Judge: Cecil Gunby — 8 Exhibitors, 31 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Pat & Mary Krichten	Blue Grey Tanager	
3	Steve Funk	Tri-color Nun	
2	Pat & Mary Krichten	Crimson-wing Pytilia	D 7633 (94)
1	Bob Vargo	Chocolate Society Finch	

**Greater Brandon Avian Society, Tampa, FL, September 17, 1994**  
**Judge: Patrick Vance — 13 Exhibitors, 89 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
8	John Dapas	White-breasted, Yellow-headed, Orange Checked Gouldian	
7	John Dapas	Pallid Nun	
6	Ellen Buchanan	Cuban Melodius Finch	
5	C. & M. Runyon	Mynah	
4	Wayne Davis	Green Glossy Starling	
3	Ken Miller	Fawn Shafttail	
2	Diane Pittman	Blue-capped Waxbill	C1060 (93)
1	Jorge Figuerola	Yellow-headed Gouldian	

**Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario, Pickering ON, Canada  
September 24, 1994**

**Judge: Conrad Meinert — 15 Exhibitors, 158 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
11	Jake Hoekstra	Shafttail	
10	Jake Hoekstra	Cherry Finch	
9	Frank Curmi	Green Finch	
8	Sam Crabbe	Light-backed Zebra	
7	Flikkema Aviaries	Blue-winged Munia	
6	Ron Francis	White-breasted Gouldian	
5	Mike Manley	Cuban Melodious Finch	
4	Walter Steger	Green Singing Finch	
3	Walter Steger	Society Finch	
2	Mike Manley	Strawberry Finch	

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club of America, Toledo, OH, Sept. 24, 1994**

**Judge: Patrick Vance — 3 Exhibitors, 9 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Bill Mullins	White-brested Gouldian	
	Bonny Williams	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	
	Bill Mullins	Yellow-headed Gouldian	D 15 (94)

**Bird Fanciers of Okiahoma, Okiahoma City, OK, September 24, 1994**

**Judge: Tom Rood — 9 Exhibitors, 70 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Gene & June Miller	Fawn Diamond Sparrow	D 87 (92)
6	Jim Hulsey	Parson Finch	
5	Gene & June Miller	Fire Finch	B 15 (94)
4	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Parrot Finch	D 401 (94)
3	Clarence Culwell	Self-chocolate Society	
2	Doug & Kim Paris	Black-headed Gouldian	D 105 (92)
1	Gene & June Miller	Blue-faced Parrot Finch	D 384 (93)

**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird, Grantville, PA, September 24, 1994**  
**Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 11 Exhibitors, 50 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Kyle Bolton	Blue-bodied Gouldian	D 3877 (93)
5	E. Woody Hughes	Lilac-breasted Roller	
4	Pat & Mary Krichten	Parson Finch	C 197 (93)
3	Steve Funk/Ray Smith	Tri-color Nun	
2	Pat & Mary Krichten	Rufous-backed Mannikin	D 2068 (93)
1	E. Woody Hughes	Silver-eared Mesia	

**Carolina Classic — Saturday, Anderson, SC, September 24, 1994**  
**Judge: Kenneth Gunby — 4 Exhibitors, 30 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Bob & Veta Holloway	Cordon Bleu	
3	Melvin Yoder	Fawn Zebra	
2	Bob & Veta Holloway	White Java Rice Bird	
1	D. Vitale/S. Wood	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	D 2002 (93)

**Carolina Classic — Sunday, Anderson, SC, September 25, 1994**  
**Judge: Harold Bowles — 3 Exhibitors, 27 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Melvin Yoder	Fawn Zebra	
2	Melvin Yoder	Scaly Headed Weaver	
1	Bob & Veta Holloway	White Java Rice Bird	D 384 (93)

**Seven Mountains Bird Club, Grantville, PA, September 25, 1994**  
**Judge: Roddy Gabel — 8 Exhibitors, 27 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Roy Smith/Steve Funk	Tri-color Mannikin	
2	Kyle Bolton	Coral-headed Gouldian	D 3877
1	Bill & Cindy Grace	Common Starling	

**Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Denver CO, October 1, 1994**  
**REGIONAL SHOW: Region #5 - Mountain**  
**Judge: Laura Bewley — 13 Exhibitors, 70 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Terri McAuliffe	St. Helena Waxbill	
6	Glenda Pullum	Star Finch	
5	Anna Sinclair	Crested Chestnut/White Society	E 1419 (94)
4	Julie Kern	Half-masked Weaver	
3	Dave & Debbie Steele	Tri-color Nun	
2	Dave & Debbie Steele	Cocolate/White Society Finch	D 5690 (92)
1	Dave & Debbie Steele	Normal Zebra Finch	1586 (94)

**KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW, Des Moines, IA, October 1, 1994**  
**Judge: Martha Wigmore — 17 Exhibitors, 121 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
10	Jacky Eckman	Common Starling	SPBE BRA 15 (93)
9	Gene & June Miller	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	C 9 (93)
8	Gene & June Miller	Diamond Sparrow	E 112 (94)
7	Dale & Eileen Laird	Normal Java Rice Bird	K 493-(94)
6	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Gouldian	
5	Tom Rood	Pair Normal Zebras	D 4266 (93) D 4240 (93)
4	Gene & June Miller	Cuban Melodius	B 22 (93)
3	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Parrot Finch	D 401 (94)
2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Tri-color Nun	
1	Patrice Brusk	Chocolate & White Society	E 2531 (89)

**South Jersey Bird Club, Garden State Park, NJ, October 1, 1994**  
**Judge: Kenneth Gunby — 10 Exhibitors, 41 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson	C 215 (93)
4	E. Woody Hughes	Wattled Starling	
3	Pat & Mary Krichten	Indian Silverbill	C 142 (92)
2	Pat & Mary Krichten	Dilute Choc. & White Society	E 284 (94)
1	E. Woody Hughes	Masked Grassfinch	

**Classic Feathers, Defiance, OH, October 1, 1994**  
**Judge: Harold Bowles — 2 Exhibitors, 18 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
2	Patrick Vance	Shafttail	C 52 (94)
1	Patrick Vance	Zebra Finch	D 1839 (93)

**Fort Worth Bird Club, Arlington, TX, Oct 1, 1994**  
**Judge: Paul Williams — 10 Exhibitors, 69 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	F. & S. Hudson	Spice Finch	
6	Laurie Suomala	Cordon Bleu	
5	H. & M. McBrayer	Gouldian	
4	F. & S. Hudson	Pr. Shafttails	
3	F. & S. Hudson	Lilac-breasted Roller	
2	Clarence Culwell	Starling	
1	Clarence Culwell	Normal Zebra	

**Sunshine State Cage Bird Society, Orlando, FL Oct 8, 1994**  
**Judge: Stephen Hoppin — 11 Exhibitors, 80 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
8	Dale & Eileen Laird	Tri Color Nun	
7	Jerri Weisenfeld	Pallid Nun	
6	Jorge Figuerola	White Zebra	970 (93)
5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Yellow-winged Pytilia	
4	Jorge Figuerola	Orange-Headed Gouldian	
3	Diane Pittman	Blue-capped Waxbill	C 1060 (93)
2	Felipe Bonilla	Dilute Fawn Society	2254 (94)
1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Red-eared Waxbill	

**Indiana Bird Fanciers, Fort Wayne, IN, Oct 8, 1994****Judge: Tom Rood — 7 Exhibitors, 69 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Patrick Vance	Yellow-headed Gouldian	
6	C. & D. Wiegale	Normal Java Rice Bird	303 (90)
5	Patrick Vance	Chocolate & White Society	D 1766 (94)
4	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
3	John & Jane Muscato	White Java Rice Bird	
2	Marylou Terwilliger	Green Singing Finch	43 (91)
1	Patrick Vance	Shafttail	C 52 (94)

**Kansas Avicultural Society, Wichita, KS, Oct 8, 1994****Judge: Cecil Gunby — 7 Exhibitors, 32 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Nita Haas	Dilute Society	E 1336 (92)
3	Bernie Nauheimer	Shafttail	
2	Nita Haas	Chocolate & White Society	E 569 (94)
1	Bernie Nauheimer	Blue Gouldian	12622 (93)

**Cleveland Cage Bird Society, Cleveland, OH, Oct 8, 1994****Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 3 Exhibitors, 7 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Vicki Delsanter	Pair Cutthroats	
	T. & A. Howard	Normal Java Rice Bird	
	Gerald & Alma Ball	Black-headed Gouldian	

**Essex-Kent Cagebird Society, Windsor, ON, Canada, Oct 15, 1994****Judge: Patrick Vance — 8 Exhibitors, 103 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	J & W. Lafleur	Fawn Zebra	
8	Jack Hoekstra	Shafttail	
7	Flikkema Aviaries	Pr. White Java Rice Birds	
6	John & Barb Jasik	Pied Star Finch	
5	J. & E. Bellmore	St. Helena Seedeater	
4	John & Barb Jasik	Shafttail	
3	Flikkema Aviaries	Pekin Robin	
2	John & Barb Jasik	Bicheno Finch	
1	Flikkema Aviaries	Red-headed Gouldian	

**Sun Coast Avian Society, Clearwater, FL, Oct 15, 1994****Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 7 Exhibitors, 37 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Ellen Buchanan	Normal Shafttail	C 1552 (93)
3	Dale & Eileen Laird	Tri-Color Nun	
2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Yellow-winged Pytilia	
1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Fawn Society	E 2720 (94)

**Gulf South Bird Club, New Orleans, LA, Oct 15, 1994****Judge: Paul Williams — 7 Exhibitors, 42 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	F. & S. Hudson	Lilac-breasted Roller	
4	F. & S. Hudson	Shafttail	
3	F. & S. Hudson	Spice Finch	
2	F. & S. Hudson	Pr. Shafttails	
1	Justin Stamm	Combassou	

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Baltimore, MD, Oct 15, 1994****Judge: Laura Bewley — 9 Exhibitors, 44 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Jimmy Eckman	Common Starling	
4	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson Finch	C 215 (93)
3	Dr. San Miguel	Red-headed Gouldian	
2	Suzanne Wood	Fawn Zebra	
1	E. Woody Hughes	Silver-eared Mesia	

**Great Lakes Avicultural Society, Grand Rapids, MI, Oct 15, 1994****Judge: Charles Anchor — 9 Exhibitors, 36 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
3	Patrick Vance	Chestnut-flanked White Zebra	D 936 (94)
2	Karen Kanine	White Java Rice Bird	
1	Mary Lou Terwilliger	Pr. Pied Zebras	6356 (91) 4857 (93)

**Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Kansas City, MO, Oct 15, 1994**  
**Judge: Clarence Culwell — 10 Exhibitors, 55 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Parrot Finch	D 435 (94)
5	Gene & June Miller	Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	E 112 (94)
4	Jim Pikel	Normal Gouldian	
3	H.T. Birds	Self Chocolate Society Finch	E 1366 (94)
2	Gene & June Miller	Fire Finch	B 14 (94)
1	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	D 2225 (93)

**New York Finch & Type Canary Club, Franking Square, NY, Oct 15, 1994**  
**Judge: Daren Decoteau — 25 Exhibitors, 149 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
11	Juan Almanzar	Star Finch	
10	Dasao Maharaj	Black-cheeked Waxbill	
9	Juan Almanzar	Blood Finch	
8	Ron Casper	Combassou	
7	Carol Garrison	Fawn Society Finch	
6	Terrence Arthur	Saffron Finch	
5	Stan Ramkisson	Indian Silverbill	
4	Charlie Angell	Shafttail	962 (94)
3	Edmond Drakis	Black-headed Siskin	
2	Carol Casper	Half-masked Weaver	

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Kansas City, MO, Oct 16, 1994**  
**Judge: Cecil Gunby — 7 Exhibitors, 32 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Gene & June Miller	Fire Finch	B 14 (94)
3	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Parrot Finch	D 401 (94)
2	Gene & June Miller	Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	E 112 (94)
1	Gene & June Miller	Red Siskin	B 9 (94)



# The National Finch and Softbill Society Region NEWS



NFSS membership table at the Southeast Regional Show  
Georgia Cage Bird Society, November 5, 1994

Photo by Dale and Eileen Laird

## News from Region 2: Southeast

### Dale Laird - Regional V.P.

The Georgia Cage Bird Society hosted the Southeast Regional Show and NFSS membership meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on November 5, 1994. There were 55 entries in the show and 17 people in attendance at

the meeting. Dale Laird set up an informational table for distribution of NFSS pamphlets on FINCH-SAVE, the Society, membership applications, and FINCHSHOP items he has on consignment. His wife, Eileen, and he made a display board of various finches and softbills for the table which drew a lot of attention. They also brought along their hand-fed Persa Touraco, Kelsy, a male Queen Whydah, and Superb Starling for the display.

Sale of FINCHSHOP items, memberships, and a raffle consisting of a framed Eric Peake print and a pair of domestic bred and banded African Silverbills, donated by Steve Hoppin, raised \$181.50 for NFSS. Phil and Denise Barth won the Silverbills and Barbara Hill won the Eric Peake print. Phil and Denise have promised to register the Silverbills in the FINCHSAVE program.

At the awards banquet following the show, the Georgia Cage Bird Society presented a plaque to Dale Laird, who accepted on behalf of NFSS, for our participation in their show. A very nice touch which epitomized the entire event. The volunteers in the club responded positively to every request we had and made it all seem so easy. Candy

Wright, GCBS NFSS delegate, kept everything moving smoothly.

All-in-all, a very good day. We look forward to the applications for the 1995 regional show which will be part of the affiliation process. Hopefully all of the clubs holding a show will apply.

*Dale also added this note to the editor (in Minnesota), which says it all:*

Don't forget the State Fair Show in February. We probably will have had our three days of winter by then and be back in shorts and T-shirts for the show. Of course, if it is a winter day that means we wear our one pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt. Shorts and T-shirts are kept in the car in case it warms up.



## Changing Your Address?

Let NFSS be the first to greet you at your new address!

Please send this form or this information to

Lynda Bakula

NFSS Membership Chairman

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022

Club delegates should also send their change of address

separately to

Ginny Allen

NFSS Liaison Officer

307 Brookwood Court

Opelika, AL 36801-3657

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**FINCHSAVE REPORTS—1993:****AUSTRALIAN / PARROT  
FINCH GROUP Annual  
Breeding Report Results**

Reports for FINCHSAVE groups will be published periodically.

**Owl Finch**

**Reports received—3**      **Total birds raised—43, many fostered. Losses: 3**

**Breeding setups—**Two pairs bred in outdoor mixed aviaries (Breeder #2 & Breeder #3). *Breeder #1:* Used 18"L x 18"W x 20"H cages (1 pair per cage) side by side (must foster most birds under Societies as they will not raise their own). *Breeder #2:* Used 2' x 2' x 2' cages (fosters most under Societies, did not indicate why). *Breeder #3:* Did not attempt to set up individual breeding cages due to lack of space. Still raised 3 birds.

**Special foods—**  
egg food (hardboiled egg, nestling  
food & Nekton)  
Cede egg food

romaine lettuce  
grated carrot  
greens

**Red-headed Parrot Finch**

**Reports received—2**      **Total birds raised—0. Losses: 2**

**Breeding setups—***Breeder #1:* One pair per flight 4' x 8' x 12'. *Breeder #2:* Could not set up birds to breed this year.

**Significant problems—**Breeder #1 lost 2 older birds. Infertile eggs produced. Birds did not tolerate nest inspection.

**Blue-faced Parrot Finch—**2 reports. No birds raised, 1 loss. Breeder #1 uses 3' x 18" x 18" cage. Usually fosters to Societies. Breeder #2 did not set up birds to breed in 1993. An increase in infertile eggs was noted (age?). Parents hatched 1 but rejected it.

*Continued next page*

# Breeding the Bronze-winged Mannikin

*Lonchura cucullata*

by *Reta Greenberg*

The Central Florida Bird Breeders decided to give something back to aviculture's conservation through propagation and started a *Finch Breeding Consortium*. Back on November 30, 1993, the membership and directors decided to work with the Bronze-winged Mannikin.

The finches were purchased by the club from a local finch distributor and kept as a group at a member's house. Later on, they were

placed with ten participants. Each was given three pairs (actually six birds).

My six birds were kept inside the house for two months (January-February 1994) due to cold weather and winds. They were housed in a three-tier breeding cage measuring 24" deep x 36" wide x 24" tall per compartment.

A 5" x 5" x 5" wood nest box was placed on the outside of each of the cages; the first two had a half-open entrance, while the one in the bottom cage had a round-hole opening. All three nest boxes were filled with coco-husk material, and the finches lined them with a white strand. Some coco-husk was left inside the cage for the birds to pick up themselves.

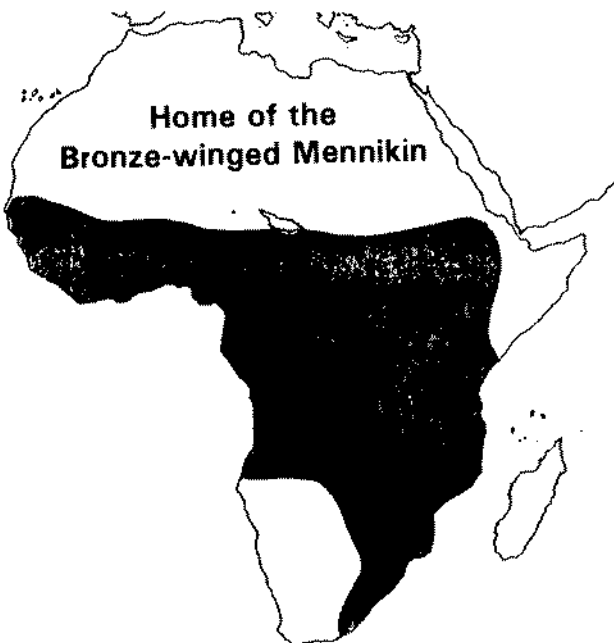
## *FINCHSAVE Reports, continued*

<i>Star Finch</i>	
<b>Reports received—1</b>	<b>Total birds raised—8. Losses: 4</b>
<b>Breeding setups—1</b> pair in outdoor aviary. 2 pairs in 3' x 2' x 2' cages. Fostered cage bred to Societies.	
<b>Special foods—</b> Nestling food mixed with hard-boiled egg & Nekton	mealworms greens grit
<b>Significant problems—</b> Clear eggs from 1 pair. Dropping species from program.	

*Pintail Nonpariel*—1 report. No birds raised, 1 loss. Breeder unable to set up birds in 1993. Previous year was successful breeding.

Their diet consisted of Nederland's Vita Seed finch mix, CeDe eggfood (moistened with water), chopped broccoli and carrots. Three times a week Nekton E was added to their drinking water, and mealworms

were laid on June 2, 1994. Two of the eggs were not fertile and the breeding pair tossed them out of the breeding box. The remaining egg hatched June 16, 1994. Around the end of July, this baby was eating on its own.



This baby was not banded for two reasons: the parents were very protective of the nest, and scared easily when approached. In addition, the *Consortium* had not yet acquired the bands. At this time, all three finches share the nest box to sleep in. The baby bird is dark in color and will not look like the parents until it goes through the first molt.

Source: D. Goodwin's *Estrildid Finches of the World*. 1982.

were offered occasionally but the birds always refused or ignored them.

During March 1994, the breeding set-up was placed outside in a screened-in room, and on May 20, 1994, one of the two finches housed in the bottom cage died, leaving a single finch which later laid an egg. The middle cage houses two females, determined by the fact that there is always an abundance of eggs, always infertile. Finally, breeding results occurred in the top cage. Three eggs

Central Florida Bird Breeders  
 Finch Breeding Consortium  
 Gene Goss, Director  
 2891 King Oak Circle  
 St. Cloud, FL 34769

# Some Bird Prices During the Thirty-Year Period, 1944 to 1974 (Or Thereabouts)

by Russell Aluto  
595 Winterspice Dr.  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

All good aviculturists are confirmed pack-rats. This should come as no surprise, since record-keeping is one of the requirements of the successful avicultural program, and the accumulation of price-lists, catalogs, cage plans, magazine articles, show ribbons, and so on, seems to follow naturally.

I haven't kept birds for the past twenty years, and the prospect of ever keeping many more than two or three at any one time declines with each passing year. (The last bird I kept was a Superb Starling, who certainly lived up to his name; I paid twenty dollars for him in 1971.) For one thing, with approaching retirement, bribing grandchildren into being bird-sitters while grandma and grandpa cavort through Europe is not easily done, and I'm reasonably sure that nursing homes aren't delighted

with avian clients accompanying their geriatric owners.

Nonetheless, I have a file box labeled "aviculture" which contains price-lists, catalogs, etc., beginning as far back as 1944. (The earliest price lists are for pheasants, a group with which I was enamored as a child.) Perusing it a few evenings ago, I was struck by the availability and inexpensiveness of birds that are now rare or priced out of many people's budgets. It was a good thing that, at ten years old (in 1944), one could still buy a pair of Strawberry Finches for three dollars, or I would

have been forced to spend my childhood raising only homing pigeons, and the occasional bantam chicken.

I thought that NFSS members might enjoy a quick look at prices of twenty to fifty years ago. I won't go as

far as to include the Consumer Price Index for those years, or the average weekly income of Americans, but I will point out that these years preceded importation bans, CITES treaties, and the skilled breeding methods for finches and softbills now employed by 1990s aviculturists. As a matter of fact, I have one price list that appeared in 1972, the first year of severe importation limitations, and this is reflected in the prices in the Norshore Pets listings, which increased four-fold in a manner of a few months, e.g., Fire

*In 1972...Fire  
Finches went  
from \$4.00 a  
pair to \$7.50  
each.*

Finches went from \$4.00 a pair to \$7.50 each.

Some of the sellers may be familiar to NFSS *Bulletin* readers. As mentioned, Norshore Pets in Chicago was a name that one could still run across a few years ago, and the wonderful Professor Vai Clear, who died recently, is an important and respected name in aviculture. Other sellers of birds from that era are undoubtedly no longer in business, but it would be interesting to learn what happened to them. For those of you who are collectors of such historical information, I would be happy to xerox these price lists for you, if you would drop me a note to that effect.

Strawberry Finches ranged from \$3.00 a pair (1944) to a high of \$8.00 a pair in 1958. The last price I have for them is 1965, where the price had dropped to \$7.00 a pair. (If you were willing to buy in quantity, Mr. K.L. Acooli & Sons, Calcutta, India, would be willing to part with them for 21 cents each in 1959.)

Cordon Bleus could have been obtained for \$3.95 a pair in 1962, and for as little as \$4.50 a pair in 1971. Prices fluctuated between \$4.00 and \$9.00 during the period 1944 to 1971, with a price of \$15.00 a pair in 1972.

Pekin Robins were about \$12.00 a pair during the 1950s and 1960s, although Mr. Acooli and his sons would have been happy to supply them to you for \$1.75 each in 1959.

There are numerous other examples, and given enough space, I could produce an intricate table for a

### *The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction*

**An NFSS Video  
Prepared and narrated by  
Mr. Jon Hoffman**

Adapted from a slide presentation, the birds will delight you and the narration will fascinate you!

Much more than an introduction, this video looks at dozens of varieties of finches and softbills.

To order, see the FINCHSHOP order form in this issue.

dozen or more interesting species. Let me conclude with a flurry of specific examples. In 1956, Schaller's Birds in Sun Valley, California, could provide you with white Zebra Finches at \$25.00 a dozen. In 1958, Bronson's Birds, New York City, had European Goldfinches for sale for \$6.00 each. Mr. Bronson also had Gouldians for sale for \$16.00 a pair. In 1956, the famous Keston Foreign Bird Farm in England had Cutthroats listed for \$3.50 a pair, and African Silverbills for \$2.00 a pair.

And the ultimate "buy" was in 1958, and I availed myself of this bargain: Sulfur Breasted Toucans for sale for \$35.00 each. It was, dollar for dollar, the most sensational bird I ever kept.

## Proposed Star Finch Standard

*Neochmia ruficauda*  
*Amadina ruficauda*

Proposed by the *National Finch and Softbill Society*  
January 1995

(Reprint of proposed standard - originally published in Jan/Feb 1991 *Bulletin*)

Any comments should be sent to:

**Dr. Al Decoteau**  
**P.O. Box 369**  
**Groton, MA 01450**

CONFORMATION. . . . .	50 POINTS
Head and Body. . . . .	25 pts
Wings. . . . .	15 pts
Tail. . . . .	10 pts
CONDITION. . . . .	25 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS. . . . .	20 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION. . . . .	5 POINTS

### **CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)** **(distributed as follows)**

**HEAD AND BODY: 25 POINTS** The head of the Star Finch shall be rounded and taper gently and smoothly into the back without any depression or nip of the neck. The head of the cock bird will be more flat at the top.

The body, approaching 4" in length, includes the short 1¼" tail. The body must not be snaky in appearance but shall be muscular about the shoulders and chest, tapering trimly to the tail area. The muscular appearance of the bird must not be confused with the cobby appearance suggested in the standard of other birds. Full, but trim may be the best description of the body.

**WINGS: 15 POINTS** The wings of the Star Finch shall be carried tightly to the body and must not hang down or puff out from the body. The wings must meet neatly at the base of the tail.

**TAIL: 10 POINTS** The tail of the Star Finch shall be of a 1¼" length. It shall taper slightly and should appear compact. It should not fan or appear uneven.



## CONDITION (25 POINTS)

The Star Finch should not be considered to be a finch that is easily kept and should have an appearance of top condition. It should therefore not be dull, but should appear to have a clean, satin-like appearance. All feathers must be clean and neat, no fraying or misplaced feathers should be present. Nails and beaks must be clean and of proper length. Eyes should be round, dark and bright.

## COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

**COCKS:** The beak is bright red and spreads over the facial area of the forehead, throat and cheeks. This bright red must, in the cock bird, extend to completely encircle the eye. The upper body is olive with some dull red-brown on the tail and rose red on the uppertail coverts where a few white spots tinged with red will occur. The underside of the tail is a dull grayish shade. Feet and legs are of flesh coloration. The upper chest and lower throat are olive changing to bright yellow approaching the tail. The yellow fades gradually in abdominal areas through the undertail coverts. The face and chest are superimposed with white spots which are small on the facial area and larger and further apart as they radiate into the chest area.

**HENS:** The beak is bright red but the red on the forehead of the female is not as extensive. The bright yellow on the chest is less vivid, and all other colors as in the male will not be of the same intensity.

### MUTATIONS

**PIED:** The Pied Star Finch will have areas of white feathering about the back feathers; pied markings on the chest or facial areas will be faulted. Symmetry of markings will be more important than the degree of piedness. Ideally the pied markings on the back parts should be 50% white and 50% base color.

**YELLOW-FACED:** Same as normal bird but red on beak, forehead, and facial areas is replaced by a bright yellow-orange color. This color should be of more intensity than the red on the normal bird.

## DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

The Star Finch should remain fairly calm in the show cage. It should perch alertly and at a 45° angle. The Star Finch should also display a degree of inquisitiveness when being judged.

Submitted by the Star Finch Standard Committee:

William G. Parlee, Chairman  
Clarence Culwell, Panel Judge  
Gene L. Miller, Breeder

# Proposed Pekin Robin Standard

*Leiothrix lutea*

Proposed by the *National Finch and Softbill Society* - Revision 3

January 1995

(Revision 2 was published in May/June 1994 *Bulletin*)

Any comments should be sent to:

Dr. Al Decoteau  
P.O. Box 369  
Groton, MA 01450

CONFORMATION.....	50 POINTS
Head and Body.....	20 pts
Wings.....	15 pts
Tail.....	15 pts
CONDITION.....	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS.....	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION..	15 POINTS

## **CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)** (distributed as follows)

HEAD AND BODY: 20 POINTS The Pekin Robin should measure 5" from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail. The head should be nicely rounded, blending with a thick neck. The top line allows for a dip in the neck; the line of the back runs smoothly and slightly rounded from the base of the neck to the base of the tail. The Pekin Robin should be a robust and full-bodied bird showing good substance. The eyes should be large and dark.

WINGS: 15 POINTS The wings should be held close against the body; there should be a slight gap of up to 1/2" at the tips.

TAIL: 15 POINTS The Pekin Robin has a forked tail which is gently rounded at the ends. The tail should be 2 1/2" in length. 1/2" wide stemming from the base of the rump extending to 1 3/4" in width at the broadest forked end. The upper tail coverts extend to cover just over half of the tail.

## CONDITION (20 POINTS)

While the Pekin Robin is not extremely difficult to keep, excellent condition is expected on the show bench. All feathers should be present, clean and shiny and smooth. Legs and feet should be clean. Pin feathers, missing feathers, soiled or frayed feathers, missing toes or toenails are all condition faults.

## COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

The base of both the upper and lower mandibles are blackish, while the remaining portion fade into a reddish orange. Behind the beak is a pale pink area covering the lores, drawing a sharp dividing line between a dark and light area over and behind the eye. The head is a dark olive, shading gradually into a grayish olive over most of the upper parts. Ear coverts are a silvery gray. There is a bold black moustachial stripe. Upper tail coverts are grayish olive while undertail coverts are whitish gray. The tip of the tail becomes blackish. Primary flight feathers are edged in bright yellow. Several fine lines of yellow show along the length of the flight feathers in contrast with lines of deep rust orange. A yellow throat patch under the chin fans down into a rusty orange. The underparts are a pale olive becoming very light in the abdomen and vent.

A whitish yellow spot (the size of pencil eraser) is noted on the wings just above a rust area where secondaries become apparent from under the greater coverts. If the wing is extended it clearly shows this spot. This is seen over 1/8" of the five secondary feathers.

Legs are grayish black; feet are dark gray with orange overtones.

Hens tend to have a lighter colored beak; moustachial stripe is much lighter in color, appearing nearly absent. In some cases the throat patch is paler yellow and the wings have a duller orange. Keep in mind that birds maintained in captivity for some time may be more difficult to sex due to color fading.

## DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

DEPORTMENT: 10 POINTS The Pekin Robin should be very active in the cage moving back and forth. It should be extremely alert. Crouching on the perch is to be faulted.

PRESENTATION: 5 POINTS Perches should be firmly attached and of suitable size for the Pekin Robin. Show cage must be clean. As in all softbills, food and water must be in the cage.

## Flocking Together...



*Our readers have the following questions for the NFSS membership:*

❖ With regards to Cordon Bleu and African Fire finches, can you provide me with information that I can't find in my books: How many mealworms should be fed for off season: to bring into breeding; and to young after weaning and for how long? At what age close band, and how to go about it so parents don't abandon. Does it work to buy closed bands one size larger and band the young the day they fledge? Is six weeks old too young to wean Cordon Bleus? I lost one when I put a clutch at this age into a 4' x 4' x 3' flight cage with other young. How many should I house in this size cage? Can I put young Fire finches in with young Cordon Bleus? After breeding, how should I house the adult Cordon Bleus and Fire finches? Separate them? Can I house either sex with the young? Can I house in the summer 2 pair of Cordon Bleu and 1 pair of Fire finches and all their young in a 9' x 8' x 8' flight? Any help the Society or the *Bulletin* can give me would be greatly appreciated.

E. Donnelly  
R.R. 5 Perth  
Ontario, Canada  
K7H 3C7

❖ *In a wonderful case of serendipity, a dove enthusiast from Colorado Springs, Colorado wrote to ask about the American Dove Association or the International Dove Society, and on the same day a letter arrived from Candice Patrick of Madison, Tennessee with some "brag talk" about her recent success showing her ADA banded doves. For dove fanciers, more next month!*

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**W**ant to correspond with fellow NFSS members who share your interest in a particular species or who may have met a challenge in their bird room similar to the one you are facing? Use the NFSS **FLOCKING TOGETHER** column to send a call out to the membership. Mail your request to the Editor, *The NFSS Bulletin*.

Readers who can help an inquirer can write directly to the individual if their address is provided, or to the Editor for forwarding. If you wish, send a copy of your letter to the Editor for publication in the *Bulletin* where your ideas will reach many others with the same or similar needs.

# NFSS 3rd Qtr 1994 Board Meeting

GABS, Des Moines, Iowa -  
9/30/94

*Recorded by Martha Wigmore  
Acting Recording Secretary*

Directors present: Hoppin, Wigmore, Decoteau, Spartzak, McCawley, Laird, Miller and Bakula.

The Board agreed the **Zebra Finch Standard Revision** is in need of attention. The following Committee was formed to initiate action: Martha Wigmore - chairperson and Tom Rood. Dr. Al Decoteau will appoint a Panel Judge as third person on Committee.

The **Proposed Pekin Robin Standard** (as previously published) was discussed. A few comments were received resulting in the standard being sent back to the committee for adjustments.

A brief discussion of exhibiting pairs confirmed the **Pairs Section** should be the last section of the NFSS Show Classification.

A **Pairs Standard Committee** was suggested. Should NFSS have enough interested parties to participate then the committee will be formed.

The issue of **NFSS re-affiliating with AFA** was brought forth and prompted much discussion. Several Board members voiced concerns and requested more information regarding AFA and re-affiliation before further discussion. The issue was tabled pending further information and the following Committee was formed to accommodate the Board: Dale Laird - Chairperson, Jerry McCawley and Steve Hoppin.

**Treasurer's Report** - Miki Spartzak of Baltimore, MD. Because of several large non-recurring expenditures during 1994, available funds will be tight until next spring, but Miki assured everyone that the money would be there to meet necessary expenses. NFSS can make installment payments on some items. A **six month freeze** on all unnecessary expendi-

tures has been put in place, effective immediately.

Forty **NFSS Logo Contest** entries were displayed and each Board member voted for their choice of top five. Results to be announced at the NFSS General Meeting on Sunday.

Brief discussion of ways to better **promote Junior membership** within Society. The President asked the Board to continue to give this issue thought as our junior members today will likely play an important part in the Society's future.

The Board discussed the possibility of a future **NFSS awards program** designed to recognize the NFSS members that have no interest in exhibiting their birds, but have achieved **success through their efforts breeding** finch and softbill species. A Committee was formed including Jerry McCawley - Chairperson, Miki Spartzak and Lynda Bakula to invite feedback and suggestions from the membership and start a rough draft.

Discussion of ways to preserve the **old NFSS logo**. Suggestions included preserving logo in *Handbook* and purchasing pin displaying old logo. Discussion tabled.

President requested **Treasurer prepare budget for 1995** and to make available to Board at 4th Quarter meeting.

Discussed current 2nd Vice President position according to NFSS By-laws and proposal shifting **Educational Department to 1st VP** position. The Board agreed this would be in the best interest of the Society and suggested the President follow policy and procedure for amendment to the Bylaws.

Discussion of creating a "**Jon Hoffman Educational Award**" in memory of the recent passing of our 1st Vice President. Discussion tabled.

Discussion regarding future marketing of Eric Peake "**Diamond Sparrow**" **Lithographs**. Discussion tabled pending review of original cost and inventory.

The Board discussed the **grant approved to the Suncoast Avian Society's Consortium** earlier in the year. Discussion tabled.

**The Board voted to approve** the following change to the **apprentice judges program**: to allow the

written test to be taken at sites where Panel Chairman. Dr. Al Decotean is judging with at least a 60 day advance notice to the Panel Chairman. a **\$10.00 service charge** from NFSS for receipt of any "bad check". If the check and fee are not paid, membership will be suspended.

• **membership rate increase of \$5.00** to each level effective January 1, 1995. This is the first increase since NFSS' inception ten years ago. Members could pay 1994 renewal fee if renewed prior to January 1, 1995.

• **advertising rate increases** effective January 1, 1995:

- 1) *full pg* - from \$35/issue or \$144/yr to \$50/issue or \$200/yr
- 2) *half pg* - from \$20/issue or \$96/yr to \$30/issue or \$120/yr
- 3) *1/4 pg* - from \$12/issue or \$50/yr to \$20/issue or \$80/yr
- 4) *inside covers* add \$20/issue or \$100/yr

• **NFSS Bulletin back issue price increase** effective January 1, 1995 - from \$2.50/issue to \$4.00/issue for any 1994 or later issue; all earlier issues cost \$3.00/issue.

• the following locations for 1995

#### **Board Meetings:**

- 1st Qtr* - February 17th at Florida State Fair Bird Show, Tampa, FL.  
*2nd Qtr* - By Mail  
*3rd Qtr* - October 7 & 8 at Kaytee Great American Bird Show, Concord, CA  
*4th Qtr* - November 16th at National Cage Bird Show, New Orleans, LA

• not to continue with the existing **Handbook** offered for sale by FINCHSHOP. It was decided to publish the necessary information from the **Handbook in the May/June NFSS Bulletin** each year becoming a part of membership benefits. In the near future NFSS will offer a complete **Judges Handbook** offered for sale by FINCHSHOP.

## **NFSS Membership Meeting**

**GABS, Des Moines, Iowa - 10/02/94**

*Recorded by Lynda Bakula  
Acting Recording Secretary*

There were 8 Board members and 7 members present. President Steve Hoppin conducted the meeting. The winners of the finch/softbill division at the GABS show were congratulated and the \$1,000 Best in Show prize-winning Common Starling was presented by her owner Jacky Eckman of Baltimore, Maryland.

A few minutes of silence were observed in memory of NFSS Board member and Panel Judge Jon Hoffman who recently passed on.

Board members, panel judges and club delegates were introduced.

**Band Secretary's Report** - read by president for Denise Capazzi of Gales Ferry, Connecticut. NFSS ordered 36,250 bands and had sold 31,620. Denise is resigning from this position, which she has served in since 1989, at the end of 1994. Steve recognized Denise's hard work. The new band secretary, Eileen Laird of Winter Park, FL, was introduced.

**Treasurer's Report** - Miki Spartzak of Baltimore, MD. Available funds will be tight until next spring. A six month freeze on all unnecessary expenditures has been put in place.

**Publishing Committee's Report** - Martha Wigmore of Elk River, MN. The Sep/Oct 1994 issue was mailed one week prior to the meeting. A warm thank you for the flood of contributions, but more submissions about softbills are always in demand.

**Education Committee's Report** - Martha Wigmore. NFSS still has available to affiliated clubs sets of finch and softbill educational display boards. Contact FINCHSHOP for shipment to your event. The *Bulletin* remains NFSS' primary educational outreach, but additional activities have



also unfolded this year. Board member Linda Oja was a well-received speaker on FINCHSAVE and finches and softbills at the AFA Convention in Knoxville, TN this August. Ideas and willing hands are needed to further NFSS' educational activities.

**FINCHSAVE Report** - read by president for Linda Oja of Newport News, VA. During the year FINCHSAVE has lost two participating species and gained two new ones. At present we have 61 species (one less than the last report) and 51 participants. A considerable amount of information on NFSS and FINCHSAVE was distributed at the AFA Convention. Linda thanks all those who contributed slides on such short notice for her presentation. She would like more slides of the different species in the program.

FINCHSAVE will be working on developing species information sheets on each species in the program. 1993 breeding results are appearing in the *Bulletin*.

**Judges, Classifications and Standards Report** - Dr. Al Decoteau of Groton, MA. NFSS has lost two panel judges: one passed on, one was suspended for one year and recently resigned. Ten members have applied for the NFSS Judges Apprentice Program; five fulfilled the qualifications: two took the written test at GABS and three will take in at NCBS. Miki Spzarak passed the written test and will begin apprenticing. She was congratulated.

Revision of the 1984 Zebra Finch standard fell aside several years ago. A new Committee has been formed. The Proposed Pekin Robin Standard has been returned to the Committee to review comments. The Star Finch Standard has been revisited and a new Committee formed.

A great group has been working on new Show Classifications which will be submitted for approval for the 1995 and later show circuit.

**Membership Chairman's Report** - Lynda Bakula of Ballwin, MO. NFSS has 860 members. We are getting more renewals with renewal notices inserted in the *Bulletin*. For the first half of 1994 we are running at 60-70% renewals.

**Advertising Manager's Report** Lynda Bakula. NFSS sent out 200 letters and *Bulletins* to potential advertisers from which we

have been receiving some response. The Board agreed to raise advertising rates.

**Affiliation Report** - read by president for Russ Armitage, Jr. of Waterbury, Connecticut. There are 78 affiliated clubs with NFSS in 1994. Russ is resigning at the end of 1994, but hopes to again be more active with NFSS in the future. Russ has served NFSS since its inception. All awards, except for NCBS were in the mail. A replacement for Russ is needed.

**Promotions Officer's Report** - Jerry McCawley of Lancaster, PA. Reorders of earlier pins will be available at NCBS and through FINCHSIOP. Tom Rood has donated a copy of Derek Goodwin's *Estridid Finches of the World* for an NFSS raffle to be held at NCBS. Jerry discussed how NFSS might be able to use Eric Peake Lithographs which NFSS still has in stock.

**FINCHSHOP Report** - read by President for Pat and Mary Krichten of Hanover, PA. 3rd Qtr sales consisted of blueprints, zebra pins, the NFSS video, *NFSS Handbooks*, NFSS name badges and an extraordinary number of *Bulletin* back issues. Sales totaled \$326.00, slightly down.

NFSS water bottles are in good supply and both gouldian and zebra finch pins should be abundant.

**Regional Vice Presidents' Reports** - Dale Laird of Winter Park, FL reported on **Region 2**, the Southeast Region. Their Regional Show will be in Atlanta on November 5th. The 1st Qtr 1995 Board meeting will be at the FL State Fair show, the 3rd weekend in February.

The **annual NFSS Census** is being transferred from Tom Rood to Jan Hawn of Manassas, VA, in care of Linda Oja and FINCHSAVE, effective in 1995. A big thank you to Tom for all his hard work for several years with the Census.

Tom Rood of Shelbyville, IL has been our **overseas awards** ambassador for several years and has gathered several special awards for exhibitors at the NCBS this year.

A reminder about the 1994 **raffle**, and tickets for sale after the meeting.

The **NFSS Booth** at this show has brought in \$186 in sales and memberships, including four new members and one renewal.

An election will be held to fill the position of **1st Vice President**. Nominations must be forwarded to Steve by October 22, 1994.

A **membership drive** is underway through 12/31/94. There is a form in the Sep/Oct 1994 *Bulletin* or just write in the referring member's name on any application. A membership makes a great gift.

The **Board meeting dates** for 1995 were announced.

Change to the **Judges Apprentice Program** approved by the Board was announced.

**Dues increase** was announced, and members were reminded to renew early and save \$5.00.

The formation of a Committee to study **re-affiliation with AFA** was announced.

There were **121 birds** in the finch and softbill division with 880 birds in all at GABS in 1994.

*(The winner of the logo design contest, as voted upon by the Board of Directors, was Rose Gianferraro of Boynton Springs, FL. The winning design was featured on the Nov/Dec 1994 cover of the Bulletin.)*



## NFSS 4th Qtr 1994 Board Meeting NCBS, Manchester, New Hampshire - 11/17/94

*Recorded by Pat Krichten  
Acting Recording Secretary*

Directors present: Hoppin, Decoteau, Sparzak, Armitage, McCawley, Krichten and Miller.

Jerry McCawley reported an update on the **Breeder Recognition Awards Program Committee**. The Committee has received various suggestions from several interested parties and will continue to request input from the membership to design an appropriate awards program.

An **NFSS Conservation Committee** update was reported for Chairperson Kris Kroner of Ambler, PA by Steve Hoppin. Greater

involvement by the Board and membership is needed. Discussion followed and the issue was tabled. Members interested in this Committee are asked to contact Kris Kroner.

The issue of **NFSS re-affiliating with AFA**, tabled from the 3rd Quarter Board meeting, was brought forth. Discussion included AFA's sincere response to the Committee's inquiries; however, the Board voted not to re-affiliate with AFA at this time.

Russ Armitage gave a complete report of **1994 affiliations**.

### The Board voted to approve

- the following Panel Judges - Hoppin, Von Raesfeld and Gabel, as nominees to **judge the 1995 National Cage Bird Show** in New Orleans.
- the addition of Regional Vice Presidents to **Education Committee** which would be chaired by 1st Vice president (as discussed at 3rd Quarter Board Meeting). A Bylaw amendment will be submitted to the membership for approval in the upcoming months, per Bylaw procedures.
- to **order new NFSS Judges forms** with new NFSS logo.
- to **discontinue** use of the **Judges un-flighted form**.
- to **raise** the base price of **affiliations** by only **\$10.00** and to **include a beautiful Eric Peake "Diamond Sparrow" Lithograph** (retail value of \$50.00) with each club's awards.
- the **raffle of three Gouldian mutation posters** at NFSS events in 1995 - Florida State Fair, Kaytee GABS and NCBS.
- to clarify the *Judges Handbook* with the following: **Panel Judges** to have a 60 day grace period following their **membership due date** to pay their membership and judges fees. If such fees are not received within the new deadline, a certified letter will be sent allowing the judge 15 days to respond from the time of mailing. If such fee is not received within the deadline indicated in the letter, the judge will be removed from the Panel for that year.



- to purchase an Island Bird T-shirt design, offered with exclusive rights to NFSS, in the very near future.
- Miki Sparzak as a new member of the Judges Panel.

The Board voted against the purchase of a disposable nest box for FINCHSHOP sales presented by A-1 Aviaries of Florida. No Budget for 1995 was approved.



## NFSS 1994 Annual Meeting

### NCBS, Manchester, New Hampshire - 11/19/94

*Recorded by Steve Hoppin  
NFSS President and  
Acting Recording Secretary*

Members were welcomed and thanked for supporting the NFSS National Show. An introduction of all NFSS Officers and Panel Judges followed.

Steve Hoppin, NFSS President gave a very informative "State of the Society" message updating the membership on the health and well being of the Society as of November, 1994 and presented the Society's goals — to continue to grow in a positive and progressive manner in the avicultural arena; to continue to promote the preservation of finches and softbills in the U.S.; and continue to respond to and meet the memberships' needs in the '90's.

Brief additional reports were given by Miki Sparzak - Treasurer, Russell Armitage, Jr. - Liaison and Awards Officer, and Dr. Al Decoteau - Judges Panel Director and Standards Chairman.

The Census is being transferred from Tom Rood to FINCHSAVE. Janice Hawn will be handling the Census under the supervision of FINCHSAVE Director Linda Oja.

There was a report of excellent sales during the past two days at the NFSS table, including memberships, *Bulletins*, T-shirts, videos and raffle tickets.

A 14" x 20" design of the new NFSS logo, by Rose Gianferrera was unveiled to the NFSS membership and very well received!

The classy new finch T-shirt (approved earlier by the Board) for 1995 was presented and will obviously be in high demand judging by the response at the annual meeting!

**Exhibitor of Excellence Awards for 1993** were presented to: Dennis Burhans, Tom Rood, Stephen Hoppin, Frank and Sandy Hudson, Pat and Mary Krichten, Patrick Vance, Alvin and Dixie Lea, and Gene and June Miller.

Congratulations were given to the top ten winners of the NFSS Division at NCBS.

Thanks to these NFSS members for their volunteering to steward, secretary or run the NFSS table over the course of the weekend: Frank and Sandy Hudson, Pat and Mary Krichten, Don Strause, Charles Galusha, Armando Lee and his wife, Miki Sparzak, Jerry McCawley and Gene and June Miller (and Steve Hoppin!).

**Recognition of Service Awards:** Framed Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following individuals:

- 1) **Russell Armitage Jr.** for his support and devotion to NFSS over the past ten years:
- 2) **Denise Capazzi** for her role as Band Secretary for the past six years. Denise, unfortunately was unable to attend NCBS to accept her award in person. *It was then raffled off.*

*Just kidding...*

Both individuals were given a round of applause from the membership.

**Recognition of a Special Individual:** A framed Certificate of Appreciation went to **Dr. Al Decoteau** for ten years of outstanding service and contributions to the Society. The membership joined in a full round of applause for a well-deserved award! Al, unfortunately, had left the NFSS meeting early to attend a mandatory meeting elsewhere and was not able to receive this at the time. However, later in the day the award was presented directly to him.

**NFSS Raffle** at NCBS - NFSS raffled a copy of *Strildid Finches of the World*, donated to NFSS by Tom Rood. Nearly 300 raffle tickets were sold. **Alfredo Bruguera of Puerto Rico** was the proud winner.



## NFSS Classified Ads

Classified ads (except *FINCHSAVE* ads) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

### WANTED

**Wanted: Pairs of Owl Finches, Laverder Finches, Sweet Waxbills, Gold-breasted Buntings.** These birds will be for my own personal enjoyment and not for raising and selling. Any helpful information in locating these precious birds would be greatly appreciated. Nancy Popma (MI) (616) 677-5504. jf

### FOR SALE

**Blue Gouldians**, out of 1st place show birds. Other mutations available. Kyle Bolton, 535 W. Broadway, Redlion, PA 17356. (717) 246-0936. mj

**Gouldians:** Diamonds, Strawberries, Painted, Blue Caps, Gold Breasted, Peter's, Dybowski, Parrot Finches all types, and more. For price list send envelope (no stamps) - Joseph Azzopardi, 616 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada M5S2R1 - Fax/Phone (416) 536-2912 so

**BIRD BANK NEWS** is a monthly newspaper dealing exclusively with captive birds. Get 12 issues of the latest news and events for \$16. Write or call AIM, 1115 Fern Ave., Felton, CA 95018 (800) 246-5577. ja

**For Sale: GOULDIANS—NORMALS AND ALL MUTATIONS.** NFSS banded, show line. A.J. Lee (FL) (305) 270-1000 or S.A.S.E.: 6811 S.W. 89th Ct., Miami, FL 33173. ja

**EXOTIC BIRD PRODUCTS INC.** offers free brochure about Bag O' Bugs insect formula, nestling food, 11 kinds of calcium blocks, toys and more! Highest quality guaranteed direct to you—fast and ppd. from P.O. Box 128, Newberg, OR 97132. 1-800-441-1157. ma

**For Sale: NFSS Show Cages.** All three sizes. Call (804) 599-0370 (VA) after 6pm daily. ja

## FINCHSAVE Classifieds

**FINCHSAVE** classifieds run *FREE* of charge to **FINCHSAVE** participants. All readers are welcome to respond to **FINCHSAVE** ads.

**Desperately seeking female Auroras (Crimson-wing Pyillias)** for breeding program. Ann South (AZ) (602) 963-2231. jf

**For Sale and/or trade: 1994** parent-raised, closed-banded Black Crested Finches, St. Helena Waxbills, Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus, Orange-cheeked Waxbills, African Silverbills and Gouldians. Steve Hoppin (FL) (813) 997-NFSS. jf

### *NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates* New rates effective 1/01/95

#### Display (camera ready) Ads:

Full page \$50/issue; \$200/year  
Half page \$30/issue; \$120/year  
Qtr. page \$20/issue; \$80/year  
Inside cover \$70/issue; \$300/year

#### Classified Advertisements

**FINCHSAVE:** free to participants  
Others: \$.15 per word, per issue

#### Deadlines

12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1, 10/1  
for next bi-monthly issue.

#### Send ad and payment (payable to NFSS) to

Martha Wigmore  
*NFSS Bulletin* Editor  
18913 Boston St. NW  
Elk River, MN 55330  
(612) 241-0071

# The EXACT™ FACTS On Avian Nutrition

The fact is, when it comes to seed diets, most birds are selective. Some will sidge through the millet to snatch the softer seeds. Others prefer sunflower.

It's also a fact that different seed types possess nutrients in varying quantities. Key nutrients found in the neglected seeds are omitted. Even a diet of seeds, fruits and vegetables does not possess all of the nutrients a bird needs.

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Kaytee Exact combines wheat, corn, oats, eggs, vitamins and minerals into a crunchy, seed-shaped nugget. Each nugget contains the correct proportion of all nutrients for each bird type.

Avian-tested over a five-year period, breeders and researchers found Exact to be a nutritionally superior, complete diet. Birds will no longer leave important nutrients uneaten because each nugget is Exact.

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And with Kaytee's tested approach and ups on converting to Exact, even the pickiest eaters can be converted in under 30 days.

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**Exact Daily Feeding Formula** - A nutritionally complete bird food designed for birds in all stages of adult life. Available in convenient

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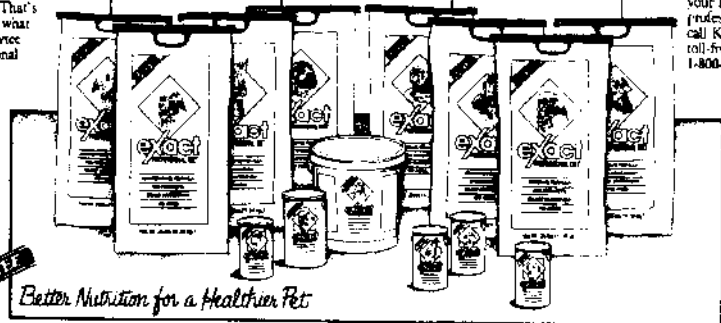
**Exact Professional Diet - Maintenance Formula** - Developed for use by professionals, this nutritional complete bird food is designed for birds in all stages of adult life, with formulations for Parrots, Cockatiels, Parakeets and Finch-Canary.

**Exact Professional Diet - Breeding Formula** - Developed for use by breeders and designed specifically for birds in the breeding and chick rearing cycle

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**HAND-FEEDING FORMULA** For Baby Birds: 22 oz. Canister & 20 lb. Bucket

**Kaytee exact™ Exact nutrition, no mess.**

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# NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of January 1, 1995)

## ALABAMA

**Rocket City Cage Bird Club**  
Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

## CALIFORNIA

**American Family Bird Show**

**Aviary Assn. of Kern County**  
Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110

**Capital City Bird Society**  
Dare B. Cagle (916) 452-4526

**Finch Society of San Diego County**  
Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

**Fresno Canary and Finch Society**  
Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

**Golden Gate Avian Society**  
Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

**San Diego Bird Show, Inc.**  
Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

**Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic  
Bird Club**  
Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

## COLORADO

**Colorado Cage Bird Association**  
Teri McAuliffe (719) 576-9009

**Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture**  
Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

## CONNECTICUT

**Connecticut Association for Aviculture**  
Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

**New England Finch Fanciers**  
Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

## FLORIDA

**Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South  
Florida**  
Phil Barth (305) 931-3468

**Central Florida Bird Breeders**  
Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

**Colorbred Canary Club of Miami, Inc**  
Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

**Exotic Bird Club of Florida**  
Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498

**Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show**  
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989  
*Double Show*  
February 18, 1995 *Saturday*  
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert  
February 19, 1995 *Sunday*  
Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell  
Tampa, FL

**Gold Coast All Bird Club**  
Len Brower (305) 931-3468

**Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.**  
Carole Miller (813) 971-1190

**Gulf Coast Exotic Bird Club**  
Diane Pittman (813) 772-1150

**Sun Coast Avian Society**  
Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

**Sunshine State Cage Bird Society**  
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

## GEORGIA

**Georgia Cage Bird Society**  
Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

## HAWAII

**Honolulu Canary and Finch Club**  
Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

## ILLINOIS

**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**  
Jane Muscato (708) 305-9043

**Illini Bird Fanciers**  
Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690  
*Show June 3, 1995*  
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

**National Institute of Red-Orange  
Canaries (NIROC)**  
Stephan V. Hopman

**Springfield Pet Bird Club**  
Tom Rood (217) 774-5265

### INDIANA

**Indiana Bird Fanciers**  
Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

### IOWA

**Mid-America Cage Bird Society**  
Rhoda L. Shirley (515) 243-1511

### KANSAS

**Heartland Canary and Finch Club**  
Shirley Landkamer (913) 594-6795

**Kansas Avicultural Society**  
Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835  
*Bird Fair* April 22, 1995  
*Show* October 14, 1995  
Wichita, KS

### KENTUCKY

**Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society**  
Steve Slates (606) 223-2600

### LOUISIANA

**Capital Area Avicultural Society**  
Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579

**Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.**  
Panel Judge: Paul Williams

### MARYLAND

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**  
Jacky Eckman (410) 485-7842

**Maryland Cage Bird Society**  
Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Massachusetts Cage Bird Association**  
Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

### MICHIGAN

**Great Lakes Avicultural Society**  
Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

**Mid-Michigan Bird Club**  
Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

**Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.**  
Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

**Motor City Bird Breeders**  
Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

**Society of Canary and Finch Breeders**  
Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

### MISSOURI

**Greater Kansas City Avic. Society**  
Jamie Jackson (913) 268-3209  
*Show* October 21, 1995  
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch  
Society**  
Mose Linn (816) 523-4661

**Missouri Cage Bird Association**  
Richard & Rose Dickman  
(314) 928-3444

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society**

### NEW JERSEY

**South Jersey Bird Club**  
Janet Greenlee (609) 228-4738

### NEW YORK

**Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association**  
Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

**New York Finch & Type Canary Club**  
Harry S. Novak (516) 889-7153

**Power City Bird Society**  
Maria Gleason (716) 282-2944

**Rochester Cage Bird Club**  
Patrick Goonan (716) 288-5633

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society**  
Karen Whitlow (919) 557-0450

**Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society**  
James Cody (704) 686-5157

### OHIO

**Classic Feathers**  
John Neff, Jr. (419) 782-3121

# FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

ITEM	QTY	SIZE/ STYLE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL AMT
Video "The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction"		Members & Affiliates: Non-Members:	\$17.00 \$22.00	
Show Cage Plans (see sizes below)			\$4.00	
All 3 Show Cage Plans			\$10.00	
Plastic Water Bottle			\$6.00	
Zebra Pin			\$5.00	
Gouldian Pin			\$6.00	
Aracari T-Shirt (s/m/l)			\$12.00	
Eric Peake Lithograph <i>The Diamond Firetails</i> Signed by the artist		<i>SPECIAL SALE thru 1/31/95 Regular price</i>	\$35.00 \$50.00	
Name Badge (members only)		<i>Print name at bottom of form.</i>	\$5.00	
Past <i>Bulletin</i> Issues-1994 and later issues			\$4.00	
-1993 and earlier issues			\$3.00	
1992/93 NFSS Handbook		<i>Look for Update info May/June.</i>	\$12.00	

## NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS - updated in '93

# 1 Cage Finches up to and including Zebras

# 2 Cage Finches larger than Zebras

# 3 Cage Softbills

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment  
(payable to **NFSS**) to

**FINCHSHOP**  
c/o Pat & Mary Krichten  
419 Third St.  
Hanover, PA 17331

For more information call  
(717) 632-8092

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club  
of America**

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

**OKLAHOMA**

**Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma**

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

**Oklahoma Cage Bird Society**

Laura Bewley (918) 366-7427

**OREGON**

**Rose City Exotic Bird Club**

Susan Akins (503) 630-2877

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird  
Society**

Pat Krichten (717) 632-8092

**Chester County Bird Breeders**

**Delaware Valley Bird Club**

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143

**Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society**

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438

**Seven Mountains Exotic Bird Club**

**PUERTO RICO**

**Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves  
Exóticas, Inc.**

Rafael Echevarria (809) 795-5718

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Palmetto Cage Bird Club**

Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319

**TENNESSEE**

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

**TEXAS**

**Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club**

Karol Deem (409) 737-1557

**Fort Worth Bird Club**

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

**Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers  
Association**

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

**NFSS  
INTERNATIONAL  
AFFILIATES &  
CORRESPONDENTS**

**AUSTRALIA**

**Queensland Finch Society**

Gavin Dietz, P.O. Box 1600.

Coorparoo DC 4151

Queensland, Australia

**CANADA**

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society  
of Canada**

Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

**Durham Avicultural Society of  
Ontario**

Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978

**Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society**

Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398

**GREAT BRITAIN**

**The Estrildian**

Ian Hinze, 20 Lancaster Avenue,  
Whitefield, Manchester, M45 6DE  
England

**Zebra Finch Society, England**

Brian Binns, Manchester, England  
(see NFSS Judges' listing for address)

**NEW ZEALAND**

**New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.**

Mrs. E. M. Foster, P.O. Box 70

Albany, Auckland, New Zealand

**VIRGINIA**

**National Capital Bird Club**

Deborah Goodall (703) 471-1231

**Peninsula Cage Bird Society**

Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

**WISCONSIN**

**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Patrice (Ripple) Brusk (414) 785-8988



# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is for twelve months  
and includes six bi-monthly issues of  
*The NFSS Bulletin.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Renew NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: Single \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dual \$25\* \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (under 16 yrs) \$12.50 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 2nd name for dual membership \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. 1st class mailing, add \$5.00.

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Canadian, add \$5.00 Foreign, add \$10.00

### PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOU!

Species of finches and softbills you are interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check the topics that are of most interest to you in *The NFSS Bulletin*:

Nutrition \_\_\_\_\_ Breeding \_\_\_\_\_ Husbandry \_\_\_\_\_ Classifieds \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibition \_\_\_\_\_ Census \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS News \_\_\_\_\_



MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT

(payable to NFSS) TO:

Ms. Lynda Bakula

NFSS Membership Services

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022



# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

## GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide. Contact the home office.

### size "A"

Small Waxbills  
Gold-breasted Waxbill  
Orange-cheeked Waxbill  
Bicheno (Owl) Finch  
Quail Finch  
Red-eared Waxbill  
Strawberry Finch

### size "B"

Black-cheeked Waxbill  
Cordon Bleu Waxbill  
Cuban Melodious Finch  
Fire Finch  
Lavender Finch  
Olive Finch  
Rufous-backed Mannikin

### size "C"

Black and White Mannikin  
Blue-capped Waxbill  
Bronze-winged Mannikin  
Cherry Finch  
Green Singing Finch  
Grey Singing Finch  
Heck's Shafftail  
Painted Finch  
Pileated Finch  
Pytilias  
Red-headed Parrot Finch  
Shalltail Finch  
Silverbills  
Star Finch

### size "D"

Blue-faced Parrot Finch  
most other Parrot finches  
Chestnut-breasted Finch  
Gouldian Finch  
Pictorella Finch  
Pin-tailed Nonpareil  
Yellow-rumped Finch  
Zebra Finch

### more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins  
most Twinspots

### size "E"

Black-crested Finch  
Diamond Sparrow  
Golden Song Sparrow  
Nuns  
Peter's Twinspot  
Siskins  
Society Finch  
Spice Finch

### size "G"

European Goldfinch  
Maggie Mannikin  
other large Mannikins  
small Tanagers

### size "J"

Pekin Robin  
Silver-eared Mesia  
other small softbills

### size "K"

Java Rice Bird  
Red-crested Cardinal  
Saffron  
Shama Thrush

### size "L"

Diamond Dove  
other small doves  
Quail  
other softbills

# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

## BAND ORDER FORM

### NO RUSH ORDERS!

Allow 30 days from receipt of your order for delivery.

Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order.

Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent re-orders.

NFSS offers to members only closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFSS color of the year. The bands are engraved with the initials *NFSS*, size code, year and number. No choice of numbers.

All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving membership number. Write "New" for membership # on order form.

BAND SIZE	# OF STRINGS	PRICE STRING	TOTAL AMT
A		\$2.75	
B		\$2.75	
C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
G		\$2.75	
J		\$2.75	
K		\$2.75	
L		\$2.75	

#### POSTAL INSURANCE:

Under \$50 - \$.75

From \$50 to \$100 - \$1.60

Over \$100 - \$2.50

If you choose not to include this sum NFSS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment payable to NFSS to:

Ms. Eileen Laird  
NFSS Band Secretary  
1166 Village Forest Pl.  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
(407) 657-7989

## NFSS Panel of Judges 1995

**Charles Anchor**  
630 Lake Park Drive  
Addison, IL 60101  
(708) 543-3757

**Laura Bewley**  
Rt. 2 Box 1130  
Mounds, OK 74047  
(918) 366-7427

**Brian Binns**  
97 Bent Lanes  
Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston  
Manchester, England  
M31 8WZ

**Harold Bowles**  
93 Burot Hickory Dr. SW  
Cartersville, GA 30120  
(404) 387-9189

**Earl Courts**  
1807 N.E. Colburn  
Lee's Summit, MO  
64063  
(816) 524-0921

**Clarence Culwell**  
250 Horseshoe Dr.  
Springtown, TX 76082  
(817) 220-5568

**Dr. Al E. Decoteau**  
*Panel Chairman*  
P.O. Box 369  
Groton, MA 01450  
Phone (603) 672-4568  
Fax (603) 672-3120

**Daren Decoteau**  
89 Pleasantview Ave.  
Stratford, CT 06497  
(603) 880-7832

**Roddy Gabel**  
600 Gist Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 585-9647

**Brenda Geesey**  
335 de la Ronde St.  
New Orleans, LA 70114

**Cecil Gunby**  
8121 Highway 54  
Sharpsburg, GA 30277  
(404) 254-1261

**Stephen Hoppin**  
3836 Hidden Acres Circle  
N. Fort Myers, FL 33903  
(813) 997-NFSS

**Ray Johnson**  
175 Stoneridge Way  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
(404) 461-8675

**Clayton Jones**  
P.O. Box 266  
Soquel, CA 95073  
(408) 728-8676

**Hal M. Koontz**  
2604 Auburn Ct.  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
(805) 872-1063

**Joseph Krader**  
24692 Paseo de Toronto  
Yorba Linda, CA 92687  
(714) 692-8051

**Brian Mandarich**  
4743 E. Hedges Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93703  
(209) 255-6508

**Conrad Meinert**  
1212 E. Cr. 300 S.  
Warsaw, IN 46580  
(219) 269-2873

**William G. Parlec**  
631 N4 Talcottville Rd.  
Vernon, CT 06066  
(203) 569-0200

**Marty Von Raesfeld**  
1135 Chapman St.  
San Jose, CA 95126  
(408) 985-2712

**Tom Rood**  
313 N. Broadway  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
(217) 774-5265

**Marion (Miki) Spartzak**  
517 Old North Point Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
(410) 288-5130

**Patrick Vance**  
18175 Avilla  
Lathrup Village, MI  
48076  
(810) 443-0643

**Martha Wigmore**  
18913 Boston St. NW  
Elk River, MN 55330  
(612) 241-0071

**Paul S. Williams**  
703 Donegal Drive  
Papillion, NE 68046  
(402) 592-5488

FOR INFORMATION ON  
THE NFSS JUDGES  
PANEL  
CONTACT  
DR. AL DECOTEAU  
PANEL CHAIRMAN