



# National Finch and Softbill Society

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## The NFSS Bulletin

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## Editor's Page

The days are getting cooler and the nights have gotten down right cold. The breeding season at my house is winding down. I still have a clutch of six yet to fledge, but I expect this to be the last of the year. It's the time of year that a young man's fancy turns to ... well, I'm not sure I remember what a young man fancies (mostly), but my thoughts are geared towards a good post-breeding season cleaning and ordering new closed bands for the coming year. I had my most successful breeding season ever this year and I hope you can say the same. But this is not without reason. It is largely due to the existence of the NFSS and the people who make it work.

This is the time of year that many use for reflecting on what has been and for giving thanks. Being that this is the last issue of the year, I would truly like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have contributed to the bulletin. I deeply appreciate the efforts and knowledge that many have contributed in order to help the birdkeepers and breeders take better care of their charges.

I know I have learned much about nutrition, breeding, and setup, and that has been largely responsible for the success I've had. I doubt that I'd have had any success without the knowledge that so many have imparted in these pages. So here it is, thanks to the writers, judges, and officers, both elected and appointed. I am sure there are countless fledglings across this land that wouldn't have hatched without your help. And there are many breeders who would still have the taste of frustration in their mouths, instead of the sweetness of success. Your contributions probably reach much further than you realize. Thank you.

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**SHOW CAGE WOES BEGONE!**  
By Julie R. Duimstra NFSS Panel Judge

After reading Darla Dandre's article in the Mar./Apr. 20001 Bulletin I thought I would share some information with the NFSS membership regarding show cages. For those who enjoy woodworking, the show cage blueprints available through FINCHSHOP can get you off to the right start on building your own show cages. Or, alternately, used canary, budgerigar, lovebird and cockatiel show cages can be found at many of the bird marts held across the country.

With some effort many of these show cages can be readily transformed into finch and softbill show cages by simply changing the size of the perches used, by changing the height of the perches and/or the spacing between the perches, by repainting the interiors of the cages white or pale blue in color and by replacing the wire show cage fronts with "finch fronts." The next question has always been, "Where do I get show cage fronts?" Now I have an answer for you thanks to Jim Hulsey and Clarence Culwell. Wire show cage fronts can be obtained from:

Jerry Cason  
2016 Oak Crest Court  
Azle, TX 76020  
Phone: (817) 237-5867  
Fax: (817) 297-6437  
email: [jerryeason@mindspring.com](mailto:jerryeason@mindspring.com)

Ms. Dandre has already mentioned Doug Uecker in her article as a source for show cages. Doug is a fine wood craftsman and I have ordered many of my finch, softbill and canary show cages from him in the past. The cages arrive unpainted so there is still some work for you to do!

Another option for show cages is the "Huntington Triage Cage." This 3-in-1 collapsible cage is constructed of sturdy corrugated plastic and folds down readily for storage in a suitcase - a handy feature

particularly if you are traveling to shows by airplane! That is precisely how the Huntington show cages came into existence, it was an idea born out of need. These cages are lightweight and easy to clean and disinfect and have multipurpose uses as a show cage, a carrier cage and a hospital cage.

For information about the "Huntington Triage Cage" - contact:

Ms. Sally Huntington  
Phone: (858) 452-9423  
email: SallyCH@san.rr.com

There are no doubt others who build and market show cages as well. I would hope that you would write to our NFSS Bulletin Editor or advertise in the Bulletin so that we can know who you are!

Share your knowledge and information with others and encourage others in our hobby.

Sincerely,

Julie R. Duimstra  
NFSS Panel Judge

### **The ESTRILDIAN**

The ESTRILDIAN is produced for the purpose of relating the most up to date information on all species belonging to the family Estrildidae both in the wild and in captivity. Within its 124 species are all of the *Waxbills*, *Parrot Finches*, *Munnikins* and *Australian finches*. The aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world. The magazine is sent to 13 different countries ranging from Australia to Puerto Rico and has many leading Zoo's, Aviculturists and Researchers as both members and contributors. With well over 100 members in the USA, we have now been able to reduce our overseas subscription rates.

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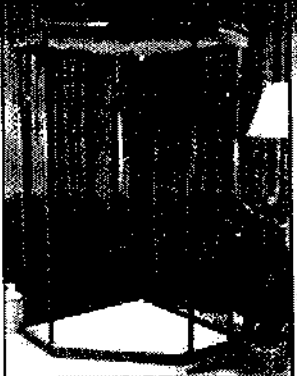
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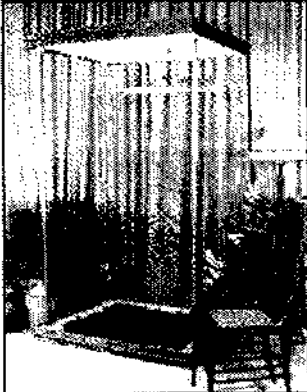
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**PROTEIN FOR FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS****By Robert G. Black**

Protein deficiency is by far the most common nutritional deficiency that you will encounter in finches. Unfortunately, close to 90% of the finches that I see are suffering from protein deficiency that ranges from mild to severe and fatal. Most of the softbilled birds that I see are also suffering from a severe lack of adequate protein in their diets. The waxbills and softbills are the most sensitive to this problem, while the mannikins have the lowest protein requirement of the finches and are the least prone to symptoms of protein deficiency. If the diet does not contain enough protein to maintain finches and softbills in good health, breeding will be an impossibility.

Because of their very small size, finches and the small soft-billed birds have a very high body temperature and a very high rate of metabolism. This means that they have a much higher requirement for complete protein than do the larger birds. In their natural environments, insects and other small bugs provide this necessary protein in their diet. In captivity, we must either feed them insects, or provide a suitable substitute that they will eat that is also high in complete protein.

All proteins are made up of building blocks called amino acids. The researchers who have studied protein have isolated about 22 of these amino acids. In various combinations, these amino acids form thousands upon thousands of different proteins that make up the functioning parts of the body structure in all living things. Living structures as diverse as feathers, hair, muscle, hooves, scales, beaks and internal body organs are all formed from proteins.

About ten of these amino acids cannot be synthesized or manufactured in the bird's body. They must be available in the food. These are called the 'essential amino acids'. Though all amino acids are essential for life, the essential amino acids cannot be formed internally and must come from the diet. These amino acids that are usually considered to be essential to get in the diet are alphabetically, arginine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine,



phenylalanine, threonine, tryptophan, and valine. Some researchers disagree, and claim that cystine and tyrosine are also essential in the diet of a bird. Arginine and histidine apparently are not essential in the diet for all avian species, and glycine, usually considered as non-essential in the diet, has been proven to be essential for the diets of baby chicks. Therefore, no hard and fast rule can be applied to all species or even to all finches or softbills for all times and conditions, but the list of ten is usually considered as a basic list of the essential amino acids.

*Keep in mind that these amino acids cannot be stored in the bird's body. so all of them must be taken in the food at the same time to be useful for building the body structure, muscles, feathers, beaks, and toenails. Any amino acids that cannot be used for building protein will be broken down for the body's daily energy needs.*

Foods which contain all of the essential amino acids in adequate quantities are said to have a certain percentage of 'complete protein'. Most proteins that come from the animal kingdom are complete proteins, whereas most coming from the plant kingdom are incomplete, meaning that they lack one or more of the essential amino acids. Insects and eggs, for example, are very good sources of complete protein, while cereal grains are very low in complete protein. No finch can live for long on a diet that is all seeds; the content of complete protein is far too low, and several vitamins do not occur in any seeds.

As you try to supply a good diet to your birds, you may note the tested protein content listed on the labels of the foods you buy. There are two traps to be aware of on these labels. In the first place, protein content does not mean the content of complete protein, and much of this amount may be incomplete protein, not usable for forming the body structure, but only useful for energy.

A second common term, 'crude protein', also does not mean complete protein. Much of the crude protein may be in the form of incomplete proteins, and part of it may not even be digestible, being usable only as fiber or bulk in the diet. ***The protein content in the food must be complete protein to be available for cell repair, cell replacement, and muscle and feather growth. If the***

***protein is not complete, the bird's body can use it only for energy production.***

When the smaller birds are not getting enough complete protein in their diet, they first will begin to pluck and eat the feathers of their companions. Feathers are nearly pure protein, and the birds instinctively recognize them as a source of the complete protein which they are craving. ***Feather-plucking is a prime symptom of protein deficiency.*** A lack of adequate salt or trace elements will also result in feather plucking, but by far the most common cause in the non-psittacine birds is protein deficiency.

Birds that appear puffy and sleep most of the day are likely to be suffering from severe protein deficiency, as well as deficiencies of other vital nutrients. These deficiencies leave the finches and softbills wide open to every infectious microorganism in their environment, and they soon die from a variety of diseases and their symptoms.

When the supply of complete protein in the diet is adequate for a maintenance diet in adult finches, it may still be inadequate for a molting finch, or for a breeding diet. The adults may remain in perfect condition, but the nestlings will show the symptoms of protein deficiency. Growing nestlings need a far higher protein content in their diet for good health and proper development. Even one day without this necessary protein will cause the death of the nestlings. Young nestlings fed insufficient complete protein will grow more slowly than normal and may die at any stage of their development. The protein requirement reaches a peak in the nestlings when the pinfeathers are forming along with the rapid growth in body structure. At this pinfeather stage, a severe protein deficiency in the diet will invariably be fatal.

A marginal protein deficiency will cause slower body growth and delayed growth of the feathers. The pinfeather shaft also may release the feathers prematurely. The young may leave the nest with their wing feathers and tail feathers fully formed, but with very little feathering anywhere else, as the body conserves protein for the most vital growth. Bare skin will be showing on the head, neck, breast, and back. The young will appear smaller than normal, and

they will look thin and poorly nourished. They also may appear puffy and shivering.

When the adult birds are not getting enough protein to feed the babies, they may pluck and eat the feathers of the nestlings and fledglings. Fortunately, this stage of protein deficiency is still correctable. A week or so on an adequate diet will enable the feathers to fill in completely and will correct all other symptoms. The nestlings then will develop into normal, healthy adults.

The best sources of complete protein for all finches and softbills are insects, high-protein poultry or game bird starters, and eggs that have been hard-boiled and mashed. For those finches and softbills that feed by regurgitation, any of these foods will be sufficiently high in complete protein to raise these birds from the hatching stage to independence.

The commercial pelleted and crumbled finch feeds now on the market are a marvel of convenience for feeding your birds. However, always keep in mind that though the commercial pelleted and crumbled finch mixes are good for maintenance diets, most of them are far too low in protein to serve as a breeding diet. A breeding diet for finches requires a complete protein content of over 20%, and over 25% content of complete protein will be much more likely to be adequate for the more delicate finches, such as the waxbills. Check the protein content of the mix you are using. If it is below 20% protein content, it is inadequate for breeding finches or softbills.

I have always used mashed, hard-boiled eggs as a high-protein food for finches, doves, quail, psittacines, and softbills. Eggs are cheap, highly nutritious, available anywhere, and they are easy to prepare. Also, eggs contain a nearly perfect balance of complete protein, vitamins, minerals, and fats. After all, a baby bird grows from a single fertilized cell to a fully functioning organism at hatching on only the contents of the egg. Once the egg is laid, nothing can be added or taken out except water vapor and gases that will pass through the pores of the eggshell. Any nutrient that is missing from the egg or in inadequate quantity in the egg when it is laid will cause the death of the embryo at some point before hatching.

Once any bird learns that the crumbly, yellow, mashed, hard-boiled egg is a food item, the bird will eat it regularly and willingly. I do not put any new bird in a permanent location until I have seen it eating the egg mix as soon as this mix is placed in the cage. Once this happens, I can be certain that the bird will continue to eat the egg mix regularly and will remain in perfect health for its lifespan.

In order to prepare this egg mixture, simply boil an egg for about ten minutes (a couple of minutes longer for large or extra large eggs). Cool the eggs in cold water, and then peel the shell off. You'll find that the shell peels off very easily, because the egg absorbs the water as it cools, and this additional water keeps the shell membrane from sticking to the shell and makes the egg much easier to shell. Once the shell is off, dry the egg gently in a paper towel to remove the excess moisture.

Once the egg is reasonably dry, mash it thoroughly with a fork to mix the white and the yolk uniformly. The resulting mix will be an appetizing, uniform, light yellow color. If the yolk color is leaning towards olive, you have boiled the eggs too long. Longer boiling begins to tie up the free sulfur in the egg, which then forms these dirty green compounds, making the egg mix appear rather unappetizing. You can add a slightly heaping teaspoon of any commercial powdered vitamin-mineral supplement to the egg for even better results. I have always used and recommended Vionatea for this purpose. If you can find soy protein or soy protein isolate, a teaspoon of that added to the mix and blended thoroughly will increase the protein content of the egg greatly, while absorbing additional moisture and making the egg mix more crumbly.

When mixed with these dry supplements and spread out evenly, the egg will not spoil during the day unless it gets wet. I have used this formula for over 30 years, and even under the highest heat and humidity conditions, it will not spoil during the day. Mashed, hard-boiled egg prepared in this manner will dry out and harden in the feeding dishes if the birds don't consume all of it.

These birds will not touch anything that is wet and mushy, and an egg mix that is too wet will be spoiled and rotten within a matter of hours. Any food that is this ideal for birds is also an ideal food for bacteria and other microorganisms. Also, remember that it is the

white of the egg that is the complete protein, not the yolk! The yolk contains all of the other vital nutrients that a growing bird needs.

All finches and other birds in my experience will eat this egg mix daily and eagerly, once they become accustomed to it, and it will supply all of the complete protein necessary for raising any of the finches, doves, quail and small psittacines. If you don't need the entire egg for one feeding, it is safe to refrigerate the remainder for a couple of days. For longer periods, you can divide the finished mix into daily portions, wrap each portion in any clear freezer wrap, and freeze enough for each day's feeding in a separate package. Thaw one of these each morning for use in your day's feeding. Freezing results in very little nutrient destruction, and this method works very well when a friend is caring for your birds during trips and vacations. Freezing does change the texture of the mix, however, so it is always better to feed the mix fresh if you can.

Break the leftover eggshell into smaller pieces once it has dried out, and feed it separately as an excellent and free calcium source for your birds. Baking or cooking the eggshells is not necessary, as no microorganism can reproduce on an item that is this dry. All small birds love these crumbled eggshells, and they will not cause any bird to start eating its own eggs. An available calcium source is always necessary for cage birds because most plant foods are very high in phosphorus, while the bird's body needs a much higher proportion of calcium. This additional calcium available constantly is crucially important to enable the birds to balance the calcium:phosphorus ratio in their diets and in their bodies. Invariably, new birds introduced to my diet will begin eating these eggshell pieces before they begin testing any other foods. All birds will eat this calcium supplement instinctively whenever they feel the need to balance their intake of calcium and phosphorus. Even softbills will pick up tiny pieces of the eggshell and will swallow them whole.

For those finches and softbills that do not feed by regurgitation, it may be necessary to supply live foods in the form of insects while they are breeding, as they instinctively need to carry something of this type to their growing nestlings. Otherwise, live food is unnecessary. The high content of complete protein and other nutrients in the diet is the crucial factor in successfully breeding most finches and softbills. An egg mix that is not diluted with excess car-

bohydrates in the form of cereals or grain meals supplies the complete protein and other nutrients that are necessary for these birds.

Birds, like people, are very slow to try any food that is new and different from their accustomed fare, but there is a fairly simple method of getting the birds to try a new food item. Place the new food scattered on the floor of a clean cage, removing all other foods at the same time. When the birds get hungry, they will begin searching around for anything that looks like it might be food. Sooner or later, they will test anything, including these prepared, crumbled foods that look to the birds like plain dirt. After they have eaten a little, return their normal foods along with some of the new food item. Within a couple of days, most of the birds will be eating the new food regularly, along with their other usual food items. I always use this method to introduce new birds to the high-protein egg mix that all of the birds get daily.

Never let the new birds go without food to the point of severe stress and puffiness. In birds this small, these first symptoms of starvation will occur within a few hours. Their high body temperatures and very high rates of metabolism require a continual supply of food all through the day to supply the energy for the day's activities and to build up an energy reserve for the coming night. Always return all accustomed foods by late afternoon so that the birds can eat their fill and build up their reserves for the night. Healthy finches will not be harmed by this acclimation process in the least, but it goes without saying that you should be quite careful in using this method with birds that are already suffering from severe malnutrition.

Should the diet you supply be completely adequate in protein, but protein deficiency symptoms are still appearing, you must suspect that the birds simply are not eating the food that you provide. The best food available is a useless waste if the birds will not eat it. This is a problem that every breeder experiences sooner or later. Once you locate a high-protein food that your birds will eat readily and in adequate quantities, your problems with protein deficiency will be solved. Then you can proceed to overcome the other problems associated with keeping finches and softbills in good health and breeding them successfully.

END

**GENETICS LESSON—MAKING A “SPLIT” A “WHOLE”**  
By Michael Marcotrigiano

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As most finch breeders know, new mutations or mutations that are newly imported can cost as much as 10 times more than a “normal” bird. In addition, it is often difficult to find someone that is willing to sell you a new mutation. Yet, on occasion, you may be able to obtain and/or afford a “split”. How can you recover fully mutant types from the split without resorting to aggressive inbreeding?

Before I get to my recommendations, a few definitions and a quick genetic lesson are in order. For those of you familiar with the Punnett square diagrams I have made charts for all the crosses I’ve mentioned, using the Black Cheek Zebra as an example.

By now you most likely know that mutations can be dominant or recessive. Dominant mutations would show up in the first generation of mutant x “normal” crosses. This simplifies things so much that there is no lesson needed for dominant mutations. Examples of dominant mutations are few but include Crested in Society finches and Black Face in Zebra finches. Examples of recessive mutations are many and include Blue Body in Gouldian finches, Fawn in Society finches, and Black Cheek in Zebra finches. Most of the finch mutations that I’m aware of are recessive so I will restrict my comments to recessive single gene mutations. I will not tackle the sex-linked mutations in this article but expect that discussion in a future article.

What exactly is a “split” bird? First of all, animals have chromosomes that are in pairs. The only exception is in sperm and egg where there is only one of each chromosome. This means that in all but sex cells each gene is represented twice, one on each “homologous” chromosome. A long time ago, a now famous monk, Gregor Mendel, studied the inheritance of many traits in garden peas. He figured out that traits could be recessive or dominant and that it is possible for a pea plant to be carrying a recessive trait but not show it. In later generations, he showed that this trait could pop

up in offspring even if parents did not show the trait. Today, we know that the same system is present in animals like birds.

Bird breeders call birds carrying one copy of the mutant gene “splits” while serious geneticists would call them “heterozygous”. If both copies of the gene are mutant the bird will appear mutant and it is said to be “homozygous”. Sticking with the bird terminology, I’ve decided to call the condition when both chromosomes have a mutant gene “whole”, since “split” means only one chromosome has the defective gene. Please don’t attribute this new term to me. My genetics colleagues would kill me for introducing more slang into the literature.

Now let’s get back to the situation where all you own is a split and you want to establish the mutation in your flock. For the purpose of this article I will use a “split” for Black Cheek in the Zebra finch as my example. There is no way to recover “whole” mutants from a “split” in one generation if you start out owning a single “split” bird. But don’t lose hope, it is possible to obtain “wholes” with patience. Assuming you have just the one “split” and all “normals”, you have no choice but to mate your “split” to a “normal”. For single gene recessive traits like Black Cheek, a mating like this results in all “normal” looking birds, but on average half of the offspring will be “splits” (Figure 1). So, now you seem to have gotten nowhere. Yet, you have increased the number of birds in your flock that carry the mutation. You should sleep better at night, knowing that if your original “split” should die, you’ve probably secured the mutant gene.

Making sure each bird is banded with a unique number or colored band is important since you don’t know which of the offspring are “split” and once you figure this out you don’t want to misidentify the bird in the future. Let’s assume for argument sake that the first mating between the “split” and a “normal” results in two hens and two cocks, none of which you can be sure are “split”. Your temptation is to take one of the offspring and mate it back to the original “split” in a father/daughter or mother/son mating. If you get lucky enough to choose a “split” to mate back to the parent, this would result on average a 1:2:1 “normal” : “split” : “whole” ratio (Figure 2). The problem here is that you’ve also done some serious inbreeding.



It is my personal opinion that at least some of the mutations that we say are weak, small, and inferior are this way, not because the mutation affects growth or vigor, but because most breeders are clueless when it comes to managing recessive “splits” and they inbreed to make sure they maximize their production of “whole”s. Then, they compound the problem by taking this narrow genetic base and mating “whole” to “whole” to get all “whole” (e.g. Black Cheek to Black Cheek but related – Figure 3). But often, since they start with only one mutant bird or one “split”, they inbreed and inbreed bringing out many recessive deleterious traits. If you feel it is important to avoid inbreeding you can use my strategy to obtain a “whole”. Start out with the same “split” to “normal” mating (figure 1). Foster them out if you want to get to the “whole” more quickly and if you want to relieve the stress from your only “split”. Now take the original “split” and mate it to another “normal” that is NOT related to the first “normal”. You now have two clutches of babies. Each of these clutches should possess half “splits” on average (Figure 1) but have one parent that is not related. Now, instead of mating back to the parent, you can mate members of the two clutches. They only shared one parent and this is the least inbreeding that is possible considering you had to use two “splits” to make a “whole”. Your expectations are again 1:2:1 “normal” : “whole” : “split” (Figure 2).

Once you have gotten this far you probably do not want to continue matings where you are unsure if a baby is “normal” or “split”. At this point take any recovered “whole”s and mate them to “normals” (again unrelated birds) to obtain 100% “splits”. That’s right! A mating of a “whole” with a “normal” yields ALL “splits” (Figure 4). Once you have some “splits” to work with, mate them to the least related “whole”. When you mate a “split” to a “whole” you get 1:1 “split” : “whole” (Figure 5). This pairing means that you can tell them apart and know exactly what you have.

Your future strategy should be to mate “splits” to “whole”s. Take some of the new “whole”s and make new “splits” by using unrelated “normals”. By continuing this strategy you will know exactly what you have and you will avoid inbreeding. Remember, once you have the mutation established avoid “split” x “normal” matings because you will not know if the offspring are “split” or “normal” without doing test matings to “whole”s.

In a future article I will discuss how to obtain “whole”s when the mutation is sex-linked. In the meantime look for a good deal on a “split” and make it “whole” again!

-----  
 Sample Crosses - Black Cheek Zebras as an example. Bolded lower case “b” indicates the recessive mutant gene for Black Cheek.

Key:

- BB = “normal” bird with wild-type color
- Bb* = “normal” appearing but “split” for Black Cheek
- bb** = Black Cheek bird
- B = “normal” sperm or egg
- b** = mutant sperm or egg

<b>Fig 1</b>	B	B
B	BB	BB
<b>b</b>	<i>Bb</i>	<i>Bb</i>

Above: Result of crossing a “normal” hen (BB) with a “split” male (*Bb*). Offspring are two “normals” (BB) and two “splits” (*italics*). Since Black Cheek is not sex-linked expect on average an equal number of males and females to be “split”.

<b>Fig 2</b>	B	<b>b</b>
B	BB	<i>Bb</i>
<b>b</b>	<i>Bb</i>	<b>bb</b>

Above: When two “splits” are mated expect a 1:2:1 ratio with 1 “normal” : 2 “splits” (*italics*): and 1 “whole” visual Black Cheek (**bb**)

<b>Fig 3</b>	b	b
b	bb	bb
b	bb	bb

Above: When two Black Cheek birds are mated all offspring are Black Cheek. This seems like an easy tempting solution but you would want to be sure the two Black Cheek birds were only remotely related since inbreeding problems (e.g. loss of size and vigor, birth defects leading to 'dead in shell') can occur if they are closely related birds.

<b>Fig 4</b>	B	B
b	Bb	Bb
b	Bb	Bb

Above: When a "normal" bird is mated to a "whole" (Black Cheek) bird all offspring will appear "normal" but all will be "split" for the mutation.

<b>Fig 5</b>	B	b
b	Bb	bb
b	Bb	bb

Above: An ideal pairing is a cross of a "split" bird (Bb) to a mutant bird (bb). The end result is a 50:50 mix of "splits" and mutants. You know that no bird will be a "normal"!

End

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Michael Marcotrigiano  
 Montague, Massachusetts  
<http://www.exoticfinches.com>  
[michael@exoticfinches.com](mailto:michael@exoticfinches.com)

**LAST CHANCE FOR SPOROPHILA FINCHES**

By Jack Clinton Eitnear

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With the exception of the Cuban Grassquit (*Tiaris canola*) and Red Siskin (*Carduelis cucullata*) Neotropical finches have never been popular in US aviculture. Of course they have never been imported in huge numbers like the finches of Africa nor do they, in general, possess the color of the established Australian species.

Where the neotropical seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*) lack in color many do possess the attribute of having an outstanding song. In Costa Rica the White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) has been trapped to near extinction for its song. Breeding proving difficult local people take young from the nest and handfeed them. This provides a superior bird to capturing adults or immature birds directly from the wild.

In the wild males proclaim a territory and construct a nest. The female chooses the nest and continues the process. Often time the males assist in feeding the young but remain atop a nearby tree singing during the egg-laying and incubation periods.

Of course female seedeaters are drab brownish in color blending in with the vegetation. Males sport contrasting patterns of black and white often with a splash of cinnamon or chestnut. Given that they nest only a couple meters, at best, above the ground in tall weeds or bushes it is to their advantage to have the most cryptic member of the pair on the nest.

While *Sporophila* seedeaters are considered grass seed specialist they do feed insects to their young. After the young fledge the nest the parents begin feeding grass seed to them (seeds are not dry but in the milky stage of development), often of certain grasses that have the dual characteristic of being easy to hull and yielding a large nutritious kernel. Unfortunately in much of the neotropics African varieties of grasses are replacing native species. These grasses



Jack Clinton Eitnrear is Director of the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds ([www.cstbinc.org](http://www.cstbinc.org)) a non-profit organization devoted to bird conservation in the American Tropics. He is past president of the American Federation of Aviculture as well as editor of the Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society and Membership chair for the Neotropical Ornithological Society. He studied Sporophila finches in the wild for his Masters of Science degree and has published widely on them including the White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) account for the Birds of North America series.

Jack Clinton Eitnrear  
JCE@cstbinc.org

End

## **Showing Your Finches**

By Ginny Allen

"The perfect bird"...This is really a misnomer as it is based on a set of standards based on an imaginary bird. It represents a high goal for each species. NFSS has developed standards for 14 species and these are available in the Judges Handbook through FinchShop.

Birds are judged on conformation, condition, deportment, color, and presentation. These are some of the basic tips:

Basically, be sure the bird is not pecked, has bathed or been sprayed frequently so as to have nice tight feathers which aren't damaged or frayed. vent clean, toenails trimmed (none missing), eyes clear, and that there are no pinfeathers. The wings should be held tight to the body and not droop. In most species they are to meet over the rump and not overlap. The Judges Handbook lists what the judges look for specifically in each specie. Most species show best if there is what is called a "straight top line"...this

means that there are few if any dips between the top of the head and the end of the tail---almost "ruler-like". The exceptions are the waxbills...their tails are to fan out with no missing feathers. In the cages, most species should sit erect, appear confident, and be calm. Again, the waxbills are to flit from perch to perch. It is always a good idea to put the birds into the show cages a few times before shows to allow them to get used to the smaller cage. Cage department is important.

NFSS encourages everyone to exhibit their birds, and show cages are not required by NFSS, but the individual club may require show cages. The judges will be instructed to disregard the cage portion of the presentation category.

If you want to show some finches, but do not have standard show cages, purchase the smallest cage available....flat top is best. Important.....secure the top to the bottom of the cage with twisties that go through the wire and the cage bottom as they do come apart! I also secure the top of the cage to the side wire. Spray paint all of it glossy black. Frankly, I use the least expensive paint I can find. If it says 'safe for children' you are OK. Besides they aren't going to live in the cage...although they are nice for isolating birds. The perches go front to back...use a dowel appropriate for the bird's feet to close about 3/4 of the way around it to make a steady 'grab'. You don't want the bird to totter around.. I have rested the perch on the top of the dish door to secure the door. The front with the three doors becomes the back of the cage. Use one of the seed dishes for seed. The tube waterer can be any size and put it near the perch on the left side. The cage tag will be attached below it. On the bottom of the cage put clean paper. I use computer paper as it is easy to slide in and out.

I have learned so much about these beautiful creatures by attending and participating in bird shows. The judges are very knowledgeable and anxious to answer questions. If you decide to exhibit your birds, begin spraying them now, assemble the cages, and join us! Someone will be there to help you fill out show tags and register.

End

## Third Times A Charm

By John Perez

### *Classifications:*

*Order: Passeriformes*

*Family: Waxbill Estrildidae*

*Genus: Uraeginthus Cyanocephala*

*Specifics: Cordon-Bleu capped or Bleu Headed*

*Distributions: Eastern Africa*

*Habitat: They are found in Savannas and tropical forest regions.*

*Disposition: Peaceful, quiet, when not breeding.*

*Description: Both male and female are about 4 3/4 long from beak to tail. Beak color is a pinkish rose getting darker at the tip. The legs are also a pinkish color. Both birds have the center tail feathers slightly elongated.*

*Male: Sky blue on face and head, upper chest tail darker in color. Body and wings are like a mossy brown. The male has a nice strong song when in breeding conditions that he will sing.*

*Female: She is just as beautiful as the male. Her colors are slightly duller with less blue over all and yes some females do sing. At least my females do.*

*Diet: I feed my birds a diet of Abba brand Finch mix, Cuttlefish bone, grit, with a small amount of charcoal, crushed egg shells, boiled corn, green's, like spinach, Roman lettuce and chickweed. I also feed apples and add vitamins to the drinking water. Some mealworms are given daily. When my Finches are breeding I feed my own high protein soft food. Here is my secret recipe which I will share with you.*

A- One small jar of strained carrots (baby food).

B- One hard boiled egg.

C- Four crushed Premium unsalted crackers.

D- Three pieces of Monkey Chow, boiled, but not too mushy.

E- Six table spoons of Bevo nesting food.



- F- Two table spoons of Vionate powder.
- G- Two table spoons of Isomil Soy Protein (baby formula).
- H- One table spoon of Iams beef dog food.
- I- One table spoon of wheat germ oil.
- J- One table spoon of Cod Liver oil.

Mix all of the above ingredients in a bowl. Add a little water to make a paste-like consistency. Serve it to the birds in a small cup, (enough to last only one day). Remove what is left over at the end of the day and refrigerate the rest. It will keep up to 5 days. You may add more or less depending on how many birds you have breeding at the time. This recipe is good for about 20 to 25 pairs of birds.

*Breeding:* They need plenty of hiding places, especially during the breeding time. I use a lot of fake plants in their cages. No time for the real plants-to busy trying to take care my birds. Plus the fake plants look just as good as the real ones today. I also use nest baskets, for some reason my birds will not use a nest box. But I do supply both. Hey you never know!

The following discussion relates to the breeding of this bird in captivity. (Cordon Bleu Capped).

Breeding the Cordon Bleu is not easy, you will soon find out why. The female will go to nest at a young age, usually at 6 to 8 months of age. Be careful not to breed her at this time. Wait until they are at least 10 months to a year old. I breed my birds in a box-type cage. Measuring 23 1/2 inches wide by 18 inches high by 19 inches deep. So much for the "well planted aviary". I offer a nest box or nest basket type, like I stated before. I fill the nest halfway for them with hurlap, dried grasses, palm leaves, cotton and canary nesting string. My birds usually choose the basket-type nest.

The male will perform or display a little dance by moving its head up and down with a piece of string or burlap in his beak on the perch. And a beautiful song along with it. At which time if the female is ready she will shiver her tail and mating takes place.

The female lays between 4 to 6 eggs. Incubation can last from 12

to 14 days. When the young's hatch that's when all the problems begin. Well at least my problems! For some reason both parents refuse to feed their young after day 1 and tossed their babies out of the nest the first time. Boy was I disappointed!

The second time the pair bred I feed more meal worms than usually, same high-protein soft food diet. But no luck. Three days later-same results, babies tossed out of the nest. But this I had a pair of Societies with chicks about the same age (3 days old). I managed to give them to my societies, who at the time were raising their own young. You hear all the time how my societies fosters other birds and saved my dying chicks. For some reason the society pair only fed them for 3 days and stopped feeding all 3 chicks. At which time they died. Boy was I disappointed again for the second time! (Does this sound familiar to you guys).

By now most people would have given up but not me. You know the third time is a charm. That's when I said to myself "I need help". After reading several articles, Kerri McCoy's article and Mr. Robert Black's article, I was ready. Thanks Kerri and Mr. Black. couldn't have done it without you guys. I knew that I was not going to be able to hand raise them like Kerri. So I was ready again for the next breeding.

After resting the pair for 2 months I was ready, but this time I had a little surprise for them (Cordon Bleu). I would beat them at their own game. "So you like live food when breeding?" I ordered meal and wax worms, and fly larvae from Grubco. I ordered ant-eggs and bugs-n-berries (Avico) from Cuttlebone Plus. From Birds-2-Grow I ordered Bevo Pellet food and Bevo Insect food. So I was ready again for the next breeding with the above foods.

On July the pair bred again and I started to feed the above items. Plus soaked seed and Spray Millet. This time she laid 5 eggs. Fourteen days later I could hear the sounds of baby birds in the nest. All 5 eggs hatched. I lost one young out of 5. As of Aug. 1, 3 weeks later both parents were still feeding their young.

My daughter, Francis, and I refilled their food cups several times a day. Boy can they eat! It has been 3 weeks and both parents were

still feeding their young. And still doing fine. I hoped and prayed all day that they kept feeding their young. My Cordon Bleus are feeding their 4 youngs in the nest like if their never was a problem before. I have managed to raise young from a wild pair of Cordon Bleus.

On Aug. 3 the 4 baby cordon Bleus left the nest. They looked like Don King because they still had fuzz-like hair on top of their heads and black beaks. They look like their parents but the color is dull. I cannot sex them yet. I just finished banding my 4 chicks. Yes, you can band the young after they leave the nest. They are still small enough to do so. The parents are still feeding the babies even though they are not in the nest anymore. (Aug 13). My F1 looks beautiful.

You will thoroughly enjoy breeding and raising them. Lets not let this beautiful species disappear from captivity. As you know there are no more imports into this country.

Third time was a charm! Now my Fire Finches are showing signs of breeding also.

End

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Advertising (display ads), Inside cover \$300/yr or \$70/issue. Full Page \$200/yr or \$50/issue. 1/2 page \$120/yr or \$30/issue. 1/4 page \$80/yr or \$20/issue. Web site advertising \$100/yr, \$50/yr for Inside cover advertisers. Classified ads are \$.25 per word for NFSS members and \$.30 per word for non-NFSS members. Classifieds are also posted to the web site at no additional charge.**

FOR SALE: Owls, Shaftails, Black Cheeks, Orange Cheeks and Fire-finches. Call CANDICE. (419)447-5909. [cifaviary@friendlynet.com](mailto:cifaviary@friendlynet.com)

WANTED: Pintail Nonpareil Parrot Finches, Dybrowski's Twinspots, Green Singers, Orange Breasted Waxbills.  
ANDREA—203-847-7145 or e-mail [sewabird@optonline.net](mailto:sewabird@optonline.net)

FOR SALE: Bonten Self Pearl Society Finches.  
ANDREA—203-847-7145 or e-mail [sewabird@optonline.net](mailto:sewabird@optonline.net)

**The 3rd Quarter Board Minutes**  
**by Dale Laird, President NFSS**

**Vote Results**

1. The motion that on January 1, 2002 the [NFSS@yahoo.com](mailto:NFSS@yahoo.com) list be available to only current paid members of NFSS.

Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0; Did not vote 4

**Reports**

1st Vice President Report for 3rd Quarter Board Meeting

**NFSS Raffle:**

My records show we made \$455 dollars on the latest NFSS raffle. Upon the urging of the board, the raffle was opened up to board members wishing to participate. Twenty-eight people including two board members and one appointed officer participated. Our third place winner, Harry Bryant has generously donated his winnings (two Japanese society finches donated by Michael Marcotrigiano) for use at the NFSS auction to be held at the Nationals this year.

**Education Committee:**

Two articles have been published from the Education Department for use in the NFSS bulletin and on the website. One on traveling outside of the US with pet birds and another on purchasing CITES birds in the United States. See Harry's report for more information on legislation. I did a presentation for the Georgia Caged Bird Society this summer and focused my attention on legislation, the law and how it affects the birdkeeper. I believe the presentation was well received and educational.

**Fundraising:**

Harry Bryant generously donated numerous copies of Mobb's Star Finches Book signed by the author. I am uncertain as to the amount of money generated from these sales. Bobbi should have the numbers. Paypal was the predominate avenue used by members to purchase the book. The system worked smoothly with Harry incorporating the paypal feature on the site and Bobbi forwarding me the paypal orders so that I could mail them out. We should seriously entertain devoting some income to more of this type of fundraising in the future. We sold out of all available books within days. Thank you to Harry for his very kind donation.

**Nationals:**

I continue to work at confirming donations for the first NFSS raffle at The National Cage Bird show to be held in New Hampshire this November. Any board members with something to donate should contact me directly.

Kerri

### Treasurer's Report

#### NFSS FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF AUGUST 15, 2001

##### INCOME

410-MEMBERSHIPS	8,775.00
420-AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS	2,717.00
430-BAND SALES	5,493.38
450-FINCHSHOP INCOME	
451-Finchshop Sales	684.70
453-Accrual-Cost Video for V. Moase	-52.50
TOTAL 450-FINCHSHOP INCOME	632.20
470-ADVERTISING INCOME	80.00
475-JUDGES FEES-2001	260.00
483-RAFFLE INCOME	430.00
485-DONATIONS	70.00
495-INTEREST ON SAVINGS	109.36

TOTAL INCOME	\$18,566.94
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##### EXPENSES

530-FINCHSHOP PRODUCT PURCH	235.44
630-FIXED CHARGES	
631-Editor	800.00
640-PURCHASED SERVICES	
642-Printing	5,819.68
643-Paypal Fees	40.27
652-Other Travel Expense	400.00
670-SUPPLIES/COPIES	
672-Photocopies	28.00
673-Office Supplies	268.70
676-BULLETIN POSTAGE	
677-Bulk Mailing Postage	372.62
678-1st Class Postage	510.24
679-Foreign/Misc. Postage	61.37
TOTAL 676-BULLETIN POSTAGE	944.23
680-GENERAL EXPENSES	
681-Postage-General	727.33
684-Catalog Advertising/Booth Space Rental	75.00
686-Affiliations w/Other Organizations	125.00
690-BAD DEBT	

691-Bounced Checks	5.00
695-California Sales Tax	61.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 9,529.65
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TOTAL INCOME FOR 2001	\$ 9,037.29
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CASH IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$13,191.60
CASH IN CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 1,679.87
CASH IN ADVANCE ACCOUNTS	\$ 451.15
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,322.62

Pay pal income from web site for past few months (some included above)

June \$264.97

July \$482.36

Aug (not posted yet), \$364.89

#### **Awards Director**

##### **Awards**

All Awards have been ordered from Manufactures and some have been sent to customers all ready.

We sold 34 plaques, 14 ribbon pkgs and 6 novice ribbons for shows held in 2001 for a total income of \$1510.00. Many clubs did not order ribbons or plaques this year.

NFSS purchased special Ribbons only for Day 1 of the GABS.

NFSS purchased special Ribbons and Plaques for NCBS.

Cost for these items is not available at this time.

NFSS has ordered 20 sets of basic rosette pkg, 5 sets of unlighted add on ribbons and 20 novice ribbons .

Cost for these items is not available at this time.

A total of 17 different clubs (not including the National Shows) purchased awards from NFSS in 2001

I will now be very busy getting all these orders out!

Darla Dandre

#### **4th Vice President**

Judges Panel Chairman, Points Manager and Research

NFSS is pleased to announce Mrs. Annette Howard of Salem OH has officially been appointed by the NFSS Board of Directors to the NFSS Judges Panel. Congratulations Annette! NFSS is proud to have you aboard.

Due to printing, etc., costs it has become necessary to increase the price of The Judges Handbook and Official Standards, 2nd edition effective immediately from \$10.00 to \$13.00. NFSS Bulletin Editor, Steve Poc and Web Site Manager, Harry Bryant have been notified and requested to make change in advertising.

For individuals wishing to update their publication Martha Newman Wigmore, NFSS Panel Judge, has completed revised and up-dated sets for the NFSS Judges Handbook, 2nd edition. A big "Thank You" to Martha for another job well done. The sets are available from Finchshop at the low cost of \$3.00 per set.

This office has recently received the first draft of the "Proposed Red-headed Finch Standard". Recommendations from the Panel Director are under way for additional input from the committee.

Bird Safety Committee has completed a survey of opinion from Panel Judges. This office has recently received copy of survey. Awaiting Recommendations from Committee.

NFSS Judge selection for the 2002 NCBS in Santa Clara, CA is currently underway in the third quarter meeting "by mail".

NFSS Judge selection for the 2003 KT GABS has been delayed awaiting results of location and NFSS Judge selection for KT GABS 2002.

#### **Membership Director**

The membership is holding steady at the same rate for the past year or so.

554 Active members  
64 Dual Memberships

Eileen Laird

#### **Liaison Officer**

We have 55 affiliated clubs including 3 from Canada. I continue to field emails and phone calls concerning affiliating and send follow up affiliation packets.

Ginny Allen

End

## AFFILIATED CLUBS For 2001

**Asociacion de Creadores de Finches Del Este**  
 Holban Navedo  
 P.O. Box HC02 Box 13838  
 Gurabo, Puerto Rico  
 00778-9617  
 787-747-4505  
 criadores\_finches\_este@hotmail.com

**Aviary and Cage Bird Society (ACBS) of South Florida**  
 Carrie Efstathion  
 954-432-3349  
 marbilld@earthlink.net  
 www.feathers.org

**Badger Canary and Finch Club**  
 Susan Feldstein  
 262-965-5362  
 devanormum@aol.com

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**  
 (Region 1 Show Host)  
 Barbara Shannon  
 410-356-5850  
 drhaynes@ubmail.ubalt.edu

**Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society**  
 (National Cage Bird Show Host)  
 Ray Schwartz  
 603-362-6106  
 prismsdad@aol.com  
 www.BOAF.com

**Cajun Canary and Finch Club**  
 Meade H. Phelps  
 504-887-0724  
 neworleansmeade@aol.com

**Canary and Finch Society**  
 Margie McBrayer  
 281-338-2814  
 ulmspatz@hotmail.com

**Capitol City Bird Society**  
 (Region 6 Show Host)  
 Kateri J. Davis  
 530-753-7685  
 CCBSbirds@aol.com  
 www.capitolbird.com

**Central Alabama Avicultural Society**  
 (Region 2 Show Host)  
 Margie Lanier  
 334-567-4073  
 rmlanier@earthlink.net

**Central California Cage Bird Club**  
 Ed Gecsek  
 608 E. Granger Ave #22  
 Modesto, CA 95350

**Central Savannah River Area Exotic Bird Assoc.**  
 Kathleen Clark  
 706-556-0996  
 kakkiclar@aol.com

**Connecticut Association for Aviculture**  
 Denise Hofer  
 203-227-1418  
 denrhof@juno.com

**Connecticut Canary & Finch Club**  
 Felix Felix  
 860-953-1362  
 Email: Alfredo Robles  
 canariomio@aol.com

**Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario**  
 Vincent H. Moase  
 905-723-1978  
 vmoase@home.com  
 www.birdclub.ca

**Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society**  
 Alfred Mion  
 1619 Pillette Road W.  
 Windsor, Ontario  
 Canada N8Y 3C4  
 519-948-6398  
 Julianne@mnsi.net

**Finch Connection Bird Club**  
 Paula Hansen  
 503-581-8208  
 phhanssen@earthlink.net

**Finch Society of San Diego County**  
 Sally Huntington  
 858-452-9423  
 sallych@san.rr.com  
 www.member.xoom.com/  
 finchsociety

**First Internet Bird Club**  
 Myra Markley  
 319-362-9390  
 seffera@scffera.net  
 www.bird-club.org



<p><b>Florida West Coast Avian Society</b> Ginette Parisi 2845 Proctor Road Sarasota, FL 34231</p> <p><b>Florida State Fair</b> Dale Laird 407-657-7989 dale12@prodigy.net</p>	<p><b>Greater Rochester Avian Society</b> Patrick F. Goonan 716-288-5653 patrick_goonan@hotmail.com www.angelfire.com/zine/GRAS</p>	<p><b>Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club</b> Darlene McDonnell 615-355-4250 tmma2@home.com</p>
<p><b>Fort Worth Bird Club</b> Clarence Culwell 817-220-5568 culwell5@flash.net www.FWBC.org</p>	<p><b>Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.</b> Danny Chauvin 985-876-7966 tBirds@mobiletel.com</p>	<p><b>Midwest Zebra and Society Finch Club</b> Nita Haas 816-331-5285 timjhaas@home.com</p>
<p><b>Friends of the Aviary</b> Chris White 905-546-4842 chris.white@interbiz.ca www.friendsoftheaviary.ca</p>	<p><b>Honolulu Canary and Finch Club</b> Kathy Perreira 808-844-3629 ala1884@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Missouri Cage Bird Association</b> Rich Dickman 636-928-3444 skdatl@accessus.net</p>
<p><b>Georgia Caged Bird Society</b> Pat Miller 770-971-8080 jandpmiller@mindspring.com</p>	<p><b>Illini Bird Fanciers</b> Tom Rood 217-774-5265 tjrood@bmmhnet.com</p>	<p><b>Motor City Bird Breeders</b> (Region 3 Show Host) Pat Piekarz 810-296-2957 P3495@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Great Lakes Avicultural Society</b> Diana Hugo 616-842-0163 hugo@iscrv.net www.i2k.com/~glas/</p>	<p><b>International Canary Society</b> Marie Gleason 716-282-2944 frankruthsalvini@aol.com www.upatsix.com/ics</p>	<p><b>National Institute of Red Orange Canaries</b> Stephan V. Hopman 815-469-8455 birdhop@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club</b> Pam Thompson 708-489-5051 acs64t@aol.com www.GCCBC.org</p>	<p><b>Massachusetts Cage Bird Association</b> Kathleen Vieweg 40 Cedar Road Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 617-989-2089 Kvieweg@zoonewengland.com</p>	<p><b>New York Finch and Type Canary Club</b> Stan Kulak 718-967-6899 barstand@erols.com www.nyfinchtypecanary.homestead.com</p>
<p><b>Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Inc.</b> Margie Jonnet 412-795-1904 mjonnet@katz.pitt.edu</p>	<p><b>MidAmerica Cage Bird Society</b> Great American Bird Show (GABS) Host Rhoda Shirley 515-243-1511 zaco@ticon.net</p>	<p><b>Peninsula Caged Bird Society</b> Marian "Bea" Rogers 757-484-6001 dickivy@two-rivers.com www.frecyellow.com/members9/clubpage/index.html</p>

**AFFILIATED CLUBS For 2001**

Continued from previous page

**Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society**  
 April Blazich  
 919-851-8079  
 aprilb@bellsouth.net

**Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club**  
 Richard Pizzurro  
 408-927-0734  
 Doreen Waugh  
 SCVCEBC@yahoo.com

**Society of Canary & Finch Breeders**  
 Patrick Vance  
 248-443-0643  
 www.SCFB.net

**Southeast Bird Fanciers**  
 Ginny Allen  
 334-749-7168  
 gndallen@earthlink.net  
 http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/SEBF.htm

**Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society**  
 Janet Burrell  
 423-472-1306  
 jbjg2202@aol.com

**Suncoast Avian Society, Inc**  
 Joseph Ventimiglia  
 727-392-9391  
 www.suncoastavian  
 society.org

**Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club**  
 Kim Strong  
 3411 Longhollow Rd.  
 Knoxville, TN 37938  
 Leading24@aol.com

**Texas Bird Breeders (Region 4 Show Host)**  
 Clarence Culwell  
 817-220-5568  
 culwell5@flash.net

**Texas Canary Club**  
 Tina Dalecki  
 281-370-7422  
 tdalecki@ltw.net

**Tri-State Avian Society**  
 Barry Laster  
 850-668-0908  
 barryL@polaris.net  
 www.tristateavian  
 society.org

**Virginia Society of Exotic Finches**  
 Peggy Duvall  
 757-623-4786  
 peggyc@macs.net

**West Suburban Caged Bird Club**  
 Therese Baker  
 630-879-9476  
 tmb@concentric.com  
 www.wsbc.org

END

**2001 SHOWS & EVENTS**

(See Club listings for contact information)

**DEC 1 Show**  
 Cajun Canary Club  
 Quality Hotel and  
 Conference Center  
 Metairie, LA  
 Judge: pending

**FEB 17 Show**  
 Florida State Fair Show  
 Tampa, FL  
 Judge: Martha Wigmore

END

SEE WHAT THE FINCH SHOP  
 HAS TO OFFER

VISIT OUR AD ON  
 PAGES 45-46

**2001 NFSS AWARDS**

Mail to: Darla Dandre, P.O. Box 1231, Lisle, IL 60532-7231  
 Phone: (630) 671-1143, Email: dbirdranch@aol.com

**This information must reach the Awards Manager at least two months BEFORE show date. Awards are sent Priority Mail to the designated persoo.**

**PLAQUES** All plaques are **\$25 each**. They are walnut finish with the engraved NFSS logo on brass over black plate on the left and the club information on brass over black plate on the right. All are 6x8.

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| _____ <b>Best in Show</b>    | _____ <b>Best in Show Softbill</b> |
| _____ <b>2d Best in Show</b> | _____ <b>Service/Breeder Award</b> |
| _____ <b>3d Best in Show</b> |                                    |

**ROSETTES** The basic set of rosettes for finches and softbills consists of ten rosettes with the NFSS logo on the button. One Best Unflighted rosette is also included. Unflighted birds are those banded with current year (2001) bands.

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| _____ <b>Basic Rosette Package (1-10 plus Best Unflighted)</b>    | <b>\$45.00</b> |
| _____ <b>Unflighted (2d and 3d place rosettes for unflighted)</b> | <b>\$10.00</b> |
| _____ <b>Novice</b>   | <b>\$ 7.00</b> |

**Total amount of check PAYABLE TO NFSS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send awards to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Show/Event Information**

Date of Show/Event \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Show/Event Location \_\_\_\_\_

Club Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Can this information be published in the NFSS Bulletin? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## NFSS Board of Directors 2000-2001

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Phone/Fax: (407) 657-7989 Email: dalcl@magicnet.net

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Email: DRA1finch@aol.com

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##### Judges Pnl, Stds/Research

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Fax: (941) 997-NFSS  
Email:  
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P.O. Box 2459  
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#### Annette Howard

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#### Liaison Officer

#### Ginny Allen

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P.O. Box 752  
Riverbank, CA 95367  
Phone: (209) 869-2603  
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Email:  
carol@birds2grow.com

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#### Regional Vice President

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 @citystar.com

**Regional Vice President**

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**Note:** Please phone ahead to the desired party before tele-faxing. Many individuals share phone/fax lines or have to set fax software or machine to receive.


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## NFSS Panel of Judges 2000-2001

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**Paul S. Williams**  
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Phone: 402-592-5488  
Email:  
RolTide@ix.netcom.com

End

### Changing your address?

Allow NFSS to be the first to greet you at your new home!

Be sure to notify:

Club Delegates also notify:

NFSS Membership Director  
Eileen Laird  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459

NFSS Liaison Officer  
Dianna Rubly  
525 Pottsville Street, PO Box 52  
Wiconisco, PA 17097-0052.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

# 2001 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00. Make check payable to NFSS.

Mail to: Ginny Allen, Liaison Officer  
307 Brookwood Court  
Opelika, AL 36801  
Email: gndallen@earthlink.net  
Phone/Fax: (334) 749-7168

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_

NFSS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*NFSS may use this information in the NFSS Bulletin and on the web site.

Delegate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Email Contact (Important): \_\_\_\_\_

Club Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

Show/Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Panel Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Show Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Send NFSS Bulletin to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list other fairs or events hosted by your club for listing in the Bulletin. Please include dates, locations, and a contact member with phone number and/or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**NFSS FinchSave Application**

Mail this completed form to: FinchSave Manager, Daniel Almaguer,  
 P.O. Box 533015, Orlando, FL 32853-3015, Phone: (407) 894-3808,  
 Fax: (407) 894-6400, e-mail: DRAFinch@aol.com

Interested in joining FinchSave? Please fill out the below preliminary information and send to the FinchSave Manager, Mr. Daniel Almaguer. Upon receipt of this form, you will receive a complete information package outlining all aspects of the FinchSave Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**The National Finch and Softbill Society  
 Membership Application**

Mail application and check or money order payable to NFSS: Eileen Laird,  
 Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 2459, Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459

Annual dues are \$25 for single memberships, \$30 for dual, and \$17.50 for junior (under 16). U.S. & Puerto Rico 1st Class mailing add \$5.00, Canadian add \$5.00, Foreign add \$10.00 (Please send US funds). Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1st Class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Renew NFSS# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Second name if dual membership \_\_\_\_\_

**The National Finch and Softbill Society**  
**Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands**

Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxhill, Owl Finch (Bicheno), Quail Finch, Red-eared Waxbill, Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.

Size B: Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufous-hacked Mannikin.

Size C: B&W Mannikin, Blue-capped Waxbill, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing Finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed Parrot Finch, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch.

Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Chestnut-breasted Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, most smaller mannikins, most other parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonparal, most twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch, Zebra Finch.

Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond Sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Society Finch (Bengalese), Spice Finch.

Size G: Magpie Mannikin, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.

Size J: European Goldfinch, Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.

Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush.

Size L: Diamond Dove, other small doves, Quail, softbills.

Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large sunbirds.

Size R: Green/Purple Starlings, Superb Starlings.

Size S: Indian Hill Mynah, Java Mynah, Ring-necked Dove, Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.

Size T: small hornbills, Plush-capped Jay, small toucans, small touracos.

***Banding instructions included with each order***

## The National Finch and Softbill Society Band Order Form

Mail form and payment payable to NFSS:  
 Carol Heesen  
 NFSS Band Secretary  
 P.O. Box 752  
 Riverbank, CA 95367

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 NFS, size code, year and number. There is 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 their membership number. Write "New" for membership number on the

order form. Orders processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures. **\$1.00 handling fee effective 3/1/99.**

Band Size	# of Strings	Price per string	Total Amount
A		\$3.25	
B		\$3.25	
C		\$3.25	
D		\$3.25	
E		\$3.25	
G		\$3.25	
J		\$3.25	
K		\$3.25	
L		\$3.25	
M		\$3.25	
R		\$3.25	
S		\$3.25	
T		\$3.25	

**Postal Insurance:** Under \$50 - \$1.10  
 From \$50 - \$100 = \$2.00 Over \$100=\$3.00  
 If you choose NOT to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.  
 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD 7.25% SALES TAX

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handling \$1.00  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW!!!**  
**Open Plastic Bands Available from NFSS**  
**ORDER FORM**

Mail form and payment payable to NFSS:  
 Carol Heesen  
 NFSS Band Secretary  
 P.O. Box 752  
 Riverbank, CA 95367

**Size Recommendations:**  
 XCS--Gloster, fifi, miniature and fancy canaries, nuns, diamond firetail.  
 XCL—Roller canaries, borders, lizard canaries, red factor canaries, red-faced pytilia, pekin robin.

**Colors available:**  
 Red  
 Light Green  
 Dark Green  
 White  
 Pink  
 Black  
 Purple  
 Yellow  
 Orange  
 Dark Blue  
 Light Blue

XB -Budgies, grass parakeets, indian shama, diamond dove, Chinese painted quail.  
 X3—New Zealand parakeets, lovebirds, rosellas, kakarikies.

Since we are new to carrying these bands, we would appreciate feedback or input from members who use these bands on species not listed, as to what sizes fit various species. Please contact the Band Secretary with your information.

Band Size	Color	# of Strings	Price per string	Total Amount
XF			\$1.50	
XCS			\$1.50	
XCL			\$1.50	
XB			\$1.50	
X3			\$1.50	

<p><b>Postal Insurance:</b> Under \$50 = \$1.10                  From \$50 - \$100 = \$2.00 Over \$100=\$3.00                  If you choose NOT to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.                  CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD 7.25% SALES TAX</p>	<p>Subtotal: _____                  Insurance: _____                  Handling \$1.00                  Total: _____</p>
---	---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINCHSHOP**  
**The National Finch and Softbill Society Store**  
**ORDER FORM**

NFSS Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling:	Total
Orders \$10 and under add \$2.00, orders \$10.01 and over add \$3.50 \$ _____	\$ _____

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE

Be sure to indicate size where applicable.

Mail form and payment (check or money order payable to NFSS) to:

**FINCHSHOP**  
**Attn: Annette Howard**  
**P.O. Box 404**  
**Salem, OH 44460**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

S&H \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE
Eric Peake Lithograph, <b>The Diamond Firetails</b> signed by the artist		\$35
Video: Finch Husbandry	Add #3.20 S&H	\$25
Video: The Wonderful World of Finches & Soft- bills: An Introduction	Members/Affiliates	\$17
	Non-Members	\$22
NFSS T-shirt, 10 colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass, White Only. 50/50 Blend	Indicate size, M, L, XL, XXL	\$18
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards	<b>NEW as of September 2001!</b>	\$13
NFSS Name Badge (Members Only) Comes with one line of engraving <b>Print name clearly</b>	Second line of engraving add \$1, for magnetic back, Add \$1.50	\$7.50
NFSS Plastic Water Bot- tle		\$6
NFSS Gouldian Pin		\$6
NFSS Zebra Pin		\$6
1998 NFSS Handbook Membership Yearbook		\$4
Past Bulletins, 1994 and later		\$4
Past Bulletins, 1993 and older		\$3
NFSS Show Cage Plans	Size #1 #2 #3	\$4
All 3 Show Cage Plans		\$10

### NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS

**#1 Cage** – Finches up to and including Zebras,

**#2 Cage** – Finches larger than Zebras, **#3 Cage** – Softbills

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