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Journal of the

# National Finch & Softbill Society

Vol. 26, No. 1

January / February 2009

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## NFSS Mission Statement

The National Finch & Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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# President's Message



## 2009 NFSS Silver Anniversary

This year marks the Silver Anniversary of the founding of the National Finch Society, later renamed the National Finch and Softbill Society. For 25 years the Society has dedicated itself to promoting the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhancing our knowledge of the proper care of these birds, encouraging breeding programs, and working with other organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

Over the years this journal has served as the life blood of NFSS by communicating with our members, educating with wonderful articles, and providing services such as legislative notices, bands and advertising. We are currently looking for an Editor. Right now Tom Keegan our 2nd VP of Publishing is working with a 3rd party to produce the journal and they are doing a marvelous job but we would still like to find a permanent Editor. If you feel you may be interested in the position please contact Tom Keegan or me. This is not an elected position and person is appointed by the Board of Directors.

2009 is an election year and all elected Board of Director positions will have an open election. If you have considered serving NFSS in some capacity, this is your opportunity. You can receive information regarding the responsibilities of

each office by contacting the chairman of the nominating committee Bill Parlee (ElectionsNFSS@yahoo.com), your regional VP or any of the current board members. Fresh ideas can invigorate the Society and we are always looking for opportunities to provide additional benefits to the membership or just improve upon the things we are doing now. I urge all to get involved and share your time and talent with others.

In this issue you will find a ballot for positions that are being filled temporarily and must be voted on by the membership. According to the Society bylaws these temporary positions can only be filled by board appointees for 180 days and therefore we cannot wait for the next general election. Please take a few moments to fill out your ballot and return it for this Special Election.

I would also like to welcome all to submit articles for upcoming issues of the journal. Articles written by members or their friends and acquaintances in aviculture are what help to make this journal so enjoyable for all to read. Consider sharing your experiences and knowledge with others.

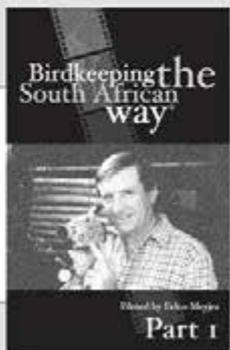
On a personal note I pray for the speedy recovery of my friend Andrew Green, the husband of our Executive Secretary Rebecca Mikel, who is battling an illness. I hope 2009 proves to be a grand success for him and for all our members.

Respectfully,

*Bob Peers*  
**President**

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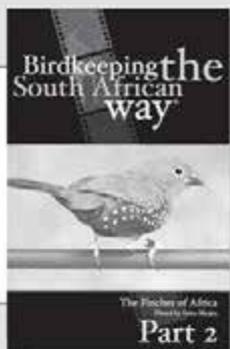
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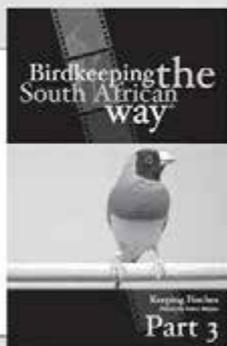
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# The New NFSS Zebra Finch Show Standard

*Cecil Gunby*

In my capacity as 4th Vice President of NFSS, I have received numerous requests for a new zebra finch standard from the zebra finch breeding community over the past several years. To create the new standard, I formed a committee of several Zebra breeders and exhibitors and 5 panel judges and, over the period of a year, we exchanged hundreds of e-mails in order to rewrite the official Zebra standards of NFSS.

The following standard, with its various compromises and changes, represents the culmination of that effort. There are several changes from the originally revised standard, the most obvious being in the point distribution. One perspective raised by the hobby side was that there should be more point allocation for color and markings and less point allocation for conformation. This was agreed upon by the committee and a reading of the new standard will show this change. More emphasis was placed on color and markings while retaining a majority of the points allocated to conformation and type, as the body of the bird remains the major focus in the development of the show bird.

I am sure that not all Zebra hobbyist will agree in total with the standard, but each group will find favorable parts they like. I would like for all interested parties to read and digest the new standard as a whole and consider how all aspects of the standard must be brought into balance. Your comments on the NFSS online Husbandry Forum or to me personally will be welcome.

*Cecil Gunby is 4th Vice President of NFSS and Chair of the Judges Panel/Standards Committee*

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# The Official Zebra Finch Standard

*Poephila guttata*

Approved by the *National Finch and Softbill Society*

CONFORMATION.....	40 POINTS
Head and Body.....	20 PTS
Wings.....	10 PTS
Tail.....	10 PTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS.....	30 POINTS
CONDITION.....	20 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION.....	10 POINTS

## CONFORMATION (40 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

### Head and Body: 20 POINTS

The ideal Zebra Finch will measure about 4" from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail. The head should be large and proportional to the body, broad from all angles, blending into the shoulders, back and front, with a slight nip at the neck when at rest. The eyes must be round, with the lower edge of the eye just above the line where the mandibles meet. There is a noticeable brow in the ideal bird, resulting from the slight indentation of the feathering at the eye. The beak should be coral in color, deeper coral in the cock bird, broad at the base and centered in the face.

The crown rises up from the top of the upper mandible in a rounded arc through to the neck. The neck should be broad and expand smooth, from the neck through the tip of the tail, except in the displaying bird (see Tail below).

The sides are slightly rounded from the shoulders through the tail. The bird is fullbodied, showing good substance. The bottom line bows outward deeply,

smoothly rounded, from just below the chin through to the vent, the deepest and broadest point being between the chest and the stomach. The stomach feathers of the ideal bird are just above the perch because of the roundness of the bottom line, but not because of poor position.

From the perch the legs rise slightly from the horizontal. The thigh is not exposed. The feet grip the perch properly.

Wings: 10 points.

The wings should be carried evenly, and should not droop nor entirely cover the flanking. They should blend into the back smoothly with the wing tips meeting at the root of the tail. Crossed wings, overlapping one another, or drooping wings are faulted.

Tail: 10 points.

The line of the tail shall continue the line of the back and must not droop or be carried high. The tail may rise slightly from the back line in the displaying bird. The tail will be proportional to the body.

**COLOR AND MARKINGS (30 POINTS)**  
**STANDARD ZEBRA FINCH MARKINGS**  
**(BOTH COLOR AND MELANIN)**

*Exceptions are noted in the Standards and Descriptions, which follow.*

**Cock:**

Eyes black or near black. The beak should be coral red. Loes are white, bordered by a thin dark line from the base of the bill to nostril and a heavier line dropping below the eye (the tear marking), creating a clear and distinct 'teardrop' effect. A distinct cheek patch of color covers the cheeks and ear-coverts. The throat and upper chest area (to the breast bar) should be thinly and evenly striped. The breast bar should be clear, distinct and even, and not less than 1/8" wide. The side flanking should be prominent and should extend from the wing's greater coverts to the upper tail coverts, and contain numerous small round, clearly defined white spots. The center of the lower rump is white. The tail should be horizontally barred with white. The feet and legs should be pale coral red.

**Hen:**

As for the cock, minus the cheek patches, throat stripes and breast bar. The loes and flanking will show the same color as the hen's throat. The beak should be a paler shade of red.

**ZEBRA FINCH COLOR STANDARDS**  
**FOR STANDARD VARIETIES**

*The following Zebra Finch color varieties have color Standards, presented here:*

- Normal Gray
- Lightback Normal Gray
- Dominant Silver

- Chestnut Flanked White
- Chestnut Flanked Continental
- Fawn
- Lightback Fawn
- Dominant Cream
- White
- Pied
- Penguin

Descriptions of less commonly exhibited and newer varieties are offered for informational purposes in the subsequent section.

**Normal Gray Cock:**

The head, neck, back, and wings dark gray, even throughout. The throat should be pale gray. The cheek patch should be rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be jet black. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of the cheek patches into the ground color.

**Normal Gray Hen:**

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be mid-gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar or flanking. Underparts should be buff. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

**Fawn Cock:**

The head, neck, back, and wings a deep fawn color, even throughout. The throat should be pale grayish brown. The cheek patch should be a rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and

tail bars should be blackish brown. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of the cheek patches into the ground color.

#### Fawn Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be buff. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be buff. Show faults: uneven or patchy color, showing cock markings.

#### Lightback Normal Gray Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings light gray, even throughout. The throat should be light silvery gray. The cheek patch should be pale orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be black. The flanking should be pale or reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white with no shading. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color, "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

#### Lightback Normal Gray Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be light silvery gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be white. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

#### Lightback Fawn Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings pale fawn, even throughout. The throat should be off-white. The cheek patch should be pale orange. The tear marking, throat

and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be blackish brown. The flanking should be pale reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white with no shading. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

#### Lightback Fawn Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be white. Show Faults: uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

#### Dominant Silver Cock:

There are various shades of Dominant Silver. The head, neck, back, and wings should be from light bluish gray to pale silvery gray. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat should be from pale silvery gray to off-white. The cheek patch should be from pale orange to cream. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be a matching shade of gray. The flanking should be pale reddish orange with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some silver shading near the vent and thighs. Show Faults: excessively uneven or patchy color, including fawn shading in the ground color; characteristic cock markings showing no dilution, or indistinct.

#### Dominant Silver Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be from pale silvery gray to off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be buff. Show Faults: excessively uneven or patchy color,

including fawn shading in the ground color, showing cock markings.

#### Dominant Cream Cock:

There are various shades of cream. The head, neck, back, and wings should be from deep cream to pale cream. The throat should be from pale cream to off-white. The cheek patch should be from pale orange to cream. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be a matching shade of fawn. The flanking should be pale reddish orange with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some cream shading near the vents and thighs. Show Faults: excessively uneven or patchy color, characteristic cock markings showing no dilution, or indistinct.

#### Dominant Cream Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be from pale cream to off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be pale cream. Show Faults: excessively uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

#### Chestnut Flanked White Cock:

The head, neck, back, wings, throat and underparts as white as possible. The cheek patch should be as dark orange as possible. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be as near black as possible. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. Show Faults: characteristic cock markings pale; "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

#### Chestnut Flanked White Hen:

As near white as possible, with no cheek

patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Remaining tear marking and tail bars as near black as possible. A small amount of gray wash or very light flecking on the head is acceptable. Show Faults: showing cock markings.

#### Chestnut Flanked Continental Cock:

The head, neck, back, wings, throat and under parts are cream. The cheek patch is orange brown and as deep color as possible. The tear markings, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be black. The flanking should be a rich orange brown, dark as possible with regular round white dots. Show faults; pale cock markings, "bleeding" of cheek patches, sooty markings on the head.

#### Chestnut Flanked Continental Hen:

Cream in color with no cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars, or flanking. Remaining tear markings and tail bars black. Show faults; sooty head or presence of male markings.

#### White Cock and Hen:

Color to be pure white all over. As with other varieties, hen's beak to be a paler shade of red. Show Faults: Any colored feathering, including flecking in the shoulder and back area.

#### Pied Cock and Hen:

The body should be approximately 50% white and 50% color with markings as symmetrical as possible. Cock to retain all characteristic cock markings, but all markings should be broken with white. Hen should show tear markings and tail bars, but broken with white. Show Faults: an excessive percentage of white feathering or colored feathering (from the 50/50 mix); cocks showing complete loss

of characteristic cock markings; hens showing cock markings.

*Note: Pieds can be exhibited in all recognized colors, except white.*

#### Penguin Cock:

Head, neck, back, and wings light silvery gray with flights, secondaries and coverts edged with a paler shade of gray, giving a laced appearance. Older birds may display more lacing than younger birds. The throat and underparts to be white without a trace of barring. The cheek patch should be rich dark orange. Tear marking absent. The flanking to be reddish brown with white spots. The tail should match the back color, barred with white. Show Faults: Any trace of breast barring or tear markings.

#### Penguin Hen:

Head, neck, back, and wings as for the cock. The throat, breast, flanking and underparts should be absent Show Faults: any trace of cock markings or tear markings.

*Note: Penguins can be exhibited in other recognized colors.*

### ZEBRA FINCH COLOR DESCRIPTIONS FOR NON-STANDARD VARIETIES

The following Zebra Finch color mutations are less commonly exhibited and/or newer varieties:

Lightback Silver Lightback Cream  
 Recessive Silver Recessive Cream  
 Crested Yellow Beaked  
 Black Breasted Orange Breasted  
 Isabel Phaeo  
 Florida Fancy Agate  
 Black Cheeked Gray Cheeked  
 Fawn Cheeked Black Faced  
 Black Saddleback

#### Lightback Silver Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale silvery gray. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat is off white. The cheek patch is near white. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are charcoal gray. The flanking is pale orange with white spots. The underparts are white.

#### Lightback Silver Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are white.

#### Lightback Cream Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale cream. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat is off-white. The cheek patch is near white. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are pale chocolate. The flanking is pale orange with white spots. The underparts are white.

#### Lightback Cream Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are white.

#### Recessive Silver Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are bluish gray. The throat is silvery gray. The cheek patch is orange'. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars area matching shade of gray. The flanking is reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white.

**Recessive Silver Hen:**

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are bluish gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are from pale buff to pale gray.

**Recessive Cream Cock:**

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale fawn. The throat is cream. The cheek patch is orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are a matching shade of pale gray. The flanking is reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs.

**Recessive Cream Hen:**

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are cream. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are cream.

**Crested Cock and Hen:**

Crested can be exhibited in all recognized colors, and are the same as any other color variety except they have a crest. We should strive for a crest that has a full circular appearance, finishing level with top of eye.

**Yellow Beaked Cock and Hen:**

Yellow Beaks can be exhibited in all recognized colors, and are the same as any other color variety except the beak should be as near yellow as possible, not orange. The legs and feet area very pale coral red.

**Black Breasted Normal Gray Cock:**

The head, neck, back, and wings are as in Normal Gray, but with feathers

outlined with reddish brown. The cheek patch has no definite outline and "bleeds" onto the neck and head. It has no tear marking, but retains the black edging along the beak. It displays a lighter throat under the beak mottled with black feathering. There is no Zebra throat striping. The Black Breasted's breast bar tends to be blacker and broader than the normal breast bar. The side flanks are poorly defined and are marked with white ticks or slashes of white rather than spots. The underparts are white, with some fawn shading at the vent the upper tail feathers are normal colored but outlined in white, creating a vertically barred effect.

**Black Breasted Hen:**

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking, beak edging and tail barring as for the cock. It may show traces of a breast bar.

*Note: The Black Breasted can be exhibited in all recognized colors, although the reddish brown outlining on the head, back and wing feathers will be less evident on some mutations, such as the Black Breasted Chestnut Flanked White.*

**Orange Breasted Normal Gray Cock:**

Color and markings are as in Normal Gray, except that most black markings are replaced or at least partially masked by orange. Tear markings are masked by orange. The throat striping and breast bar, while mostly orange with this mutation, may show some black coloration. The breast bar will have a less precise size and shape than in the Normal Gray. Orange is mixed in with the black and white tail bars.

**Orange Breasted Hen:**

Color and markings as for a Normal Gray hen, except that the Orange Breasted

hen has no visible black tear marking, no evidence of chest barring, and must have visible orange on tail barring.

*Note: The Orange Breasted can be exhibited in all recognized colors. In all, orange replaces most of the black on the tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars.*

#### Isabel Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings from cream to off-white, with pale orange lacing to the feathers. The throat and upper chest from buff to off-white. The cheek patch is a rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, and breast bar are absent. The flanking is rich reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white, with some pale orange shading near the vent and thighs. Tail bars from fawn to very Pale fawn.

#### Isabel Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, and tail bars as for the cock. Tear marking absent. The throat and breast, extending through the underparts should be very pale buff. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar or flanking.

#### Phaeo Cock:

A combination of the Isabel x Black Breasted mutations, showing the effects of both. The head, neck, back, and wings are diluted to off-white. The orange lacing to the feathers is more evident. There is no chest barring. The cheek patch has no definite outline and "bleeds" onto the neck and head. The side flanks change to orange and are poorly defined and are marked with white ticks or slashes of white rather than spots. The underparts are white, with some cream shading at the vent. The upper tail feathers are cream

colored but outlined in white, creating a vertically barred effect.

#### Phaeo Hen:

Hens are very similar to Isabel hens, with orange lacing to the generally off-white head, neck, back, and wings. Phaeo hens also lack the tear marking. Phaeo hens can be distinguished from Isabel hens by the tail: the Phaeo's tail has orange colored vertical striping; the Isabel shows light fawn horizontal bars.

*Note: The Phaeo is often combined with other mutations. When combined with the Orange Breasted, orange throat and upper chest striping and an orange breast bar appears, making a brightly colored bird.*

#### Florida Fancy Cock:

A white bird (with some faint gray lacing of feathers on back and wings) with rich orange cheek patch and rich reddish brown flanking with white spots. No tear marking, throat and upper chest striping or breast bar, and only faint light gray tail bars. Appears to be a combination of Penguin and Chestnut Flanked White.

#### Florida Fancy Hen:

As for the cock, with no cheek patch or flanking.

#### Agate Cock:

The normal Agate could be described as a bird with the head color and markings of a Normal Gray, but the body and wing color of a light fawn. The Agate also appears in other mutations, such as the Fawn and Lightback.

#### Agate Hen:

The hens are the same color minus the cock markings.

**Black Cheeked Cock:**

The cheek patch is black. Other color and markings are normal, but with complete absence of reddish brown in the flankings, which is replaced by black.

**Black Cheeked Hen:**

As in normal hen, but will have cock type black cheek patch. The hen's cheek patch color is patchier than the cock's.

**Gray Cheeked Cock:**

The Gray Cheek is similar to the normal except that the cheek patch color is overlaid with gray.

**Gray Cheeked Hen:**

As in Normal hen, but will have cock type cheek patch overlaid with gray. The hen's cheek patch color is patchier than the cock's.

**Fawn Cheeked Cock:**

The Fawn Cheeked is similar to the Normal except that the cheek patch color of rich dark orange is replaced with fawn.

**Fawn Cheeked Hen:**

As in Normal hen, but will have cock type cheek patch color. The hen's cheek patch color is patchier than the cock's.

**Black Faced Cock:**

As for Normal cock, except that the lores (the normally white feathers between the beak and cheek patch) are black, and the underparts, normally white, are mottled dark brownish black. The flanking can be from the normal rich reddish brown to dark reddish brown, with the normal white spots.

**Black Faced Hen:**

As for Normal hen, except that the lores

are black, and the underparts are mottled dark brownish black.

**Black Zebra Cock:**

The nearest thing to a solid black Zebra is produced when the Black Faced, Black Breasted and the Black Cheeked are combined. The cock will have a completely black head and will be black from beak to vent (or black near the beak changing to dark brownish black on the underparts), with only a trace of white ticks or slashes in the flanking.

**Black Zebra Hen:**

Hens are darker than normal with visual cock markings.

**Saddleback Cock and Hen:**

A nearly all-white pied with a triangle of the normal ground color across the back, as well as some ground color on the rump.

**CONDITION (20 POINTS)**

Eyes should be bright and clear. There should be an overall sheen to the Zebra's feathering, and the feather condition should be immaculate, with no soiled, frayed or missing feathers. There should be no pin-feathers. All toes and nails should be present, and the beak, legs, and nails must also be immaculate, with no scaling or overgrowth.

**DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)**

**Deportment: 5 points.**

The angle of the Zebra Finch is between 40 and 45 degrees; its stance should not appear too upright nor too low over the perch. It should display a bright personality, yet be calm on the perch;

it should be active, yet confident. The ideal Zebra will easily and often times display in the show cage.

**Presentation: 5 points.**

A National Finch and Softbill Society standard show cage, size #2 is recommended. Perches suitable to the size of a Zebra's feet need to be used. Perches should run from the cage front to the rear and be positioned far enough from the sides so as not to injure the tail when the bird moves from perch to perch.

Position perches to give the judge a full lateral view of the bird. The waterer should be placed to give the judge an unobstructed view of the bird.

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Ballots must be post-marked NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2009

### MAIL BALLOTS TO:

Gail Benson, NFSS Advertising Manager  
144 N. Clyde Avenue  
Palatine, IL 60067

### AFFILIATIONS/AWARDS DIRECTOR

Alfredo Bruguera

Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

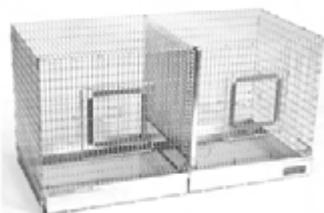
Cecile Aguilera

I live in the S.F. Bay Area in California, my husband and I are raising Society Finches, Black and White Mannikins, Bronze Winged Mannikins, and Spanish Timbrado Canaries. We're interested in sustaining bird-keeping as a hobby and promoting sponsorship and mentoring of Junior members. We view our volunteering for our local Santa Clara club and nationally, for NFSS as a way to help keep the interest and art of bird-keeping alive and well in this neck of the woods.

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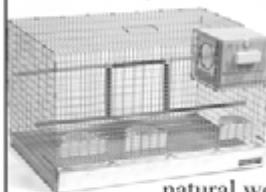


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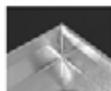
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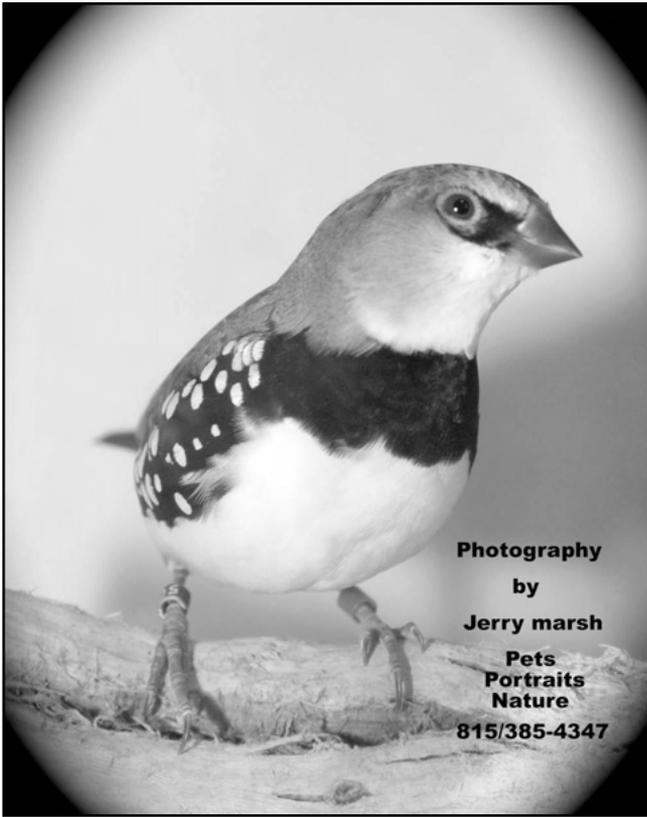
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## Reflections on Showing in 2009

*Cecil Gunby, NFSS 4th VP/Judges Panel Chair*

*Note: This article was written by Cecil Gunby just prior to the 2008 National Cage Bird Show. —Ed.*

As I sit and plan my coming trip to the National Show and all that it entails, I reflect on the past few years and how the whole scope of how NFSS has changed and where we go from here. NFSS has taken the same leap forward that the rest of the world has with respect to our move into the realm of the internet, with instant communication and responses. For some of us who did not grow up in the computer generation

it has been difficult, requiring a lot of getting used to.

In just my area of the country (South-east) I have seen the number of shows shrink from around twenty to only two or three and the number of hobbyists participating in those shows to a mere handful. At the same time, the cost of putting on shows and getting to those shows has increased dramatically. As each individual makes their plans on which shows to attend and how to afford getting to those shows, we as an organization and board must evolve

also. We are approaching our 25th anniversary and, even as we see our membership decline, NFSS is still one of the stronger specialty clubs. Every aspect from communication to management must be overhauled to fit the twenty first century.

Many feel that NFSS is not moving fast enough in it's change, but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to modernize our record keeping, our financial management, our reporting methods, our website, and yes even our journal. We have experienced a lot of changeover in board members and people in charge of different departments, we must remember that these positions are volunteer and don't pay much and many of our board members have spent hours of their personal time to serve this membership.

By the time this is published in the journal the national show will be but a piece of history and I can only hope that those attending had a wonderful time and I will do an additional article on the show and will try to have some pictures included with the article.

Now to the meat of my department: For 2009 hopefully the web page will be completely up to date and all the point accumulation will be in electronic form. All those past years of a penciled, hand-written data base will be a thing of the past. The Judge's Handbook and related material (e.g., show standards) will be online and easily downloaded for one and all. As our job of management draws nigh there are some responsibilities that will be falling back on individual exhibitors and affiliates that are the consequences of our electronic world.

Everything revolves around our show report being filled out properly at the time the show is conducted. In order for this to happen, it must start with the exhibitor entering the bird in the show.

On the entry form the correct information as to bird, correct band information, and exhibitor membership number must be listed. The rule is that you must be a member in order to receive points from that show. This means that you must be a member at the time the show is held, not join two weeks later after you win and then want the points for that show. Also YOU MUST ENTER YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON YOUR ENTRY FORM SO IT CAN BE VERIFIED. This brings us to the show secretary who must then transfer all of the correct information to the official show report that the judge will review and then sign and hopefully send copies to the proper individuals in a timely manner so that information can be transferred to the data base and then each of you will get your correct points. This might sound petty to some but the system only performs as well as the weakest link in the chain allows it to. In a few weeks some will be receiving awards for their efforts in 2007 at the nationals, richly deserved by them, and my congratulations to each of them.

In closing I would like to thank two people in particular for their efforts in getting this system straightened out. They both put in lots of time and effort helping me get this program into the 21st century. Lisa Murphy and Rebecca Mikel, both of whom hold down key positions on the NFSS board, have helped so much with this department, especially since my computer skills and time allowances have been lacking. I would also like to thank all the dedicated hobbyists who continue to attend shows and exhibit in these trying times.

As I write this, I hope to see many of you reading this at the nationals.

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## 2007 NFSS Show Totals

**5/19/07 BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS – PARKTON, MD**

**JUDGE:** Laura Tinker                      **EXHIBITORS:** 9                      **ENTRIES:** 65

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>EXHIBITOR</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>BAND</b>	<b>PTS</b>
1	Robert Mehl	White Eyed Zosterops		7
2	Olga Sarmente	Gouldian, OH/WH	05-6089	6
3	Robert Mehl	Purple Honeycreeper		5
4	Hiram Rampersaud	Pearl Society		4
5	Richard Doyle	Gouldian, OH/WB		3
6	Robert Mehl	G&G Tanager		2
7	Robert Mehl	Euro Siskin		1
8	Robert Mehl	Softbill Pr – Blk. Face Dacnis		
9	Jack Q. David	Peter's Twinspot		
10	Hiram Rampersaud	Pair – Zebra		
Best. Unf.	Hiram Rampersaud	Society Pearl		

*Judge's Comments:* Very nice selection of softbills; (11 out of 15); 15 Gouldians, 15 Societies

**5/26/07 RALEIGH-DURHAM CAGE BIRD SOCIETY – RALEIGH-DURHAM, NC**

**JUDGE:** Cecil Gunby                      **EXHIBITORS:** 5                      **ENTRIES:** 71

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>EXHIBITOR</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>BAND</b>	<b>PTS</b>
1	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		7
2	Robert Mehl	White Eyed Zosterops		6
3	Lisa Murphy	Pearl Headed Silverbill		5
4	Lisa Murphy	St. Helene Waxbill		4
5	Robert Mehl	Blue Cacnis		3
6	Sharon Dvorak	Spice Finch		2
7	Lisa Murphy	Star Finch Isabell		1
8	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		
9	Robert Mehl	Shaftail		
10	Robert Mehl	Bannanaquit		
Best Unf.	Lisa Murphy	Star Finch Isabel		
Best Novice	April Blazick	Parrot Bill Seedeater		
Judge's Spec.	Robert Mehl	Gouldian Hen, BH/PB		

**5/27 RALEIGH-DURHAM CAGE BIRD SOCIETY – RALEIGH-DURHAM, NC**

**JUDGE:** Conrad Meinert                      **EXHIBITORS:** 4                      **ENTRIES:** 64

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>EXHIBITOR</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>BAND</b>	<b>PTS</b>
1	Robert Mehl	Purple Honeycreeper		7
2	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		6
3	Robert Mehl	White Eyed Zosterops, (Pr)		5
4	Robert Mehl	Gouldian BH		4
5	Robert Mehl	White Eyed Zosterops		3
6	Robert Mehl	Shaftail		2
7	Sharon Dvorak	Spice Finch		1
8	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer (Pr)		
9	Sharon Dcorak	Society Euro Gray		
10	Robert Mehl	Star		
Best. Unf.	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer (Pr)		
Judge's Spec.	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		

## 6/23/07 ASOCIACION CRIADORES FINCH SHOW, INC., CAGUAS, PR

JUDGE: Jerri C. Weisenfeld

EXHIBITORS: 18

ENTRIES: 157

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Nydia Jose L. Rivera	Lt. Back Zebra Hen	NFSS 07 4719	11
2	Armando Garcias	Fawn Zebra Cock		10
3	Javier Hernandez	Gouldian OH/WB	NFSS 06 1204	9
4	Ririco Vidal	Gouldian Silver RH/PB	NFSS 06 5364	8
5	Hiram/Lourdes Momler	Society Blk/Br	NFSS 06 1612	7
6	Rurico Vidal	Gouldian YB	NFSS 07 2091	6
7	Ririco Vidal	Society Black/Grey	NFSS 06 2686	5
8	Rurico Vidal	Society Cream Ino	NFSS 07 1222	4
9	Alberto Viera	Zebra Florida Fancy		3
10	Rurico Vidal	Gouldian RH/YB	NFSS 07 3094	2
Best Unf.	Nydia Jose L. Ribera	Zebra Light Back Hen	NFSS 07 4719	
Judge's Spec.	Alberto Viera	Crested Zebra		

**Judge's Comments:** These are some very dedicated & serious finch breeders, as was evident in the quality of birds I was to judge. These are some of the best Zebras, Societies, and Gouldians that I have seen, making the task of judging these birds very difficult. I am very grateful for the opportunity to judge the show. There were 66 Zebras, 46 Societies, 40 Gouldians, and 5 AOV. All of the exhibiting breeders should be very proud.

## 6/23/07 LAG SHOW – OPELIKA, AL

JUDGE: Paul Williams

EXHIBITORS: 8

ENTRIES: 68

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Cecil Gunby	Shaftail Normal		7
2	Lisa Murphy	St. Helene Waxbill		6
3	Kathleen Clark	Parsons		5
4	Sharon Dvorak	Society Euro. Choc.		4
5	Lisa Murphy	Gouldian Dilute		3
6	Rebecca Mikel	Cutthroat		2
7	Sharon Dvorak	Pair Blue Cap Waxbill		1
8	Sharon Dvorak	Spice Finch		
9	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		
10	Andrew Green	Pekin Robin		
Best Unf.	Bob Peers	Zebra Hen Normal	NFSS 07 6110	

## 6/23/07 LAG SHOW – OPELIKA, AL

JUDGE: Cecil Gunby

EXHIBITORS: 7

ENTRIES: 67

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Sharon Dvorak	Spice		7
2	Andrew Green	White Eye Zosterops		6
3	Lisa Murphy	St. Helene Waxbill		5
4	Lisa Murphy	Owl		4
5	Kathleen Clark	Parson		3
6	Bob Peers	Zebra Hen Normal		2
7	Lisa Murphy	Cuban Melodious		1
8	Sharon Dvorak	African Pair		
9	Ginny Allen	Strawberry Hen		
10	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		
Best Unf.	Bob Peers	Zebra Hen Normal	NFSS 07 6110	

## 9/22/07 SE TENNESSEE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY – CLEVELAND, TN

JUDGE: Ken Gunby		EXHIBITORS: 10	ENTRIES: 68	
AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Cecil Gunby	Hecks Grassfinch		7
2	Sharon Dvorak	Spice		6
3	Lisa Murphy	Cherry (Plumhead)	NFSS 07 1753	5
4	Lisa Murphy	Pearl Headed Silverbill		4
5	Lisa Murphy	Parson		3
6	Sharon Dvorak	Society Euro. Choc.		2
7	Sondra ott	Java Pied		1
8	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		
9	Lisa Murphy	Pearl Headed Silverbill		
10	Ginny Allen	Gouldian RH/PB		
Best Unf.	Lisa Murphy	Cherry (Plumhead)	NFSS 07 1753	
Best Novice	Sarah Stiefler	Gouldian RH/WB		

*Judge's Comments:* Great Birds! Excellent Staff!

## 9/22/07 FINCH &amp; SOFTBILL BREEDERS &amp; EXHIBITORS CLUB – WESTMONT, IL

JUDGE: Patrick Vance		EXHIBITORS: 22	ENTRIES: 148	
AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Andrew Green	White Eye Zosterops		11
2	K.J. Brown	Zebra Fawn Hen	NFSS 07 1776	10
3	Jim Heffernan	Star Isabelle	NFSS 07 1723	9
4	Fumi Takeda	RedHead Parrot		8
5	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 308	7
6	Robert Mehl	White Eye Zosterops		6
7	K.J. Brown	Zebra Cock Fawn		5
8	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 301	4
9	Julia Howard	Dove, Chimney Mutation	NFSS 07 32	3
10	Vonda Zwick	Pair Orange Cheek Waxbill		2
Best Unf.	K.J. Brown	Zebra Hen Fawn	NFSS 07 1776	
Best Novice	Tim Wiesemann	Melba Finch		
Best Jr.	Jake Hartzberg	White Collared Warbler		

*Judge's Comments:* A great show with a lot of cinhes & softbills of very high quality.

## 9/23/07 SW TENNESSEE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY – CLEVELAND, TN

JUDGE: Cecil Gunby		EXHIBITORS: 7	ENTRIES: 54	
AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Lisa Murphy	Cherry (Plumhead)	NFSS 07 1753	6
2	Sharon Dvorak	Spce		5
3	Lisa Murphy	Red Billed Fire		4
4	Sondra Ott	Pied Java		3
5	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer		2
6	Lisa Murphy	Pearl Headed Silverbill		1
7	Lisa Murphy	Gouldian RH/PB		
8	Sharon Dvorak	Society Euro Blik/Grey		
9	Lisa Murphy	Parson		
10	Lisa Murphy	Star Isabelle	NFSS 07 1822	
Best Unf.	Lisa Murphy	Cherry (Plumhead)	NFSS 07 1753	

## 9/29/07 THE FORT WORTH BIRD CLUB – GRAPEVINE, TX

JUDGE: Armando Lee

EXHIBITORS: 10

ENTRIES: 163

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Melissa/Harilena Salmones	Zebra Cock, Grey	AAC 05 2411	12
2	Melissa/Harilena Salmones	Gouldian BH		11
3	Alfredo Brugerias	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6173	10
4	Cheryl Burns	Par, Societies, Fawn-Self	NFSS 07 7512 & NFSS 07 1430	9
5	Darrin/Rebecca Hill	Parsons		8
6	Clarence Culwell	Paradise Whydah	NFSS 06 2913	7
7	Darrin/Rebecca Hill	Society Amer. Choc		6
8	Clarence Culwell	Society Euro Fawn	NFSS 06 2681	5
9	Cheryl Burns	Saffron		4
10	Laura Bewley	Pair Euro Goldfinch		3

*Judge's Comments:* A lot of "inside the cage" water drinkers

JUDGE: Nizam Ali

EXHIBITORS: 8

ENTRIES: 86

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Robert Mehl	Purple Honeycreeper		8
2	Robert Mehl	White Eye Zosterops		7
3	Jim Heffernan	Java		6
4	Fasil Ali	Gouldian, Blue BH/WC		5
5	Jim Heffernan	Zebra Normal		4
6	Jim Heffernan	Zebra Penguin		3
7	Jim Heffernan	Society		2
8	Robert Mehl	Star		1
9	Fasil Ali	Fire Finch		
10	Fasil Ali	Diamond Dove		

*Judge's Comments:* Some of the birds exhibited were the best I've seen at a show. Well kept with good presentation. I loved the softbills and hope to see more in future shows.

## 10/06/07 GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW – DES MOINES, IA

JUDGE: Dr. Al DeCouteau

EXHIBITORS: 7

ENTRIES: 24

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 302	3
2	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 308	2
3	Anthony Day	Shaftail		1
4	Julia Howard	Pied Dove	MF 07 5531	
5	Pat Schultes	Zebra CFW		
6	Pat Schultes	Zebra CFW		
7	Jim Warren	Gouldian RH	NFSS 07 598	
8	Vonda Zwick	Pair Orange Cheek Waxbill		
9	Pat Schultes	Zebra Grey Dilute		
10	Jim Warren	Gouldian Dilute	NFSS 07 600	
Best Unf.	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 302	
Best Nov.	Jonny Day	Zebra Black Faced		
Best Jr.	Jonny Day	Zebra Black Faced		

*Judge's Comments:* An outstanding display of African Waxbills – the Rosy Rump was magnificent – also pleasant to see so many good Orange Cheek Waxbills.

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**10/7/07 GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW WITH MID-AMERICA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY  
DES MOINES, IA**


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**JUDGE: Martha Wigmore                      EXHIBITORS: 4                      ENTRIES: 16**

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 301	
2	Barbara Roberts	Gouldian Cock RH		
3	Jim Warren	Orange Bishop Weaver		
4	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap Hen	NFSS 07 781	
5	Jim Warren	Gouldian Dilute	NFSS 07 598	
6	Vonda Zwick	Pr. Orange Cheek Waxbill		
7	Julia Howard	Dove Ringneck		
8	Jim Warren	Gouldian Hen RH	NFSS 07 597	
9	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 307	
10	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap Hen	NFSS 07 782	
Best Unf.	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 3012	
Best Nov.	Barbara Roberts	Gouldian Cock RH		

**Judge's Comments:** Top bench was great quality and would have placed well at larger shows! Incredible unflighted Rosy Rump Waxbill took top honors, and great work being done also with Gouldians and other Waxbills!

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**10/13/07 ESSEX – KENT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY – WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA**


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**JUDGE: Dennis Lewis                      EXHIBITORS: 10                      ENTRIES: 90**

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Dave Pauls	Pr. Zebra Normal	BFB 06 99 ZFS 07 11	8
2	Alfred Mion	Cutthroat Finch		7
3	Pete Van Erp	Diamond Sparrow Fawn		6
4	Pete Van Erp	Gouldian WB		5
5	Pete Van Erp	Pearl Head Silverbill		4
6	Dave Pauls	Diamond Sparrow Nor.	AAC 07 909	3
7	Mike Manley	Shaftail, Normal		2
8	Mike/Lyne West	Gouldian YB	AAC 06 56	1
9	Mike Manley	Blue Ear Glossy Starling		
10	Dave Pauls	Zebra Fawn	ZFS 07 47	
Best Unf.	Pete Van Erp	Gouldian WB		
Best Nov.	Attila Kiss	Gouldian Normal		

**Judge's Comments:** Very strong Zebra section, one of the nicest Cutthroats I have seen. The Diamond Sparrows were in perfect condition. Gouldian section represented well. Softbills – Glossy Starling in 8<sup>th</sup>; Honey Creeper, and Pr. Zosterops didn't make top bench but were very nice. This club has a wonderful, well organized show. Mark it on your calendars.

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**10/13/07 CANARY & FINCH SOCIETY – HOUSTON, TX**


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**JUDGE: Laura Bewley                      EXHIBITORS: 9                      ENTRIES: 103**

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Clarence Culwell	Zebra CFW Hen	NFSS 07 117	9
2	Clarence Culwell	Society Am. Choc. Self	NFSS 07 355	8
3	Cindy Crow	Red Billed Fire Finch		7
4	Cindy Crow	Grosbeak Starling		6
5	Melissa/Marilena	Shaftail	NFSS 06 1335	5
6	Leland/Cheryl Burns	Saffron		4
7	Debbie Huff	Cutthroat		3
8	Alfredo Brugerias	Zebra AOV	NFSS 07 6173	2
9	Donald Peters	Java		1
10	Leland/Cheryl Burns	Society Fawn	NFSS 07 2615	
Best Unf.	Clarence Culwell	Zebra CFW Hen	NFSS 07 117	

**Judge's Comments:** Nice variety of birds. Zebra & Societies had good conformation, condition on all birds could improve. Very nice pairs section. Exhibitors in this area doing a good job.

## 10/20/07 MASS. CAGE BIRD – TAUNTON, MA

JUDGE: Dr. Al Decoteau                      EXHIBITORS: 10                      ENTRIES: 43

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Michael Marcotrigiano	Zebra Fawn	NFSS 05 392	5
2	Jacinto Calisto	Pair Parsons		4
3	Charlie Loukeris	Green Finch	NFSS 06 86	3
4	Tom Keegan	Fire Finch		2
5	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Nor. Male	NFSS 07 7225	1
6	Charlie Loukeris	European Siskin	NFSS 06 535	
7	Ron McGilvray	Gouldian Blue BH		
8	Michael Marcotrigiano	Zebra Cock Nor.		
9	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Cock Nor.	NFSS 07 7230	
10	Jacinto Calisto	Pair Zebra Fawn	NFSS 07 11602	
			NFSS 07 11657	
Best Unf.	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Cock Normal	NFSS 07 7225	

**Judge's Comments:** Zebras were outstanding in this show. Only three Africans, but the Fire Finch was excellent. A great showing of six pairs were exhibited at this show.

## 10/20/07 SOCIETY OF CANARY &amp; FINCH BREEDERS – LIVONIA, MI

JUDGE: Patrick Vance                      EXHIBITORS: 10                      ENTRIES: 86

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 301	8
2	Andrew Green	White Eye Zosterops		7
3	Fumi Takeda	Red Head parrot Finch	SCFB 06 96	6
4	Fumi Takeda	Gouldian Hen BH/PB	SCFB 06 98	5
5	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap	NFSS 07 785	4
6	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 61	3
7	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 308	2
8	Bob Peers	Shaftail		1
9	Jim Heffernan	Society Creamino		
10	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill		
Best Unf.	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 301	
Best Novice	Robert Camilleri	Gouldian Cock RH/PB		

## 10/27/07 C.C.C.B.C.- MODESTO, CA

JUDGE: Sally Huntington                      EXHIBITORS: 8                      ENTRIES: 35

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Brian Mandarich	Society, Blk/Br	NFSS 07 8092	4
2	Rich/Jeri Pizzurro	Owl		3
3	Roy Beckham	Pr. Continental CFW		2
4	G. Wright	Zebra Normal		1
5	L. Watkins	Gouldian Dilute	NFSS 07 8351	
6	C. Seeman	Pr. LB Zebra		
7	Roy Beckham	Gray Headed Mannakin		
8	G. Wright	Zebra Hen Fawn		
9	L. Watkins	Gouldian, BH/YB	NFSS 07 8365	
10	Roy Beckham	Grant Mannakin		
Best Unf.	Brian Mandarich	Society Blk/Br		
Best Nov.	G. Wright	Zebra Normal		

**Judge's Comments:** Great Show! Wonderful group of exhibitors, judges special award went to a beautiful matched pair of Cont. CFW – only condition kept them from being first place.

## 10/27/07 BOAF ANNUAL – BEDFORD, NH

JUDGE: Dr. Al Decouteau

EXHIBITORS: 9

ENTRIES: 52

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Diane Wowk	Gouldian Blue	NFSS 04 14131	6
2	Jacinto Calisto	Parsons	NFSS 11621	5
3	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Cock Fawn		4
4	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Cock Nor.	NFSS 07 7229	3
5	Hiram Rampersaud	Star Finch		2
6	Tom Keegan	Pair African		1
7	Jacinto Calisto	Zebra Cock Nor	NFSS 07 7225	
8	Jacinto Calisto	Pair Australian		
9	Diane Wowk	Gouldian RH Nor	NFSS 06 9144	
10	Jacinto Calisto	Cutthroat		

**Judge's Comments:** Many good quality Goulds, Zebras, and Parson Finches in this show. It has been noticed that African section has recently been weak in numbers.

## 11/3/07 GEORGIA CAGE BIRD SHOW – MARIETTA, GA

JUDGE: Conrad Meinert

EXHIBITORS: 3

ENTRIES: 36

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Lisa Murphy	Chery Finch		4
2	Lisa Murphy	Gouldian RH/PB		3
3	Lisa Murphy	Euro Society		2
4	Lisa Murphy	Pearl Headed Amadine		1
5	Lisa Murphy	Parson		
6	Kourosch Etemade	Gouldian Yellow		
7	Lisa Murphy	Society Dilute Fawn		
8	Lisa Murphy	Green Singer Hen		
9	Ginny Allen	Gouldian RH/PB		
10	Lisa Murphy	Fawn Cherry Finch		
Best Unf.	Lisa Murphy	Cherry	NFSS 07 1753	

## 11/3/07 CANARY CLUB OF MINNESOTA – PRESCOTT, WI

JUDGE: Martha Wigmore

EXHIBITORS: 7

ENTRIES: 41

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Marlene Minor	Gouldian Hen RH Nor	NFSS 07 7562	5
2	Bill Fiorini	Java Normal	NFSS 06 145	4
3	Eunice Roivanen	Gouldian Cock BH Nor		3
4	Eunice Roivanen	Gouldian Cock RH Nor		2
5	Bill Fiorini	Java Silver		1
6	Eunice Roivanen	Owl		
7	Bill Fiorini	Society Euro Red		
8	Marlene Minor	Euro Goldfinch		
9	Mike Nichols	Blue Cap Waxbill		
10	Marlene Minor	Pair Green Singers		
Best Unf.	Marlene Minor	Gouldian RH Nor Hen	NFSS 07 7562	
Best Nov.	Eunice Roivanen	Gouldian BH Nor. Cock		

**Judge's Comments:** Terrific Gouldians and Javas! Such a warm gathering of delightful bird breeders – join us next year for another great show!!!

## 11/3/07 TEXAS BIRD BREEDERS &amp; FANCIERS ASSOCIATION – TEMPLE, TX

JUDGE: Cecil Gunby EXHIBITORS: 13 ENTRIES: 201

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	R. Hudson	Bronze Wing Mannakin		13
2	Alfredo Bruggaras	Society Euro Blk/Br	NFSS 07 632	12
3	Melissa/Marlana Salmones	Shaftail	NFSS 06 1335	11
4	Melissa/Marlana Salmones	Gouldian Hen BH/PB	NFSS 06 11813	10
5	Melissa/Marilena Salmones	Zebra Nor Cock	NFSS 07 2431	9
6	Kerry Lauersty	Peach Ash Pearl Pied		8
7	Darren/Rebecca Hill	Parson		7
8	Leland/Cheryl Burns	Saffron		6
9	Joe Kring	Society Euro Choc.		5
10	Clarence Culwell	Society Am. Fawn	NFSS ** 3245	4
Best Unf.	Alfredo Bruggaras	Society Euro Blk/Br	NFSS 07 632	
Best Novice	Joe Kring	Society Euro Choc		
Best Jr.	R. Hudson	Bronze Wing Mannakin		

**Judge's Comments:** Big show – very nice birds – great people and a Junior Exhibitor wins the show.

11/3/07 48<sup>th</sup> CANADIAN NATIONAL – DUNCAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA

JUDGE: Laura Bewley EXHIBITORS: 10 ENTRIES: 70

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Elaine Wilson	Blue Cap Waxbill		7
2	John Willis	Owl		6
3	John Willis	Fire		5
4	Grant Rishman	White Eye		4
5	John Willis	Button Quail		3
6	John Willis	Zebra Normal		2
7	Gladys Laverne	Zebra Silver		1
Best Unf.	Elaine Wilson	Blue Cap Waxbill		

**Judge's Comments:** Super bird – nice size! Attention to benching great. Gouldians and Javas shown super.

## 11/3/07 GREATER CHICAGO CAGE BIRD ANNUAL – ELMHURST, IL

JUDGE: Jerri C. Wisenfeld EXHIBITORS: 10 ENTRIES: 42

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Charlie Schembri	Greenfinch		5
2	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6167	4
3	Bob Peers	Shafttail		3
4	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap Waxbill	NFSS 07 782	2
5	Bob Peers	Shafttail		1
6	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 308	
7	Charles Schembri	Pair Green Singer		
8	Darla Dandre	European Starling		
9	Gail Benson	Gouldian Dilute		
10	Julia Howard	Dove Ringneck Mut.	NFSS 07 31	
Best Unf.	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6167	
Best Nov.	Gail Benson	Gouldian Dilute		
Judge's Spec.	Darla Dandre	Pair Softbills – Royal Starlings		

**Judge's Comments:** The European Greenfinch was a fine specimen; immaculate. It was great seeing quite a few NFSS close banded waxbills and one exhibitor brought a "bleeding heart" dove to the show which was a treat for many in the gallery.

## 11/3/07 FINCH SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY – NEWPORT BEACH, CA

JUDGE: Brian Mandarin EXHIBITORS: 9 ENTRIES: 39

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Sally Huntington	Blue Grey Tanager	NFSS 06 11	4
2	Tom Case	Fire Finch	NFSS 06 801	3
3	Sally Huntington	Gouldian BH/Nor	NFSS 07 568	2
4	Tom Case	Pair Gouldian OH	NFSS 07 1944/1878	1
5	Taner Edmond	Zebra Normal		
6	Sally Huntington	Society Euro Grey	NFSS 07 433	
7	Tom Case	Goldbreast Pr.		
8	Tom Case	Painted Finch		
9	Sally Huntington	Purple Grenadier	NFSS 06 100	
10	Sally Huntington	Society Jap. Pearl	NFSS ** 404	
Best Unf.	Sally Huntington	Gouldian BH	NSFS 07 568	
Best Nov.	Tom Case	Fire Finch		
Judge's Spec.	Sally Huntington	Purple Grenadier	NFSS 06 100	

*Judge's Comments:* Small show but some good birds.

## 11/4/07 GREATER CHICAGO CAGE BIRD SHOW – ELMHURST, IL

JUDGE: Dr. Al Decouteau EXHIBITORS: 9 ENTRIES: 41

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Steve Hopman	Swee Waxbill	NFSS 07 377	5
2	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 301	4
3	Bob Peers	Zebra CFW Cock	NFSS 07 6166	3
4	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill	NFSS 07 302	2
5	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 302	1
6	Julia Howard	Dove Ringneck Mut.	NFSS 07 31	
7	Darla Dandre	Pr. Softbills – Royal Starlings		
8	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 802	
9	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6167	
10	Charlie Schembri	Pair Green Singers		
Best Unf.	Steve Hopman	Swee Waxbill	NFSS 07 377	
Best Nov.	Gail Benson	Gouldian RH Dilute		

*Judge's Comments:* A most outstanding Swee Waxbill among a very strong African section. The Zebra section was also very strong as was the Pairs. An unusual and attractive Luzon Bleeding Heart Dove caught much attention.

## 11/9/07 EASTSIDE FINCH CONNECTION – GRESHAM, OR

JUDGE: Clarence Culwell EXHIBITORS: 12 ENTRIES: 64

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	K.J. Brown	Parson	NFSS 07 445	7
2	K.J. Brown	Zebra Fawn	NFSS 06 197	6
3	K.J. Brown	Java White	NFSS ** 275	5
4	K.J. Brown	Diamond Sparrow	NFSS 07 760	4
5	K.J. Brown	Society Blk/BR	NFSS 07 130	3
6	K.J. Brown	Culthroat	NFSS 07 1736	2
7	Marilyn Christensen	Dove Tangerine		1
8	K.J. Brown	Society Euro Red/Br	NFSS 07 1709	
9	Richard Hanson	Shafttail		
10	K.J. Brown	Green Singer	NFSS 04 775	
Best Unf.	K.J. Brown	Society Euro Red/Br	NFSS 07 1709	
Best Nov.	Marilyn Christensen	Dove Tangerine		
Judges Choice	Paula Hansen	Red Headed Siskin	10105	

## 11/10/07 CHESTER COUNTY BIRD CLUB- EXTON, PA

JUDGE: Micki Sparak

COMPETITORS: 6

ENTRIES: 32

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Brad Clark	Red Throated Parrot Finch		4
2	Robert Mehl	Normal Button Quail		3
3	Robert Mehl	Green/Gold Tanager Pr.		2
4	Robert Mehl	White Eye Zosterop		1
5	Brad Clark	Shaftail		
6	Don Strause	AOV Self Choc. Society		
7	Don Strause	Orange Cheek		
8	Robert Mehl	Green Singer		
9	Shelly Ortman	Blue Neck Tanager		
10	Shelly Ortman	Blue Grey Tanager		
Best Unf.	Don Strause	Self. Choc. Society		

**Judge's Comments:** A very solid bench; the difference between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place was almost perfect.

## 11/11/07 – ASOCIACION CRIADORES DE FINCHES INC. CAUGUAS, PR

JUDGE: Armando Lee

EXHIBITORS: 15

ENTRIES: 223

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Javier Hernandez	Society Blk/Br	NFSS 07 10603	14
2	Orlando Rivera	Gouldian OH/PB	NFSS 07 3031	13
3	Rurico Vidal	Zebra Normal	NFSS 07 2574	12
4	Javier Hernandez	Zebra Fawn	NFS 07 10720	11
5	Javier Hernandez	Society Blk/Br	NFSS 07 10693	10
6	Orlando Rivera	Gouldian Dilute	NFSS 07 3045	9
7	Victor Zamot	Society Red/Br	NFSS 07 4259	8
8	Hiram/Lourdez Morales	Society Blk/Br	NFSS 05 2067	7
9	Rurico Vidal	Gouldian Silver RH/PB	NFSS 06 5379	6
10	Orlando Rivera	Gouldian RH/PB	NFSS 07 3009	5
Best Unf.	Javier Hernandez	Society Bl/Br	NFSS 07 10603	
Best Nov.	Jose R. Acebedo	Gouldian YB	NFSS 07 3096	

## 11/16/07 NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW – DENVER, CO

JUDGE: Patrick Vance

EXHIBITORS: 18

ENTRIES: 118

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Lisa Murphy	Parson Finch		9
2	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap Waxbill		8
3	Sally Huntington	Blue Grey Tanager		7
4	Robert Wild	Green Finch		6
5	Robert Mehl	Yellow Leg Honeycreeper		5
6	K.J. Brown	Green Singer		4
7	Robert Mehl	White Eye Zosterops		3
8	Dennis Burhams	Zebra Hen Normal		2
9	Jim Heffernan	Button Quail		1
10	Vonda Zwick	Rosy Rump Waxbill		
Best Unf.	Vonda Zwick	Blue Cap Waxbill		
Best Nov.	Gunnar Nitzkowski	Pair Zebras – Fawn		

## 11/24/07 – N.I.R.O.C. – ELMHURST, IL

JUDGE: Alfredo Bruggerras

EXHIBITORS: 12

ENTRIES: 61

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6175	7
2	Vonda Zwick	Orange Cheek Waxbill	NFSS 07 306	6
3	Bob Peers	Shaftail		5
4	Bob Peers	Diamond Firetail		4
5	Jim Heffernan	Silver Java		3
6	Fumi Takeda	Gouldian BH/PB	SCFB 06 98	2
7	Jim Heffernan	Java Nor.	NFSS 05 49	1
8	Robin Zeigler	Zebra Cock CFW		
9	Charlie Schembri	Green Singer		
10	Charlie Schembri	Bunting Black Head		
Best Unf.	Bob Peers	Zebra White	NFSS 07 6175	
Best Nov.	Robin Zeigler	Zebra Cock CFW		

**Judge's Comments:** Exceptional group of birds, very well conditioned and cage trained. Normal Black Head Gouldian was really an excellent bird in conformation and body; substance in this bird was evident.

## 11/24/07 CASCADE CANARY/FINCH – MONROE, WA

JUDGE: Laura Bewley

EXHIBITORS: 12

ENTRIES: 84

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	K.J. Brown	Parsons	NFSS 007 1565	8
2	Carol Johnson	Gouldian BH/WB		7
3	Matisse McCoy	Zebra Nor.		6
4	K.J. Brown	White Eye Zosterops		5
5	K.J. Brown	Society Euro Blk/Br	NFSS 07 863	4
6	K.J. Brown	Culthroat	NFSS 07 436	3
7	K.J. Brown	Diamond Firetail	NFSS 07 760	2
8	Raspberry	Zebra Fawn	NFSS 07 6699	1
9	K.J. Brown	Green Singer	NFSS 04 775	
10	Paula Hansen	B/W Seed Eater		
Best Unf.	K.J. Brown	Parsons	NFSS 07 1565	
Best Nov.	Matisse McCoy	Zebra Nor.		
Best Jr.	Matisse McCoy	Zebra Nor.		

**Judge's Comments:** Judge's Special – Raspberry. Super Gouldians and Zebras. Exhibitors showed some very nice young birds.

## 12/10/07 SANTA CLARA VALLEY CANARY &amp; EXOTIC BIRD CLUB – HAYWARD, CA

JUDGE: Brian Manderich

EXHIBITORS: 6

ENTRIES: 60

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	K.J. Brown	Parsons	NFSS 07 1565	7
2	K.J. Brown	Gouldian BH	NFSS 06 6038	6
3	K.J. Brown	Society Chest. Self	NFSS 07 1709	5
4	K.J. Brown	Culthroat	NFSS 07 436	4
5	K.J. Brown	Cuban Melodious	NSS 07 1568	3
6	K.J. Brown	Blue Cap Waxbill	NFSS 07 04	2
7	K.J. Brown	Peters Twinspot		1
8	K.J. Brown	Tri Color Nun	NFSS 07 411	
9	K.J. Brown	Pair Silverbills		
10	Doug White	Zebra CFW		
Best Unf.	K.J. Brown	Parson Finch	NFSS 07 1565	

**Judge's Comments:** Judge's Special – K.J. Brown for Gouldian BH

## 12/1/07 SANTA CLARA VALLEY CANARY &amp; EXOTIC BIRD CLUB – HAYWARD, CA

JUDGE: Laura Bewley EXHIBITORS: 6 ENTRIES: 60

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Richard Pizzuro	Owl		7
2	K.J. Brown	Zebra Lt. Back	NFSS 06 361	6
3	K.J. Brown	Parson	NFSS 07 1565	5
4	K.J. Brown	Blue Cap Waxbill	NFSS 07 04	4
5	Doug White	Zebra CFW		3
6	K. J. Brown	Society Chest. Self	NFSS 07 1709	2
7	Donna Gary	Gold Breast Waxbill		1
8	Doug White	Society Euro Bk/Br		
9	K.J. Brown	Peters Twinspot		
10	Doug White	Star Mutation		
Best Unf.	K.J. Brown	Parson	NFSS 07 1565	

**Judge's Comments:** Great variety of birds; many Africans in great show shape. Zebras shown of good quality.

## 12/8/07 CAJUN CANARY AND FINCH CLUB – METARIE, LA

JUDGE: Sally Huntington EXHIBITORS: 8 ENTRIES: 67

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Jan Door	Red Ear Waxbill		7
2	Rasem	Gouldian RH/PB		6
3	Paul Bourgeois	Dove Zebra		5
4	Clarence Culwell	Society Fawn/Grey	NFSS 06 61	4
5	Jan Door	Gouldian WB		3
6	Alfredo Bruggerras	pearl Headed Silverbill	NFSS 07 6620	2
7	Clarence Culwell	Zebra Fawn Hen	NFSS 07 306	1
8	Brianna Morrison	Pair Cherry Finch		
9	Loretta Perez	Diamond Firetail Fawn	NFSS 07 2181	
10	Brianna Morrison	Gold Breast Waxbill		
Best Unf.	Alfredo Bruggerras	Pearl Head Silverbill	NFSS 07 6620	
Best Nov.	Paul Bourgeois	Zebra Dove		
Best Jr.	Paul Bourgeois	Zebra Dove		

**Judge's Comments:** Judge's Special – Silver Yellow Tail Diamond Dove by Clarence Culwell. Wonderful section of birds. Great club with lots of enthusiasm for Finches.

## 12/9/07 CAJUN CANARY AND FINCH CLUB – METARIE, LA

JUDGE: Alfredo Bruggerras EXHIBITORS: 6 ENTRIES: 67

AWARD	EXHIBITOR	SPECIES	BAND	PTS
1	Clarence Culwell	Diamond Firetail		7
2	Brianna Morrison	Zebra Cock. Nor.		6
3	Brianna Morrison	Java Rice Cinn.		5
4	Jan Door	Red Ear Waxbill		4
5	Brianna Morrison	Pair Cherry Finch		3
6	Clarence Culwell	Society. Am. Chest. Self	NFSS 07 1735	2
7	Loretta Perez	Parson	NFSS 07 2262	1
8	Clarence Culwell	Zebra Hen CFW	NFSS 07 8207	
9	Paul Bourgeois	Dove Zebra		
10	Brianna Morrison	Pair Cherry Finch Fawn		
Best Unf.	Clarence Culwell	Diamond Firetail		
Best Nov.	Paul Bourgeois	Dove Zebra		
Best Jr.	Paul Bourgeois	Dove Zebra		

# The African Silverbill

Robert G. Black

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The African Silverbill was for many years one of the most common finch species in aviculture. However, their plain coloring of tan, brown and black worked to their disadvantage. Few breeders raised them, and dependable breeding strains of them were not established in the way that breeders developed good, dependable strains of the more colorful Australian grassfinches. As a result, when the African Silverbill was placed on Appendix III of the CITES agreement, the importation of this very common wild species into the United States ended. The existing birds in the hands of breeders and aviculturists nearly died out before a few dedicated breeders realized what was happening and began to make serious attempts to breed and to develop breeding strains of this species. Though importation is now open again on this species, they are still not common in American aviculture.

The general lack of interest in this species is evident in the fact that ornithologists,

breeders and fanciers have only applied two other common names to this species, calling the African Silverbill also the Warbling Silverbill and the Black-rumped Silverbill. In its native areas, you will find the African Silverbill in Africa through the area at the southern limits of the Sahara Desert from the Atlantic Ocean across Africa to the Indian Ocean, through much

of eastern Africa, and into the southern areas of Arabia.

Johann Friedrich Gmelin assigned the scientific name for the African Silverbill in 1789 in *Systema Naturae*, volume 1 (2), on page 859, as *Loxia cantans*. Through the following years, ornithologists attempting to classify all of the finches accurately placed the African Silverbill in a number of other genera, and in searching for information on this little bird, you may find it listed as *Aidemosyne cantans*, *Amadina cantans*, *Coccothraustes cantans*, *Estrellda cantans*, *Euodice cantans*, *Spermestes cantans*, or *Uroloncha cantans*. Also, for a considerable number of years, ornithologists believed this bird to be only a subspecies of the Indian Silverbill, and they classified the African Silverbill as *Lonchura malabarica cantans* or *Euodice malabarica cantans*. Most ornithologists now agree that the African Silverbill is a distinct species, and all recent texts classify this species in the genus *Lonchura* as *Lonchura cantans*. The nominate subspecies of the African

Silverbill is *Lonchura cantans cantans*, and it is found from the Atlantic coast and Senegal through central Africa to southern Sudan. Most ornithologists recognize one subspecies, *Lonchura cantans orientalis*, found in southern Arabia and eastern Africa.

For many years, ornithologists placed the African Silverbill in the traditional finch family Estrildidae. However, three men in the 1970's and 1980's studied avian specimens from an entirely new perspective: protein electrophoresis and DNA analysis. Charles G. Sibley and Jon E. Ahlquist in 1975 began making major revisions in the existing taxonomic structure, the organization of bird names, based on their techniques of DNA-DNA hybridization. In 1983, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., began correlating and computerizing this information, and in 1990 they published this as Sibley and Monroe's *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*. Sibley and Monroe followed this in 1993 with *A World Checklist of Birds*. Though the family Psittacidae (the parrots), as an example, survived with only generic changes, the families set up to classify the finches and other seed-eating birds were completely transformed, expanded and reorganized into only two families: Passeridae and Fringillidae. In this new classification system, ornithologists place the African Silverbill in the family Passeridae.

Sexing the African Silverbills is not easy, as the coloring on the male and the hen seems to be identical in every way. If you can catch the male doing his little mating display or better yet, if you can observe their actual mating, you can be sure that you have a true pair. The birds that I maintained for several years showed a slight difference in the shape of the head, however. If a bird showing

a head that seemed slightly squared was mated with a presumed hen with an evenly rounded skull, this invariably turned out to be a true pair. Whether all strains of these birds would show this slight difference will require a lot of future study.

Though African Silverbills are reasonably hardy little birds and usually will not accept any kind of insect food, they do need more than a standard finch seed mix in order to maintain them in the peak of health and condition. Keeping these finches in perfect health is largely a matter of their feeding and nutrition, as is true of all of the finches and other birds maintained in aviculture. The silverbills were always eager to accept the egg mix that I fed to all of the finches, canaries, budgies, doves and other birds in both cages and aviaries. This egg mix and the crumbled eggshells as a calcium source in addition to the seed mix was all that was required to keep the African Silverbills in perfect health. They will eat this calcium supplement instinctively whenever they feel the need to balance their intake of calcium and phosphorus. All of my own birds get this broken up eggshell as a daily supplement to their diet.

As is true with most of the finches in this family, the African Silverbills prefer a covered nest or nesting receptacle. In their native areas, they usually take over the old nest of a weaver and modify the weaver nest to suit their needs. As weavers usually nest in large groups in a tree, this often means that the African Silverbills are also nesting fairly closely together when they take over these abandoned nesting sites.

In aviculture, the African Silverbills will be willing to nest in either a cage or

an aviary, so long as they have a covered area in which to put their nest. For this purpose, you can use any standard finch nest box or the commercially available covered wicker nests. These finches will be happy to use anything that you have available, and I often raised them very successfully in the number 2½ food cans fastened up in their cage or aviary.

The only disadvantage to these cans is that they are not the warmest possible nesting site for the birds during cold weather. The metal conducts the heat away from the nest far too rapidly. A wooden nesting receptacle makes a much better insulated nesting site. However, from my own experience, so long as the temperature does not go below about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the finches will still be able to keep their eggs warm through a chilly night so that they will hatch normally. In areas where the temperatures frequently go below freezing during the night, these cans will conduct too much heat away from the nest and the eggs, and they will not hatch.

The poorest types of perches are unfortunately the most common, also. These are the dowel rods that are used in most cages. Though they are quite neat and attractive, they have no springiness nor variation in diameter to provide the birds' legs and feet with needed exercise. The best perches to use in both your cages and aviaries are those cut from natural tree branches. Choose a type of wood that does not have sticky sap that will get on the birds' feathers. Branches from apple, maple or oak are ideal and make perfect perches for the birds in either a cage or an aviary. A variety of other native and ornamental trees are also excellent for this purpose.

These tree branches are naturally springy, and they are a variety of sizes. The bouncy reaction when a bird lands on a perch of this type gives the bird's leg muscles vitally needed exercise. The varying sizes of the perches are necessary to give the birds' feet a variety of diameters for grasping, and this normal variation in diameter provides vital exercise for the finches' toes.

Once you have separated a true pair, the African Silverbills will choose a nesting site and will adjust and add nesting material to their liking. Supply the birds with dried grasses, coconut fiber, or any similar material for use as nesting material. Also, they may use the fur from rabbits or dogs to line their nest, or they might possibly use some small, soft, white feathers if you have them available.

When the nest is completed, the hen will lay her clutch of tiny white eggs. Though a clutch may vary in size from three to six eggs, the normal size for most pairs is a clutch of four eggs. The male and the hen will share the incubation duties, and one of the parent birds will be on the nest almost constantly once the clutch is completed. The incubation period for this species is very short, and the eggs will hatch in 11 or 12 days.

When they hatch, the silverbill nestlings have dark skin coloring and wide, gaping beaks, which they hold upright in order to receive the parents' feedings. Unlike many of the finches in this family, baby silverbills are not mute. You will hear their loud squawking and begging from the day they hatch. Most silverbill pairs are good parents and are dedicated to feeding the babies in the nest for as long as is necessary.

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Should you have a pair that will not feed their young, you can always raise your first clutches of them using Society Finches as foster parents for them. You may place the silverbill eggs in the foster nest either alone or together with Society Finch eggs, and the foster parents will take care of the silverbill babies alone or will hatch and rear the silverbills and their own babies concurrently.

Incidentally, if you maintain both Indian and African Silverbills and are unsure of which species of young have hatched, simply check the color of the fleshy edge of the young silverbill's beak. I have noted that the beak of the African Silverbill nestlings will show a very white edge. However, though they otherwise appear exactly the same, the beak of the young Indian Silverbills is edged in yellow.

You can maintain and breed African Silverbills in either a cage or an aviary of any size. These birds will be perfectly happy with a cage that is no more than 12 inches high, 12 inches deep, and

18 inches long. A larger flight cage will give them more space and more exercise, but it is not an absolute necessity. If you have a large flight cage available for them, or even a large aviary that contains other compatible species, they will also make good use of this additional space.

Despite the difficulty you will have in finding a pair of the African Silverbills, they are still an ideal bird for beginners. They are quite hardy, and will remain in good health despite the mistakes in maintenance that we all make when we begin keeping birds. If you can get pairs of them from a successful breeder at a reasonable price, by all means work with them and make every effort to breed them successfully and regularly. Aviculture needs all of the new adherents and breeders that can be found.

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# THE NFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 4th Quarter 2008 Meeting Minutes

- Bank Balance 12/1/08 - \$22,597.08
- Proposed 2009 Budget Accepted
- Met with potential new band supplier, awaiting further information
- Current Membership: 542
- Current Affiliations: 44
- 25 Year DVD made available for sale
- Sally Huntington will chair a committee to investigate new award options
- Census completed and available on line
- Sally Huntington will re-work Zebra Silhouette
- 25 yrs of Journals will be archived with Harvard University
- Bill Parlee to chair Election Committee in preparation for 2009 General Election
- ListServe established for NFSS Judges to facilitate effective communication
- 3 new persons have passed Judge's Test, will serve Apprenticeships
- Names of 3 judges presented to NCBS for 2009 – Laura Tinker, Paul Williams, Armondo Lee
- Historical show point information compiled for all exhibitors
- By Law Revision completed; will be published with ballot in upcoming Journal
- "Champion of Section" Committee dissolved
- Affiliations with AFA, ASA, and NAIA renewed
- Cecile Aguilera appointed Membership Director Pro-Tem
- Alfredo Bruggerras appointed Affiliations/Awards Manager Pro-Tem
- New Advertising Rates established
- Show Points at Regional Shows will be doubled
- OPEN POSITIONS: Membership Director, Affiliations/Awards Manager, Editor, Region 5 Vice-President

Complete, detailed notes on the 4th Quarter 2008 NFSS Board of Directors meeting can be found on the Society's web site under Board Reports, at [www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org). A hard copy may be requested by contacting the NFSS Executive Secretary:

Rebecca Mikel  
13779 US 12 E  
Union, MI 49130  
Phone: (269) 641-7209  
Email: [execsecretary@nfss.org](mailto:execsecretary@nfss.org)

# NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Liaison Officer - Alfredo Brugueras  
174 County Road | Mineola, TX 75773  
affiliations@nfss.org

*Note: Events may be held in states other than the home state of the club. Regional affiliates are those with no steady location, but should be checked for events near you.*

## Alabama

### Central Alabama Avicultural Society

Delegate: Jorge & Carmela Juez  
Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the Month  
Location: Montgomery Zoo/Quality Inn and Suites  
Info Contact: tedsexton@bellsouth.net

## California

### Central California Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Chryse Seeman  
Club website: [www.mycccb.org](http://www.mycccb.org)  
Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month  
Location: Manchini Hall, Modesto, CA  
Show/Expo: 55th Annual Finch & Canary Show October 25th, 2008  
Location: SOS Club, 819 Sunset Ave. Modesto, CA  
Info contact: Chryse Seeman  
[chryse95320@yahoo.com](mailto:chryse95320@yahoo.com)

### Finch Society of San Diego

Delegate: Sally Huntington  
Club website:  
[www.sandiegofinchsociety.com](http://www.sandiegofinchsociety.com)  
Meeting Schedule: Sundays 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, 10/26, 11/23  
Location: Elks Lodge 13219 Poway Rd. Poway, CA 92064  
Info contact: Sally Huntington  
[sallych@san.rr.com](mailto:sallych@san.rr.com)

### Herbert Ibarra Elementary Bird Club

Delegate: Scott Golden - teacher  
Club Email: [scottgoldensd@hotmail.com](mailto:scottgoldensd@hotmail.com)  
Meeting Schedule: Open  
Location: Herbert Ibarra Elementary

### Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Delegate: Shanna Dollarhide  
Club Email: [scvcebc@yahoo.com](mailto:scvcebc@yahoo.com)  
Club website: [www.santaclarabirdclub.org](http://www.santaclarabirdclub.org)  
Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the Month  
Location: Santa Clara, CA

Show/Expo: Annual Show Dec. 6, 2007  
Location: TBA  
Info contact: Shanna Dollarhide,  
[Shanna@coloronthewing.com](mailto:Shanna@coloronthewing.com)

### 4th Annual West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show

Show/Expo: July 24, 2009, Sales and Speaker / July 25, 2009, Bird Show  
Judge: Clarence Culwell  
Location: La Quinta Downtown, Sacramento, CA 200 Jibboom St. Sacramento, CA 916.448.8100  
Ask for 'birdshow' rate  
Details and more info: [www.efinch.com/show](http://www.efinch.com/show), or contact Chryse Seeman: [chryse95320@yahoo.com](mailto:chryse95320@yahoo.com)

## Colorado

### Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc

Delegate: Lisa McManus  
Club website: [www.rmsa-birds.org](http://www.rmsa-birds.org)  
Show/Expo: Fall Show, Nov 8-9th 2008  
Location: National Western Complex, Denver, CO  
Judge: Al Decoteau & Conrad Meinert

## Florida

### Cage Bird Club of Charlotte County

Delegate: Sue Pacheco  
Club Email: [pmhill@comcast.net](mailto:pmhill@comcast.net)  
Club website: [www.caged-bird-club.com](http://www.caged-bird-club.com)  
Meeting Schedule: 1st Friday of the Month  
Location: 20271 Tappen Zee Drive, Port Charlotte, FL  
Show/Expo: Bird Expo Mar. 30, 2008  
Location: Charlotte Fair Grounds

### Suncoast Avian Society

Delegate: Mari Howard  
Club website: [www.suncoastaviansociety.org](http://www.suncoastaviansociety.org)  
Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month  
Location: Moccasin Lake Park, Clearwater FL  
Show/Expo: Show Aug. 2, 2008  
Location: St Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N., St Petersburg, FL 34695  
Information contact: Mari Howard,  
[whoward7@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:whoward7@tampabay.rr.com)

### Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club

Delegate: Timothy McCormick,

email: tm50et@yahoo.com  
 Meeting Schedule: 4th Sunday of the Month 2 PM  
 Location: Port Salerno Civic Center, Stuart, FL  
 Show/Expo: Bird Fair Apr 6, 2008  
 Location: Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center

### Tri-State Avian Society

Delegate: Barry Laster  
 Club website: [tristateaviansociety.org](http://tristateaviansociety.org)  
 Meeting Schedule: 2nd Saturday of Month  
 Location: Tallahassee, FL  
 Show/Expo: Spring Bird Fair May 17-18, 2008  
 Location: North Florida Fairgrounds, 441 Paul  
 Russell Rd, Tallahassee  
 Info contact: Barry Laster,  
[BarryL7523@comcast.net](mailto:BarryL7523@comcast.net)

### Illinois

#### Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club

Delegate: Gail Benson  
 Club website: [www.fsbec.finchfiles.com](http://www.fsbec.finchfiles.com)  
 Meeting Schedule: 2nd Thurs. of the month  
 Location: Palatine, IL  
 Show/Expo: Annual Show Sept. 6th 2008  
 Location: Crowne Plaza, Mundelein, IL  
 Judge: Sally Huntington  
 Information contact: Gail Benson  
[gailsouldians@comcast.net](mailto:gailsouldians@comcast.net)

#### Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Diana Federl  
 Club Email: [info@gccbc.org](mailto:info@gccbc.org)  
 Club website: [www.gccbc.org](http://www.gccbc.org)  
 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Friday of the Month  
 Location: 215 S. Riverside, Lombard, IL  
 Show/Expo: GCCBC 77th Show Nov 1, 2008  
 Location: DuPage Expo Center  
 Information contact: [president@gccbc.org](mailto:president@gccbc.org)

#### The Avicultural Society of

Chicagoland  
 Delegate: Jason Crean  
 Club Email: [tascchicago@aol.com](mailto:tascchicago@aol.com)  
 Club website: [www.tascchicago.org](http://www.tascchicago.org)  
 Meeting Schedule: Months with 5 Fridays at 7:30PM  
 Location: Lombard Log cabin, Lombard, IL  
 Show/Expo: Midwest Bird Expo April 2009  
 Location: Wheaton, IL  
 Info contact: Jason Crean  
[tascchicago@aol.com](mailto:tascchicago@aol.com)

#### National Institute of Red Orange Canaries

Delegate: Steve Hopman  
 Show/Expo: NIROC Annual Show  
 November 29th 2008  
 Location: Waterford Banquet & Conference Center,  
 933 S. Riverside Drive, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
 Info Contact: James Fessel [jdcafessel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdcafessel@sbcglobal.net)

#### International Asociacion de Criadores de Finches de Este Inc.

Delegate: Ernesto Polidura  
 Contact: Rurico Vidal  
 Phone: (787) 653-7322  
 Show/Expo: 2008 Summer National Show June  
 27-29, 2008 Show entries are received on Friday  
 the 27th from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Place:  
 Plaza del Carmen Mall Caguas, P.R.  
 Judge: Mr. Alfredo Bruguera  
 Show: 2008 Winter National Show November  
 7-9, 2008 Place: TBD  
 Judge: Mrs. Martha Wigmore

#### Canadian Finch and Softbill Society

Delegate: Vince Moase  
 Club Email: [vmoase@rogers.com](mailto:vmoase@rogers.com)  
 Show/Expo: Show Nov. 8-9 2008  
 Location: Brampton Fair Grounds 12942 Hearlake  
 Rd. Brampton, Ontario  
 Judge: Allen Bennett, England. - Zebra Finches  
 Grant Rishman, Victoria, B.C. - Finches and Softbills

#### Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Delegate: Alfred Mion  
 Club website: [www.essexkentcbs.com](http://www.essexkentcbs.com)  
 Show/Expo: Show Sept. 28, 2008  
 Location: Fogolar Furlan Club,  
 Windsor, Canada  
 Information contact: Alfred Mion,  
[julianne@mnsi.net](mailto:julianne@mnsi.net)

### Iowa

#### Mid America Cage Bird Society

Delegate: John Thielking  
 Club website: [www.MACBS.org](http://www.MACBS.org)  
 Meeting Schedule: 4th Sunday of the Month  
 Location: Des Moines Botanical Center 909 Robert  
 D Ray Drive  
 Show/Expo: Bird Fairs, March 23, May 18,  
 August 24, 2008  
 Location: Des Moines Botanical Center  
 Info contact: John Thielking,  
[Thielking@iowalink.com](mailto:Thielking@iowalink.com)

### Maryland

#### Baltimore Bird Fanciers

Delegate: Robert Mehl  
 Club website: [www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org](http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org)  
 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month except  
 May & Oct 2PM  
 Location: Towson Public Library,  
 Baltimore County  
 Show/Expo: Spring Mart and Finch Show May  
 17, 2008  
 Location: Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville,  
 MD 21234

Judge: Cecil Gunby  
 Info contact: Robert Mehl,  
 robert.mehl@verizon.net

### Maryland All Canary Club

Delegate: Jonathan Smith  
 Club website:  
 geocities.com/heartland/3575/macc.html  
 Meeting Schedule: 4th Sunday of the Month  
 Location: Varies  
 Show/Expo: Show Oct. 4, 2008  
 Location: TBD  
 Judge: Miki Sparzak  
 Info contact: Jonathan Smith  
 jonbsmith@cox.net

### Massachusetts

#### Massachusetts Cage Bird Association

Delegate: Tom Keegan  
 Club website: www.masscagebird.org  
 Show/Expo: Show Oct. 18, 2008  
 Location: TBD  
 Judge: Nizam Ali

### Michigan

#### Great Lakes Zebra and Society Finch Club

Delegate: Rebecca Mikel  
 Club website:  
 greatlakeszebra&societyfinchclub.com  
 Show/Expo: Show Aug 23, 2008  
 Location: Livonia, MI  
 Info contact: Jim Heffernan,  
 tielnmore@aol.com

#### Michigan Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Club Email: tielnmore@aol.com  
 Club website: www.societyofcanaryandfinchbreedersofmichigan.com

### Minnesota

#### Canary Club of Minnesota

Delegate: Jeanne Murphy,  
 pinataminiatures@yahoo.com  
 Club website: canaryclub.su.com  
 Show/Expo: Show Oct 18, 2008  
 Location: River Heights Motel, 1020 US Hwy 10  
 Prescott, WI 1715-262-3266  
 Information contact: Darlene Witt,  
 pinataminiatures@yahoo.com

### Missouri

#### Gateway Parrot Club

Delegate: Christine Kinkade  
 Club website: gatewayparrotclub.org  
 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month, June 2nd, Aug. no meeting 2PM

Location: Kirkwood Community Center, 11115  
 Geyer Rd, Kirkwood, MO  
 Show/Expo: All-American Hookbill Fair  
 Aug 23-24, 2008  
 Location: Greensfelder Reception  
 Complex, Queeny Park, Baldwin, MO  
 Info contact: Phyllis Cotton  
 vicepresident@gatewayparrotclub.com

### Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Delegate: Anthony Day  
 Club website: www.kcas.org  
 Show/Expo: GKCAS Bird Fair Oct. 18th 2008  
 Location: Coronation of Our Lady Church, 1300  
 Bennington, Grandview, Mo 64030

### New Hampshire

#### Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

Delegate: Raymond Schwartz  
 Club website: www.boaf.com  
 Meeting Schedule: 2nd Monday of the Month  
 Location: Villa Crest Retirement Center,  
 Manchester, NH  
 Show/Expo: 21st Annual Fall Show & Mart  
 Oct. 25th 2008  
 Location: NH National Guard Amory, Nashua, NH  
 Info contact: Ray Schwartz,  
 president@boaf.com

### New York

#### Empire Finch & Canary Club

Delegate: John Lund, (516) 564-4692,  
 email: IRMANPEREZ@aol.com  
 Show/Expo: Show Nov 8, 2008  
 Location: St. Marks Methodist Church, 200  
 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Center, NY  
 Judge: Robert Vargo  
 Info contact: Gabe Dillon 516-593-2841  
 Other Divisions: Colorbred, Type, Fife, and  
 Gloster Canaries

#### New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Delegate: Stan Kulak  
 Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the Month  
 except holidays  
 Location: Averill Blvd. Park, Elmont (Long Island), NY  
 Show/Expo: Annual Show September 27, 2008  
 St. Judes Church (Coyne Hall),  
 1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn, NY  
 Judge: Laura Tinker  
 Info contact: Stan Kulak  
 barstand@aahawk.com

### North Carolina

#### Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society

Delegate: James Dvorak  
 Club website: www.RDCBS.org

Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month  
at 2:30 PM

Location: Glen Eden Pilot Park, Raleigh

Show/Expo: Fair and Show 5/24/08

Location: NC State Fairgrounds

Judge: Cecil Gunby & Ken Gunby

Info contact: John Marquis,

john@jamcosys.com

Other Divisions: 2 shows in one day

## Oregon

### Columbia Canary Club

Delegate: KJ and Linda Brown

Show/Expo: Bird Show Nov 8-9 2008

Location: National Guard Armory,

10101 SE Clackamas Rd, Clackamas, OR

Judge: Alfredo Bruguera

Info contact: Linda Brown 503-266-7606

JeepeersPeepers55@aol.com

Other Divisions: Type and Colorbred Canary

## Pennsylvania

### Chester County Bird Club

Delegate: Doris Rickards

Club Email: Info@ccbirdclub.com

Club website: www.ccbirdclub.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sun. of the month

Location: East Whiteland Township Bldg

Show/Expo date: 20th Annual Show & Mart

November 8th, 2008

Location: Church Farm School, 1001 East Lincoln

Highway, Exton, PA

Info contact: Doris Rickards

Info@ccbirdclub.com

## Tennessee

### SE Tennessee Aviculture Society

Delegate: Susan Murphy

Club website: www.stasbirdclub.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the month

Location: Niota Elementary School

Niota, TN

Show/Expo: Fall Show & Fair NFSS Region 2 Finch

& Softbill Show, Sept 27-28, 2008

Location: George R. Stuart School,

Cleveland, TN 37312

Info contact: Lisa Murphy

wlmurphy@usit.net

Other Divisions: NCS, NAPS

## Texas

### Canary & Finch Society

Delegate: Mary Hearn

Club Website: canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the month

Location: See Website for directions

Show/Expo: Annual Show Oct. 11, 2008

Location: Sheraton North Houston 281-442-5100  
or Tollfree reg. 800-325-3535

Judge: Cecil Gunby

Info contact: Mary Hearn mlshearn@comcast.net

409-744-3141

### Fort Worth Bird Club

Delegate: Clarence Culwell

Club website: www.fwbc.org

Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday of the month

Location: Botanical gardens, Fort Worth TX

Show/Expo: 55th Annual All Bird

Show Region 4 NFSS Show 11/27/2008

Location: Grapevine Convention Center

Judge: Ken Gunby

Info contact: Jerry Casor show@fwbc.org

### Texas Bird Breeders

Delegate: Clarence Culwell

Club website: ww.texasbirdbreeders.org

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly

Location: Varies

Show/Expo: Fair and Show 1/8/2008

Location: Mayborn Convention Center, Temple TX

Judge: Laura Bewley

Info contact: Clarence Culwell,

coculwell@wccs.net

## Virginia

### Pennisula Caged Bird Society

Delegate: Peggy Duval

Club website:

www.vapennisulacagedbirdsociety.org

Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the Month

Location: Columbia Center, 12742 Nettles Dr.,

Newport News, VA

Show/Expo: Fall Bird Mart Cockatiel & NFSS Show

Nov. 1st, 2008

Location: Columbia Center, 12742 Nettles Dr.,

Newport News, VA

Info contact: finchbreeder@earthlink.net

## Washington

### Cascade Canary Breeders Association

Delegate: Janel Johnson

Meeting Schedule: 3rd Sunday of the month

Location: 120 West Sunset Way,

Issaquah, WA 98027

Show/Expo: Finch & Canary show

Nov 29-30 2008

Location: Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA

Info contact: Janel Johnson,

Katbird57@aol.com

## Wisconsin

### Central Wisconsin Cage and Exotic Bird Connection

Delegate: Marlene Minor  
Club website: [www.cwwcbc.us/bc/](http://www.cwwcbc.us/bc/)  
Show/Expo: Annual Bird & Garden Fair May 24, 2008  
Location: Marshfield Fairgrounds  
Information contact: Marlene Minor [mminor@ids.net](mailto:mminor@ids.net)

## Regional/National

### American Dove Association

Delegate: Denny Stapp  
Club Website: [www.doveline.com](http://www.doveline.com)  
Show/Expo: ADA @ the Nutritional Young Bird Show Oct. 18th, 2008  
Location: Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville KY  
Judge: Smith - Ringnecks Ken Becker- Diamonds  
Info contact: Stapp  
[secretary@doveline.com](mailto:secretary@doveline.com)

### Avicultural Society of America

Delegate: Sheri Hanna  
Club Website: [www.asabirds.org](http://www.asabirds.org)  
Info contact: Sheri Hanna [turacoldy@aol.com](mailto:turacoldy@aol.com) 805-208-1759

## Southeast Bird Fanciers

Delegate: Ginny Allen  
Club website: [www.members.tripod.com/sebfg/](http://www.members.tripod.com/sebfg/)  
Location: Varies  
Information contact: Ginny Allen  
[gndallen@bellsouth.net](mailto:gndallen@bellsouth.net)

## Affiliate Clubs have

### Exclusive NFSS Benefits

- FREE advertising in the journal for NFSS regional shows
- Complimentary Listings for club location, contacts, meeting dates, events and/or shows
- Receive the NFSS Journal for club archives and for article reprints.
- Buy NFSS logo awards for shows.
- Show results displayed on the NFSS Website.

Fill out the Affiliation Agreement on the NFSS website  
[www.nfss.org/affil/affiliationform.html](http://www.nfss.org/affil/affiliationform.html)

# The New York Finch & Type Canary Club

*(Supports the Goals of Both NFSS and AFA)*

We meet the second Sunday of every month (Except July & August) and have a Feather SHow in June (for young bred and banded birds) and a large Annual Show in September. Our President is an NFSS Judge and we have many outstanding breeders in our group. For friendship, fun, & education, join us.

**Contact: Stan (718) 967-6899 ([barstand@aaahawk.com](mailto:barstand@aaahawk.com))  
Nizam (Pres.) (718) 835-8590**

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Currently Vacant

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membership@nfss.org

## **NFSS Journal Editor**

Currently Vacant  
Contact 2nd V.P. Tom Keegan  
about journal matters  
editor@nfss.org

## **Legislative Liaison**

Roland Cristo  
legis@nfss.org

## **New Liaison/Awards Director**

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affiliations@nfss.org