

Nominations Sought for the National Aviculturist Recognition Award (NARA)

The National Finch and Softbill Society is currently seeking nominations for the **National Aviculturist Recognition Award (NARA)**. The NARA was established to recognize Finch and Softbill Society (FSS) participants who have developed a program of avian breeding success involving sequential generations of rare, endangered, difficult-to-breed, or CITES-listed birds.

The NARA is a multi-level award program with minimum requirements as follows:

Level B (First Step)

1. The aviculturist must be a member of FSS for 2 years.
2. Detailed genealogical records must be kept.
3. Four generations of birds must be closed-banded and/or documentation must be provided in the form of a pedigree. (This requirement may be eased for long-lived softbill species at the discretion of the NARA Committee).
4. References are preferred but not required.

Level A (Full NARA Award)

1. The aviculturist must have already earned the Level B NARA Award in a previous year.
2. A written protocol on how the success was accomplished with enough detail that another aviculturist could follow the same protocol and replicate it with success must be submitted to the NARA Committee before NARA voting.
3. An article for publication in the NFSS Journal must be submitted to the Committee describing the breeding program protocol submitted above as well as the information garnered about this species.
4. Written references from at least three NFSS members who have seen the nominee's setup and birds must be provided. Ideally, such references should describe the candidate's qualifications, community involvement, and accomplishments. Much weight will be placed on the quality of these references and the information they provide.

Additional Criteria

The requirements listed above are the minimum breeding experience and documentation required to be eligible for the award, but they are not the deciding factor for receiving the award. The NARA is designed to be a very prestigious award that is difficult to achieve. We are seeking candidates who have done exceptional things in the field of aviculture and who have shared that experience with the

community to better aviculture. They may do that in many different ways. They may show their birds and share them with the community, teaching others about them. They may judge bird shows and share their knowledge with exhibitors of all experience levels. They may write for publications. They may speak at events such as expos, conventions, shows, and bird clubs. They may organize bird groups, volunteer for bird organizations, or assist with organized conservation efforts. The possibilities are infinite.

In short, candidates should be individuals who (1) have experience and have demonstrated success working with their birds, (2) contribute to aviculture in a relevant way by working with species that are rare or difficult, and (3) share their knowledge with the avicultural community in a way that helps the community to grow and thrive.

How to Nominate a Candidate

1. Any NFSS member may nominate a candidate for the NARA.
2. Verify the candidate's eligibility to ensure they meet the minimum requirements for the award.
3. Explain how the candidate meets the additional criteria described above in a letter or e-mail with the submission.
4. Submit the required documents and references to the Finch and Softbill Save Director before the NFSS Board of Directors 3rd quarter board meeting (candidates for the Full NARA Award need not resubmit Level B documentation).
5. Nominations with incomplete documentation at the time of the 3rd Quarter BOD Meeting will not be considered for the award that year.

Selection Process

1. Candidates will be presented to the Board of Directors at the 3rd Quarter BOD Meeting, along with all the paperwork submitted on their behalf.
2. The Board of Directors will discuss the candidates.
3. The Board of Directors will select 0-3 candidates to receive the Level B award.
6. The Board of Directors will select 1 candidate to receive the Level A Full NARA if there is an outstanding and worthy candidate who is ready for the award.
7. Award recipients will be announced at the Annual Member Meeting.

Send Nominations To

E-mail: 3rdVP@NFSS.org