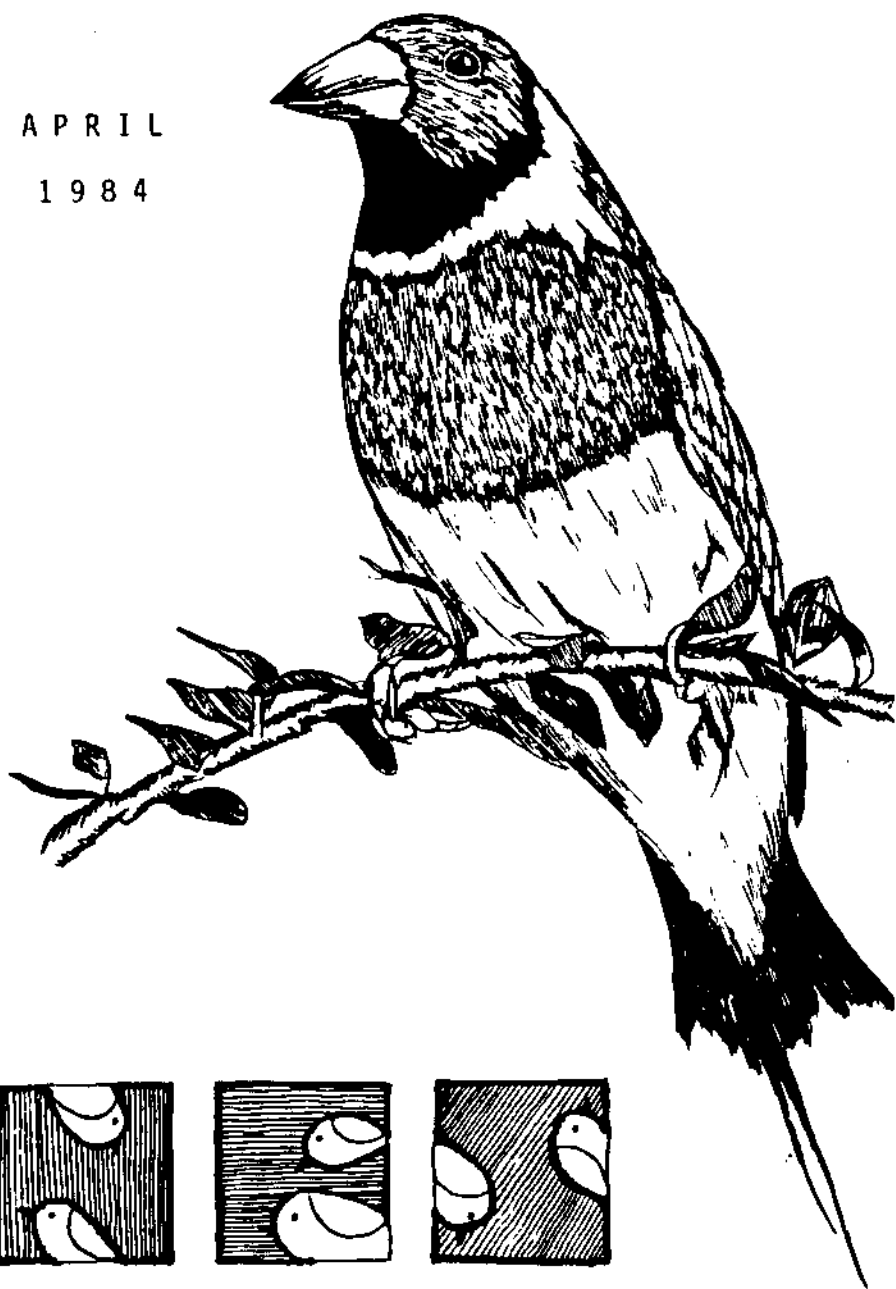


A P R I L

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April, 1984

Charter Issue

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President	William G. Parlee
1st Vice President	Dr. A. E. Decoteau
2nd Vice President	Kelly S. Dahill
Cores. Secretary	. . . . .	Jerry D'Agata
Treasurer	. . . . .	Russell Armitage Jr.
Liaison Officer	. . . . .	Nancy A. Reed

Appointed Officers

Show Chairman	. . . . .	Tony M. Patterson
AFA Delegate	. . . . .	Nancy A. Reed
Editor	. . . . .	William G. Parlee
Publicity	. . . . .	Russell Armitage

We hope to see this page grow so that we may give credit to the many for all the jobs that need doing for a truly successful society.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For years I have listened to people say "Why not", well now there is a National Finch Society. What it will be is what you will make it. If you have always wanted one now is your chance to jump on the bandwagon and make your Society a giant success.

I would personally like to thank all those who have given of their time and energies to complete the work that has been done so far. We have so far to go, we have recieved much encouragement from around the country. We need your support. If you can help, let us know.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, April 15, 1984

The second quarterly Executive Board meeting of the Northeast Finch Society was held Sunday, April 15, 1984 at the home of Nancy Reed in Windsor, Ct. Present for the meeting was President Bill Parlee, Kelly Dahill, Nancy Reed, Jerry D'Agata, Russ Armitage and Tony Patterson. Dr. Decoteau was on a speaking engagement out of state.

The Secretary's report and Treasurer's reports from the previous quarterly meeting were read and accepted. Russ then gave the Treasurer's report for April 15, 1984 showing a balance in our checking account of \$370.06. Expenses for the past three months were for AFA affiliation, postage and printing and totaled \$122.07.

Bill briefly discussed the memberships and affiliations that had come in, and expressed his appreciation for the amount of support that has been shown to date by all of those contacted. Presently the Connecticut Assoc. for Aviculture, the New Hampshire Cage Bird Assoc., the Boston Society for Aviculture, the Long Island Cage Bird Assoc. and the Maryland Cage Bird Assoc. have affiliated. Western New England, Mass. Cage Bird and The Harrisburg club are considering affiliation. Individual memberships now span the eastern seaboard from New Hampshire to Fla., and westward to Indiana with the membership of Dr. Val Clear. The NFS is proud to welcome Dr. Clear as a member and is grateful to him for his offer to help us in any way he can.

The first item to come up for discussion and vote was the possibility of becoming a National organization now rather than waiting until after our first show. A great deal of discussion went on with all the pros and cons brought out. Many of our new members expressed the need for a truly national organization and by placing the present barricades at state lines was actually hindering that eventuality. Dr. Clear stated that the Northeast label might create future problems with re-tooling and a basic misconception of our goals.

Nancy expressed concern regarding the speed at which we are growing, stating that trying to control a national organization from a small area of the country will be difficult. She also pointed out the problems other organizations have had regarding recognition as national when all officers were in one locale. Bill stated he thought that would take care of itself after the next general elections, if the membership felt they would like the officerships spread more evenly around the country. At the present those promoting the club happen to be located in the northeast, so for the time being that's where the officers are. He also suggested that as the organization truly becomes national the decentralization of officers would take place naturally.

It was further stated that officerships were for a two year period, and that in that period of time the club should be well on its way to running efficiently and with key people around the country able to continue that process.

Russ and Kelly stated that we seem to be becoming national in scope without even trying and should probably capitalize on that momentum and change our name now to the National Finch Society, and grow as we can.

Tony said that increased mailing around the country was not all that much additional work. He said in regard to the bulletin, putting it together is the work, not how many people it gets mailed to.

We discussed the cost to re-tool, new cards and stationery, etc. It was decided that it was negligible as more stationery would have to be printed soon anyway and that there was little else that would be a cost factor in the conversion.

Kelly mentioned that we could improve our resources from both a financial aspect as well as expanding our base of knowledge by taking advantage of the support that is being offered from other parts of the country.

At that point Tony Patterson made a motion that we go "national" and change our name to the National Finch Society. Russ seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the matter passed with one dissenting vote.

WE ARE NOW THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY!

The matter of our AFA affiliation was taken up and Jerry stated he was preparing the forms for our affiliation. He asked that we consider a delegate to AFA. Nancy was asked if she would be willing to represent us as she would be the one most likely to attend AFA meetings. She agreed to take on the job temporarily.

Bill reviewed the benefits of our affiliation with the American Federation of Aviculture.

Tony was then asked for a progress report on our first national show. He stated that arrangements had been made with the Park Plaza Hotel in New Haven, Conn. for our show on November 10, 1984. Both he and Kelly Dahill visited the Park Plaza to go over the terms and arrangements with the hotel management and to view the show room.

Tony also stated that requests for ads for our catalog have already been sent out to prospective advertisers. Tony pointed out that we were lucky to have a computer at our disposal to process show catalog information. He also stated that he was sure the computer is a big help for the membership records as well. Continuing with the show, Kelly mentioned that he and Tony were presently working on the plaques and trophies.

Jerry pointed out that he has attended several events at the Park Plaza and was always happy with the way the management cooperated with the organizations involved to make each event successful.

Bill and Nancy thought we should make it very clear in our notes on the show that the Park Plaza is an inner city hotel but is very easy to get to, right off the highway exit and with a parking garage attached to and under the hotel. Exhibitors attending the show could even go underground and bring their birds into the show through the elevators located under the hotel thus alleviating security and weather problems.

The hotel is part of Chapel Square Mall and in close proximity to Macy's, Yale and the Peabody Museum. Bill felt this would be an attraction to those traveling with exhibitors who did not wish to spend the whole day at the show.

Bill asked that all necessary arrangements be made for promoting the show through ads in ACBM and other publications, as well as letters to all affiliated clubs.

Finalization of the discussion on the show took place with the matters of the banquet, room rates, hospitality room, back bench stewarding, show security and sponsorships of awards being covered.

A very brief discussion was held on trading show ads with affiliated shows. This matter was approved.

The board reviewed the correspondence that had come in and generally agreed that it was a positive indication of the interest that there is today in finches and softbilled birds. Alice Grove of Boston has offered to make posters and to write articles for the bulletin. We thank Alice for this type of support.

A detailed discussion was held on the newsletter's progress and the need for informative articles. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes transcribed from tape.

The National Finch
Society

Coming in the July issue these
important articles

Standards for Zebra and Society Finches

NFS Judging Technics

The balance of Species Classifications

Nutrition and Breeding Articles

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

Nancy A. Reed

For anyone out there who knows me, you're saying--"What's a nice Cockatiel girl like you doing in a Finch/Softbill club like this?" Well then, you don't know me! I first caught the bird disease from Finches and Softbills back in 1968. Actually I was deep into orchids, crysanthemums, and tomatoes in our 9'X 12' lean-to greenhouse. Such a lush, tropical setting it was...way back then. How nice it would be to have a bird singing in such an environment!

To make a long story short, birds started outnumbering plants, plant benches were replaced by flights, greenhouse was expanded for further flights, and now one stubborn asparagus fern somehow survives.

Realize that back in the late sixties, the only "aviculturist" publication I was aware of was the "American Cage Bird Magazine". Interest has come a long way baby since then! Bird related items such as styles of cages; variety and quality of seed and feed; specifically oriented bird vitamins (we used dog and human baby vitamins then); and breeding, nutrition, personal and professional information are now made available to old and new aviculturists in five publications reaching national attention, plus many local and "specialty" clubs' newsletters and bulletins. The aviculture experience has mushroomed a thousand fold since I started fifteen years ago!

While educational information has increased, so have prices. Part of this is due to overall inflation over the years, part to importation and quarantine regulations and resulting expenses, and part to the law of supply and demand due to the increased interest in birds.

Finches and Softbills unfortunately have been on the tail end of the avicultural upswing. Years ago they were easier and less expensive to import, and therefore little knowledge was accumulated about breeding requirements. Even today, Softbill breeding is in its infancy due to the necessity for a more complicated diet and facilities which may be beyond the average bird fancier to supply.

Imports of Finches and Softbills have decreased because they are less hardy and thus survival rates lower due to stress in shipping and quarantine, and feeding requirements are more critical and complex. Importers would rather risk their bucks on a safer investment. One can hardly dispute such logic.

Therefore, Finches and Softbills offer the greatest challenge today in aviculture aside from various U.S. zoological facilities breeding Penguins and Whooping Cranes, etc. Breeding of the rarer Finches and hopefully Softbills could be within the ability and range of the average hobbyest, but knowledge through experience is needed and the results shared! This is the major concern in forming the National Finch Society. This group was formed because the interest exists, but existing experience and knowledge has had no organized center. Let's start!

Realize that until 1978 all Hookbills, and Finches and Softbills at the National Cage Bird Shows were grouped into two Divisions under one judge. Canaries continue to make up eight Divisions, and Budgies one. We are called "Foreign and Hookbills". Apples and oranges lumped together. Basically considered a token nod to "odd ball" species: The National Side Show!

But nationally organized societies for both Cockatiels (American Cockatiel Society) and Lovebirds (African Love Bird Society) were recognized and given separate Division status in 1978 and 1979 respectively. Entries increased from thirty or so per species to 100 or better!

Finches and Softbills had 113 entries in the Foreign Division of the 1983 National Cage Bird Show in Denver. They are still judged with the remaining Hookbill Division by one person.

I think the National Cage Bird Show organization should progress to one Hookbill judge and a separate Foreign judge. Most shows that I have attended in the last few years on the east coast and in the mid-west, have had separate judges for each. Occasionally a Cockatiel judge will work both the Hookbills and Cockies, which is within reason for someone experienced in all Parrot-type birds. At least the entries are all apples, just different varieties. But it astounds me how anyone can be knowledgeable in the hundreds of different species involved to judge apples (Psittacines), oranges (Softbills), and grapes (Finches)! I can think personally of only about five people in the U.S. capable of such a feat. Just imagine anyone knowing all the species' identification, personal and behavioral traits, proper coloration, rarity, degree of difficulty in making a competitive show bird, etc.!

I have undieing respect for Hookbill and Foreign bird judges. And a feather in your cap for anyone placing under a knowledgeable judge in these classifications! Ne "specialty" judges that work with only a certain type Canary, or Budgies, or Cockatiels, etc. need only to look at ONE species of bird! Imagine narrowing down a Finch/Softbill entry to an immaculate Pagoda Mynah, a superb Zebra Finch (extensive breeding of this bird has increased its perfection), and a Parrot Finch who's feathers are characteristicly rough, but otherwise faultless. How would you place them?

So here we are, a small nucleus of workers with a cause and a dream. We've taken the first step, and response from club affiliations plus individuals has encouraged us. The interest and support is real!

This is our charter bulletin--obviously not crammed full of everything you always wanted to know. We need HELP! We need articles. We need members who will contribute--give, not just sit back and take. Ne, and Uncle Sam, need YOU!

Our bulletin will decide our success as an organization. Membership will dwindle quickly if it must repetitively read all the above. I haven't saved a single bird by offering information on diet, breeding techniques--anything basic to survival.

Hey, you don't even have to write an article. Many people panic when faced with a blank sheet of paper. Maybe a member doesn't feel he/she has enough material

for a full fledged article (pun intended). Maybe you just have a small morsel to share: a style nest that has proven successful for a species, a recipe for nestling food, a cost or time saving idea. how you got into this madness, handfeeding advice, or a problem that some member could answer, etc. I will combine all these tidbits under the appropriate title: "Droppings". Send your two sentences, or paragraph to: Nancy A. Reed, 55 Sunnyfield Dr., Windsor, Ct. 06095.

Please help N.F.S. to become what you want and need. It is most necessary now to give credibility and foundation to our growth. And a BIG THANKS to all clubs and individuals who have already shown their interest and support!



**BEST
WISHES**

Nancy A. Reed
55 Sunnyfield Dr.
Windsor, Ct. 06095

203 · 688 · 4069





Almost everyone who acquires a pair of these lovely birds would be most pleased if they would breed for them, not only for the joy of it, but to recoup some of the cost of the original pair.

I thought in this charter issue of the National Finch Society newsletter, I would write an article chronicling my original experiences with Lady Gouldians. I do not claim to be an expert at breeding the Goulds, but this information may prove to be of benefit to some in the hobby. Possibly someone out there can write more on this subject in a future issue and be more informative.

Let's get into it. It is of course necessary for you to have a pair of Goulds, not too hard to check as there are obvious dimorphic differences. If you have several pairs you may notice one pair that has paired off, has been copulating, or is chasing other birds away. This is a good sign that these birds may be ready to breed. Time should not be wasted, get right to setting the cage or flight up for them to start their honeymoon.

My Goulds have bred and raised young in two types of nests, the large hooded wicker nests and the typical wooden nest box. Goulds I have found are not really sure what they want to breed in, so provide them with different types of nests so they may choose what suits each pair best. Many breeders have told me that their Goulds only breed in boxes. Mine have nearly always chosen the large wicker hooded nest. Give them some type of nesting materials: threads or millet spray shafts are great. They will pick and choose probably some of both.

Nutrition is an important part of the success of your breeding attempts. I feed my finches a standard fresh seed mix consisting of white and yellow millet, flax, canary seeds and thistle. From time to time I supplement this mix with hemp, shelled sunflower (hearts) and hulled oats. Lady Gouldians require a little more protein in their diets so the hemp, thistle and canary seed is important.

Other foods are fed regularly, such as Petamine conditioning food, halved hard boiled eggs, millet sprays and of course sprouted seeds. I have found that the Gould basically won't go after greens placed in the cage, but will regularly accept freshly spouted seeds. It is most

important to see to it that the freshly sprouted seeds do not spoil or turn mouldy. Spoiled seed can cause systemic bacterial problems that are difficult to cure.

Of the food items mentioned you will need a large supply of millet sprays as the Goulds will devour them almost immediately upon placement in the flight. This is good as the spray millet is higher in protein than the normal white or yellow millets.

Assuming you have provided for the nests and the proper diet, your finches should get together and start a family. Gouldians lay eggs every day or within 30 hour intervals. They normally lay three or four eggs, however I have had as many as six. The hen will start serious incubation only after she has laid all of the eggs. She will do most of the sitting with the cock sharing some of the sitting duties but only during the daylight hours.

This is probably a good time to bring up the story of Lady Gouldians always deserting their nests to go and breed again elsewhere. Many people have experienced this problem so its a good idea to have a good pair of Society finches to foster for them. I personally have had this happen only once. The one time, the Societies did an excellent job of rearing the young. This brings about another story of deficient parenting of the Goulds, which I have found true. It has been normal for my pairs to raise only some of the babies, leaving others to die. I cannot give a reason for this practice, but it seems that if I have three eggs they'll raise two babies, and if its six eggs they'll raise only three or four. Four babies is the maximum I have ever gotten from one nest.

Once the eggs start to hatch (about 14 days) the male will become more active in the care of the young, doing most of the feeding. This is where your supplementation of vitamins and other foodstuffs becomes even more important. Mineral supplements and cuttlebone should be done on a continuing basis long before breeding is initiated, to get your birds into top shape for the arduous task of raising young. Once the babies fledge (five to six weeks) it will be impossible to sex them as they are just drab brown little birds until they start their moult, after which time you will have no difficulty in sexing them. Good luck. . .

BEST WISHES



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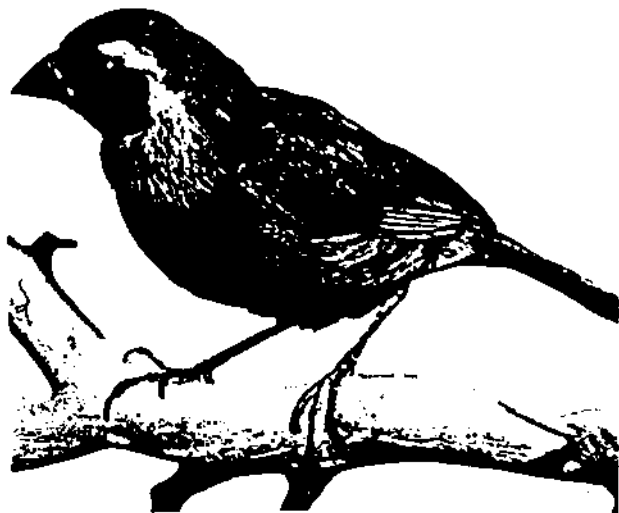
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THE CUBAN MELODIOUS FINCH (Tiaris Canora)
anonymous

Most aviculturist are familiar with the description of the Cuban Melodious Finch. The male and female have olive green backs. The male has an intense black face with a bright broad yellow bib, almost collar. The female's face is the same as that of the youngsters, what would be called pumpkin. I believe that the time in juvenile plumage probably differs between the seasons in which youngsters are produced. The chest is a less intense shade of black on the male and grayish olive on the female.

Breeding season can be any time, so perhaps best is summer when the weather is stable, but before it becomes outright hot. Winter breeding is for gamblers, so I have never attempted it. Egg binding could probably be a common problem for winter breeders. Of course, they don't have frost in Cuba, so these birds are not used to semi-cold climates.

Aviary size is not really important. When Melodious want to breed they seem to accomplish the task quite successfully. Materials used will be grass for the frame and feathers for the insulation. My most productive pair at this time are using the site of a tumble weed,



so nest inspection is impossible. Others use wood boxes, or the famous "Brooks" wire nest. Melodious eat the standard Finch mixtures and spend a great deal of time on the bottom seeking out seeds and small insects.

Watch out for Temperament, the Melodious will kill any other male bird at any time in their life. It may be the black they get excited about or is it yellow, I don't remember at this time. This means no Black cheeks, other

species of Tiaris, etc. in the aviary. I would not try to put in any type of black or blackish bird. There is probably a territorial factor involved, but I have never crowded them so I don't know of this personally. There is no point in crowding your birds. Keep the ones you like and be happy. Crowded flights become headaches instead of a pleasure.

There is a whole family of finches that include more than just the popular Melodious that are virtually unknown to aviculture here in the states. Closely related you have the Black Faced Grassquit and Olive which can be found in this country. The Black Faced looks like a Melodious without the yellow bib. The Olive could almost be described as a clash between the two having a yellow and black bib. Closely related to these are the Jacarinas. The male Jacarina has such a deep deep blue that in the dark of outside light it appears black - - simply gorgeous. There is one successfully breeder of these right now in the north of California.

One thing that cannot be overstressed is that birds are individuals. To describe one person is obviously not a description of the whole human race and the same can be said for finches. You can have any of the Tiaris finches breeding happily in a small confined environment and other pairs not happy at all. The same can be said for temperament. Some are more tolerant than others. You may come across one or two Melodious that will beat the tar out of any bird, the possibilities are endless.

Of all the Tiaris, the Olive has the most unique and friendly personality, harming no one, but yet one afternoon a male courting around the aviary looking for a wife hopped right up to an innocent by-stander that happened to be a Bourke Parakeet and quickly pulled out a chest feather for display purposes. If that innocent by-stander had been a Toucan the scene would not have been innocent.

The above article reprinted from the San Diego Finch Society newsletter.

These are the actual species classifications for the National Finch Society National Show, and accompanying award schedules.

DIVISION 1 - Zebra Finches

Section 1

- Normal Zebras
1101 Male gray
1102 Hen gray
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 2

- White Zebras
1201 All White
1202 Chestnut Flanked
1203 Silvers
1204 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 3

- Other Varieties
1301 Fawn
1302 Penguin
1303 Pied
1304 Crested
1305 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette
Division Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

DIVISION 2 - Australian Finches

Section 1

- Lady Gouldians
2101 Red Headed
2102 Black Headed
2103 White Breasted
2104 Orange Headed
2105 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 2

- Grassfinches
2201 Shafttail
2202 Coal Billed (Heck's)
2203 Masked
2204 Passion
2205 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 3

- Australian Plains Finches
2301 Diamond Sparrow
2303 Cherry Finch
2304 Bickeno Owl
2305 Starfinch
2306 Painted
2307 Firefinch
AOV, use class 2205
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 4

- Waxbills and Mannikins
2401 Sydney Waxbill
2402 Chestnut Breasted
2403 Tricolour Mannikin
2404 Pectoralis
2405 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette
Division Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

DIVISION 3 - Indo-Pacific Finches

Section 1

- Parrot Finches
3101 Tricolour (Blueface)
3102 Red Headed
3103 Nonparrell
3104 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

These are the actual species classifications for the National Finch Society National Show. The remainder of the divisions through Division 10, will be printed in the July issue of the NFS newsletter.

Section 3 White Society
4301 Solid White
4302 Mostly White
Others enter under
4102 or 4202
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 4 Crested Society
4401 Chocolate
4402 Cinnamon
4403 White
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette
Division Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

DIVISION 5 - Finches of Europe

Section 1 European Goldfinch
5101 European Goldfinch
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 2 Other European Finches
5201 Chaffinch
5202 Bullfinch
5203 Redpoll
5204 Linnel
5205 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 3 Mules and Hybrids
5301 Goldfinch M & H
5302 AOV M & H
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette
Division Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 2 Java Rice Birds
3201 Normal
3202 White
3203 Pied
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 3 Finches of India
3301 Indian Silverbill
3302 Spice Bird
3303 Striated
3304 Strawberry
3305 Green Avadavit
3306 AOV
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 4 Other Varieties Indo-Pacific
3401 Any other Indo-Pacific
Awards: will compete for
Divisional awards
Division Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

DIVISION 4 - Society Finches (Bengalese)

Section 1 Chocolate Society
4101 Self Chocolate
4102 Chocolate & White
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

Section 2 Fawn or Cinnamon
4201 Self Cinnamon
4202 Cinnamon & White
Awards: Best Trophy
1st, 2nd, 3rd Rosette

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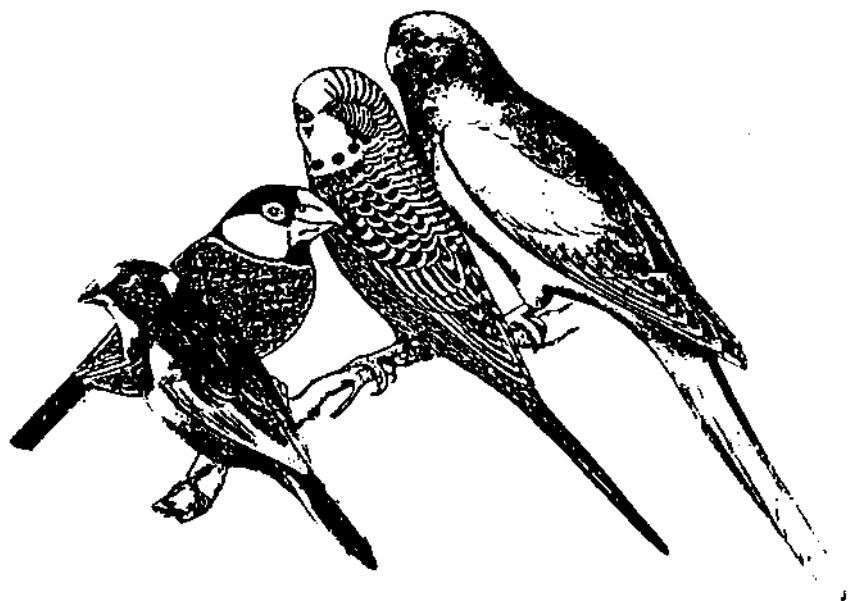
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