

THE OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY INC.

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JULY / AUGUST

1985





The National Finch Society

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JULY/AUGUST

1985

Volume 2 Number 4

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2nd Vice President	Kelly S. Dahill
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Cons. Secretary	Jerry D'Agata
Liason Officer	Nancy A. Reed

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Site Chairman	William T. Lumley
Editor	William G. Parlee
Publicity	Russ Armitage Jr.
Affiliations	Nancy A. Reed
Delegates	Ed Raymond
AFA Delegate	Jerry D'Agata
AFA Delegate	William G. Parlee

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Finch event of the year is just around the corner. See the show information in this issue and make your room reservations and your banquet reservations early. Last year we made history with 152 entries. This year we want to top the 200 mark. Bring your finches to be judged by two of the countries top finch judges; Juanita McLain of Florida and Conrad Meinart of Indiana. Double your fun by bringing your other birds too! The Maryland Cage and Central Penna Clubs will have a great all bird show in the same building on the same day. Join our host clubs and the National Finch Show, for a day to remember - OCTOBER 5, 1985. Be sure to find the NFS hospitality room, Friday evening at the Holiday Inn.



The National Finch Society

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E	SOCIETY FINCHES, NUNS, FIRETAILS, AND DIAMONDS	
G	LARGER MAXIBILLS AND CANARIES	
J	YORKSHIRES, NORWICH, PEKIN ROBINS, AND ETC.	
K	JAVA RICE BIRDS, INDIAN SHAMA, AND ETC.	
L	QUAIL, DOVES AND OTHER LARGER SOFTBILLS	

NFS bands may be ordered in lots of 10 bands, consecutively numbered at \$1.25 per each lot. \$1.00 shipping and handling should be included with each order, whether 10 or 100 bands are being ordered. Bands will be shipped within 30 days of receipt of your order although most orders will be shipped the same week as received. There is no color choice, the standard NFS color of the year will be used. Each band will have in contrasting color "NFS", the band size code, year, and band number. All numbers will be recorded by the NFS Band Secretary thus identification of any NFS banded bird can be made by the Band Secretary.

TO: NFS Band Secretary, c/o Russ Arritage, 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06

Please send me the following bands. Use multiples of 10 only.

A B C D E G J K L

Total number of 10 units X 1.25 per unit plus \$1.00 shipping = Total

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The National Finch Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$15 / / Dual \$20 / / Junior 7.50 / /

Oual Membership is two individuals residing at the same address (one bulletin). Juniors are under 16.

Club affiliations _____

How long have you been involved in finches _____.

How many species have you bred? _____.

Briefly describe your interest in joining the National Finch Society and what you hope to get out of your membership.

Send you app and fee to Russell Armitage Jr. Treas.
345 Boston Road
Middletown, CT 06457

529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Ct 06108

NFS BACK ISSUES ORDER FORM

NATIONAL FINCH
BULLETIN

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$1.25 PER ITEM CHECKED, SEND CHECK AND THIS
FORM TO: RUSS ARMITAGE, 345 Boston Road, Middletown CT 06457.

1984 - April July October show catalog 1985 - Jan/Feb March/Apr. May/June July/Aug 1985 National Finch Show Catalog \$2.00

All members will receive one copy of the catalog free, will be
bulk mailed on August 15, 1985, allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

1984 NFS issues are in short supply, first come first served.



**KAYTEE PRODUCTS
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THE KAYTEE
AWARD!

The 1985 National Finch Society National Show, in Harris-
burg, Pennsylvania will mark the beginning of a tradition:
The coveted KAYTEE AWARD FOR BEST BIRD IN SHOW will be
offered for the first time.

Each divisional winner will compete for this prize. To win
the award the exhibitor must be a member of the National
Finch Society. This membership must be in effect before
the start of the show on October 5, 1985. If the Best in
Show winner is not an NFS member the award will go to the
next place winner who is an NFS member. All other awards
are open to all exhibitors.

The National Finch Society and it's directors wish to thank
Harvey Smith of Kaytee Products for his contribution of
this award and his support of the avicultural community.

AMENDED BY-LAWS AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1985. THESE BY-LAWS REPLACE THE BY-LAWS ADOPTED BY THE SOCIETY ON NOVEMBER 10, 1983.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BY - LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the National Finch Society Inc., further it shall also be known in a more casual manner as "NFS".

ARTICLE II STATUS

The above named society is a non-profit organization and incorporated under the laws of the state of Connecticut. All necessary data is on file at the Secretary of States office, Arch Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105.

ARTICLE III HOME OFFICE

The principle office of the society shall be 529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT 06108 or other address as the Board of Directors may from time to time select.

ARTICLE IV PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Recognizing a lack of organization amongst exhibitors and breeders of Finches and Softbilled birds, and in view of the increased interest in the same at the time of Incorporation, we propose now and in the future to encourage breeding programs, to enhance the knowledge of our members in the keeping and caring of these birds. Further, we will cooperate with other organizations for the good and preservation of the field of Aviculture in this country. We will also endeavor to introduce the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties.

ARTICLE V CALENDER YEAR

The calender year for the purpose of this society shall be January 1, through December 31, of a given year.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

PARAGRAPH ONE

PRESIDENT: The President of the society shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings of this society. The President shall also preside over the National Annual meeting. The President shall attend to the day to day operations of the society and shall abide by the by-laws of the society and shall coordinate delegate the activities of other officers of this society.

PARAGRAPH TWO

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Shall fill the position of the President in absence. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fill his term. Further the First Vice President shall coordinate the activities of and be responsible for all Regional Vice-Presidents. Only a NFS panel judge may serve as First Vice President as he also serves as chairman of the Judges Panel for the society.

PARAGRAPH THREE

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Shall be second in line to the Presidency and first in line to succeed the First Vice-President (if the second Vice President is not a panel judge, he shall serve until a special election can be held to fill the First Vice-Presidency). The Second Vice President shall be responsible for the Annual Exhibition of the society and shall participate in all the committees of the society as directed by the President and the Board of Directors. The Second Vice President shall also chair the education committee and coordinate the educational programs of the society.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Shall be responsible for all correspondence of the society. The Corresponding Secretary shall also serve as the membership chairman for the society.

PARAGRAPH FIVE

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shall be responsible for the minutes of all Board of Directors meeting of the society. Will further direct the recording of all minutes of special or national membership meetings that may be called from time to time. Will present to the President and Bulletin editor, a copy of all meeting minutes of the society.

PARAGRAPH SIX

TREASURER: Shall be responsible for the collection and keeping of all Society funds and assessments. Shall maintain a bank account and deposit said funds in the account under the name of the National Finch Society. All funds with the exception of operating funds are to be kept in a savings account. Will pay with society funds kept in a checking account all debts incurred by the society at the direction of the Board of Directors. Society funds shall be used for society business only. The Treasurer shall also serve as the band secretary.

PARAGRAPH SEVEN

CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER: Shall be responsible for the interrelationship between "NFS" and other national and local avicultural organizations at the directing of the President and the Board of Directors. The Chief Liaison Officer will also assist Regional Vice Presidents with problems with club affiliations.

PARAGRAPH EIGHT

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS: Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in and for the National Finch Society within a given region of responsibility. Regional Vice Presidents are responsible to the First Vice President of the society for direction in their area. Regional Vice Presidents are to encourage one membership meeting within their region annually.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PARAGRAPH ONE

The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected and appointed officers of the society. The Board may at it's pleasure ask a past Director to serve a term of one year only in the present board for the purposes of smooth and orderly administration of society business.

PARAGRAPH TWO

All matters of business of the society shall be conducted by the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis on the first Sunday of each quarter or at alternate times occasioned by National Holiday or otherwise necessity. Emergency meetings may be held at any time deemed necessary by at least four board members.

PARAGRAPH THREE

Any elected or appointed officer of the society, found by the board to be injurious to the society may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all directors. To be injurious to the society, a violation of the by-laws or a flagrant action against the good of the society must have taken place. A written complaint against said officer must be signed by at least two board members and must be recieved by the corresponding secretary by certified mail in order to be considered by the whole board.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

The board of directors may not occasion a meeting without

first sending a notice to all board members. Such notice must be postmarked at least ten days prior to said meeting. Emergency meetings may take place when four members of the board deem it necessary, without written notice. During an emergency meeting of the board no action may be taken on the removal of an officer or admendment to these by-laws.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

PARAGRAPH ONE

The President or Board of Directors may from time to time form a committee for the purpose of carrying out the goals and administration of this society, without amendment.

PARAGRAPH TWO

MEMBERSHIP: The membership committee shall conduct the membership affairs of the society and shall from time to time conduct drives to increase the membership of the society. Shall promote the good name of the society at any event held nationally or locally in the avicultural field unless such promotion should be contrary to the sponsoring organizations policy. The membership committee shall be chaired by the corresponding secretary.

PARAGRAPH THREE

SHOW COMMITTEE: The show committee chaired by the Second Vice President shall be responsible for the annual show of the society. Shall be responsible for the day to day activities required to achieve said exhibition, and shall be immediately responsible to the Board of Directors.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE: The publishing committee shall be responsible for all publications of this society. Shall produce and edit a bi-monthly bulletin for the membership of the society. Shall also produce a catalog for the national exhibition of the society.

PARAGRAPH FIVE

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: Shall conduct research on a given subject at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and will assist members of the society with matters of avicultural interest.

PARAGRAPH SIX

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: This committee will assist its' chair the First Vice President in developing educational programs for the members of this society.

PARAGRAPH SEVEN

STANDARDS COMMITTEE: The standards committee shall work with the judges panel in an ongoing procedure to establish standards of perfection for individual species. This committee shall also produce standards for but not limited to exhibiting and judging as set forth by the society.

PARAGRAPH EIGHT

JUDGES PANEL: Shall consist of all judges approved by the society in accordance with the standards set forth by the society. The procedure for nominating a judge for the judges panel shall consist of a written application by the potential judge and nomination by at least two members of the judges panel. Nomination by the judges panel may not take place until the potential judge has completed apprenticeship and testing under the formula as then required by the Board of Directors of the society. Final approval of a new judge is done by the Board of Directors by a simple majority of the Board.

PARAGRAPH NINE:

APPRENTICE JUDGE: An apprentice judge shall be a member of the society who has applied to the chairman of the judges panel for the apprenticeship program as then required by the panel and Board of Directors. A copy of said requirements and program are found in the NFS Judges panel handbook.

ARTICLE X MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

PARAGRAPH ONE

The dues for membership in the National Finch Society shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

PARAGRAPH TWO

Membership shall be available to single members as well as dual members, which shall be interpreted to mean any two individuals residing at the same address. Any such dual membership shall receive only one copy of any NFS publication, however dual memberships shall count as two individual votes that may be cast in regard to NFS elections or other business.

PARAGRAPH THREE

Junior membership shall be available at a reduced rate to any applicant under the age of sixteen.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

If a members' dues shall remain unpaid for a period exceeding sixty days beyond written or published notice, said members privledges shall be suspended.

PARAGRAPH FIVE

Membership in the National Finch Society is a privledge and any member who misrepresents the society, holds society property without authorization or in other ways is injurious to this society as difined in but not limited to Article VII, Paragraph three, said member may lose his privledges of membership and receive a prorated refund of his unused dues. In order to cause action under this paragraph a member must file a deposit of twenty-five dollars with the society treasurer along with papers that support a claim against any other member of this society. Such claim shall be taken up by the Board of Directors. If the claim is successful and results in the removal of a member said claimaint shall receive his deposit back. If a claim is unsuccessful the deposit shall be forfeited by the claimaint.

ARTICLE XI ELECTIONS

PARAGRAPH ONE

Members elected to hold office in the society shall serve for a period of two years at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

PARAGRAPH TWO

Elections shall be held every two years or as may be occassioned by death or removal of an officer. A ballot either separate or included in the offical bulletin of the society shall be in the hands of members at least sixty days prior to said election. A majority of the ballots counted shall determine the outcome of the vote.

PARAGRAPH THREE

The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three members who must produce a slate of officers for the election. The committee shall produce at least one name and not more than three names for each office. A write in space must be allowed for each office on the ballot

PARAGRAPH FOUR

All elections of this society shall be by secret ballot only. Ballots will be counted by the Board of Directors at a regularly secheduled board meeting.

ARTICLE XI QUORUM

PARAGRAPH ONE

The board of Directors having sole authority to conduct the business of the society shall decide matters by a simple majority of those present at a board meeting. Votes on matters received by mail shall be considered as if that board member was then present.

PARAGRAPH TWO

In order for the board to conduct business at a meeting at least four members of the board must be present.

PARAGRAPH THREE

General membership votes on matters of the society are only considered for the election of officers or as otherwise set forth by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

PARAGRAPH ONE

The society shall have an annual meeting held in conjunction with the annual exhibition of the society.

PARAGRAPH TWO

The annual meeting of the society shall consist of a state of the society report given by the president or first vice president of the society, a annual treasurers report and a more casual discussion period when members may make their views know to the board of directors.

PARAGRAPH THREE

REGIONAL MEETINGS: Regional meetings may be held at the direction of the regional vice president where such meeting is to be held. Business is not conducted at regional meetings. These meetings are for the general membership of the society and primarily to discuss ideas that may be presented to the board of directors. These meetings may also sponsor educational programs for the membership.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

PARAGRAPH ONE

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS MUST BE SPONSORED BY AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AND RECEIVED BY THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY BY CERTIFIED MAIL.

PARAGRAPH TWO

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS MUST BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOCIETY AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. ANY GENERAL CHANGE IN THE BY-LAWS MUST BE APPROVED BY BALLOT OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

PARAGRAPH THREE

URGENT ACTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR EARLIER DISPOSITION. SUCH ACTIONS SHALL NOT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE ANY ARTICLE OF THE BY-LAWS.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

ANY ADMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS OF THIS SOCIETY MUST BE APPROVED BY TWO THIRDS OF THOSE RESPONDING. ANY SUCH BALLOT MAY ONLY BE OPENED AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ARTICLE XIV ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

PARAGRAPH ONE

The by-laws hereby set forth in Articles 1 through XIII shall be considered the articles of incorporation of the NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY and may not be changed in any way subject to the terms of Article XIII paragraphs 1 through 4 as included herein.

M E M B E R S H I P B A L L O T

I APPROVE OF THE BY-LAWS AS PUBLISHED

I DISAPPROVE OF THE BY-LAW AS PUBLISHED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE, ZIP _____

You may use this ballot or a copy thereof. Mail your ballot to the Home Office, National Finch Society, 529 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108. If you are sending a disapproval vote, please state the article and paragraphs that you disapprove, giving a brief explanation. Ballots must be received no later than August 31, 1985.

WHY DO OUR FINCHES DO THE THINGS THEY DO ??

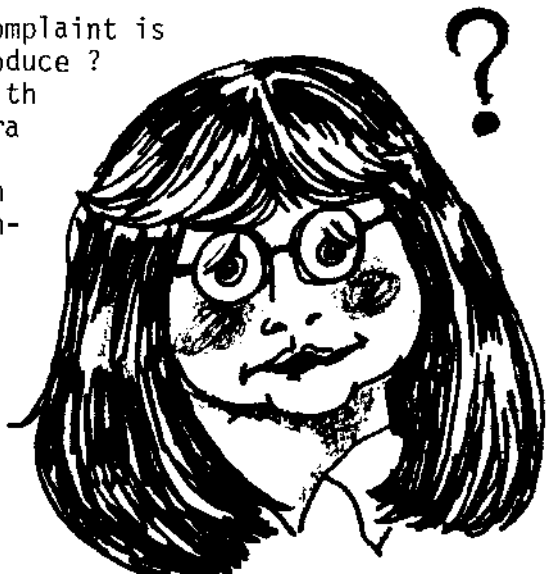
WANDA M. DEACON

When one of my friends tell me the famous line: "Guess what my finches did?" I can usually tell it wasn't anything cute. The two most common complaints; why are they suddenly feather plucking, or why won't they nest for me/ We all run into feather plucking some time or other, and it seems to be the most difficult problem to cure.

Zebra finches and waxbills seem to be the biggest offenders, when it comes to feather plucking. We try to provide the largest cage possible, flighting them in an aviary is usually the best way to cure this. But many of us have only limited space. Another suggestion would be to seperate the bullies. That also would pose a problem, if you should have more than four. It would soon be wall to wall cages. We try adding toys or white pine shavings on the cage floor; to keep them occupied. If all else fails we usually end up giving them away as pets.

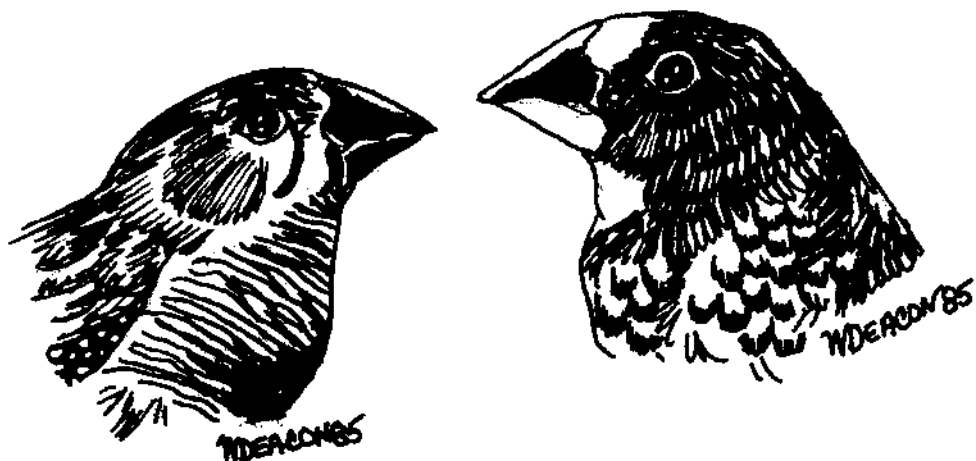
This brings up the question, what causes a perfectly stable breeder pair, or a very sociable bird in the flight to turn to feather plucking? If we go through a check list and find that we tried every possible remedy or cure, we begin to wonder where we went wrong/ Even well known veterinarians who treat birds cannot give a direct answer as to what suddenly triggers the bird into this annoying habit.

Another puzzling complaint is why won't my birds produce ? I have this problem with the easy to breed Zebra Finch. My first pair raised a single clutch and that was the beginning of the end of my breeding success with Zebras. I tried every possible remedy or advice which was given to me, each and



Why Do our Finches do the Thing They Do? ? cont'.

every one doing absolutely nothing to encourage the pair. The Society Finches were producing, well, like mice. The Zebras just looked over their shoulder as if to say, "I don't want to be bothered." I was beginning to think they needed a "HOW TO MANUAL". No matter where I had obtained a pair, it was always the same problem, I now believe that individual finch species either like or dislike the environment you provide for them. These pairs who wouldn't do anything here, are proving to be fertile mertles at different homes. I in turn have taken Society finches who had not produced in over a year (for someone else) and have gotten them to produce strong, healthy young. Who knows maybe someday we'll unlock the secret in their minds and find out just what makes our feathered friends tick.



Wanda Deacon is an artist and National Finch Society member from Schwaumburg, Illinois.

1985 NFS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- August 9, 1985 - AFA Convention, 9pm - Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco California - A.E. Decoteau
- October 5, 1985 - National Finch Show and Annual Meeting Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA - W. Parlee
- October 26, 1985 - Gold Coast Show, Palm Beach Ocean Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida - A.E. Decoteau
- November 2, 1985 - Gulf Coast Show - Fort Myers, Florida - A.E. Decoteau
- November 15, 16, 17 National Cage Bird Show, San Antonio Texas, A.E. Decoteau

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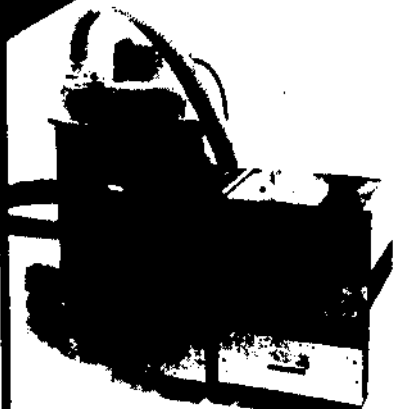
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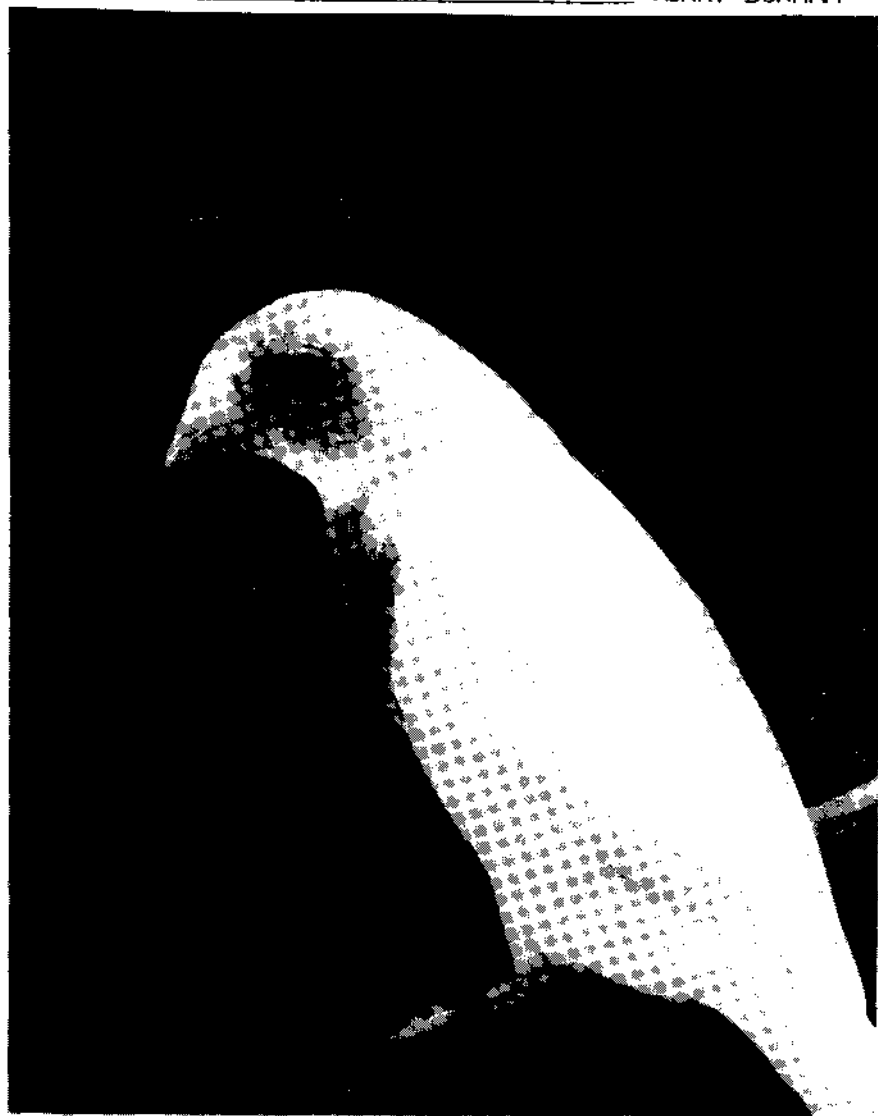
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BREEDING THE YELLOW
GOULDIAN FINCH

TERRY DUNHAM



YELLOW GOULDIAN HEN

photo T. Dunham

The National Finch Society would like to thank Terry for his continued educational support to the National Finch Society and its' Bulletin.

BREEDING THE YELLOW GOULDIAN FINCH

By Terry Dunham, St. Petersburg, FL

The yellow Gouldian Finch is, in my opinion, the most beautiful of the Gouldian finch varieties.

When I learned that a breeder in Holland had a modest collection of yellows, my wife and I flew to Amsterdam, met him through an intermediary, and arranged to buy several specimens--all that he was willing to sell. According to the breeder the yellow Gould appeared unexpectedly in his collection about seven years ago.

Light green gouldians, which the breeder said were "visually-identifiable splits," appeared to us to be a separate dilute mutation, and we also acquired several specimens of that variety.

Now, only eight months later, we have raised a number of both the yellow and dilute Goulds. Our first dilute hatch, in December, 1984, and our first yellow hatch, in January 1985, presumably represent first U.S. breedings.

Questions raised

Our breeding results challenge existing assumptions about the genetic character of the yellow, but have not yet proven our suspicion that the dilute is a separate mutation. We are now collaborating with a university in Florida to test our hypothesis that the light-green dilute is a separate mutation and not merely a visually-identifiable split.

We had theorized that another color variety, being bred for many years in Australia and called the "dilute" in that country, is actually a separate, third variety (although European breeders had argued they were the same as the yellows we now breed). On a trip to Australia in May 1985 I saw more than a dozen of their "dilutes": They did not look exactly like either our yellows (which they more closely resemble) or our dilutes, but rather somewhere between the two.

Description

Our yellow Goulds are like normal Goulds in all respects but these: All areas normally green are replaced by a creamy-yellow color; the black border around the head and the black on the "chin" is absent; and the cobalt blue head ring and rump patch is nearly absent. (Black-headed adults retain the light gray head color of immatures; red and yellow headed birds assume normal head color) The red or ochre heads and purple chests make a dramatic and pleasing contrast with the yellow body color. Our dilutes

are lighter green than a normal (about half as dark) and have both the black and the blue areas diluted. Red and yellow heads have the same head color as normals. We've not yet raised a black-headed dilute, but the black on the head would, presumably, be diluted to light gray.

The yellow and dilute mutations are fertile and hardy; we've lost none in nests and the birds we've raised are good-sized.

Yellows can be distinguished in the nest upon hatching: Although the yellow gould is not red-eyed and retains some body color, and is, therefore, not a lutino, hatchlings look as though they have un-pigmented eyes beneath the skin. Hatchling "dilutes" are also identifiable, being darker than yellows but lighter than normals. All this makes breeding particularly exciting, as exceptional anticipation accompanies each hatch date.

History

I had hoped for the appearance of a yellow mutation gould since I first began breeding Lady Gouldian finches a dozen years ago. It was not hard to imagine the beauty of such a bird.

In years of research (reading, phone calls to Europe, Australia and South Africa and visits to breeders on two continents) I had learned of an Australian breeder raising what he called "dilutes". In not-too-detailed photos they looked much the same as the yellow birds we now have.

As most of you have experienced, news of dramatically different birds usually fails to live up to expectations. Imagine our satisfaction when we walked into the Dutch aviculturist's breeding room and saw his small collection of both light-green dilutes and visual yellows.

The price was extraordinarily high. Coupled with the cost of importing and losses sustained in the USDA's quarantine station and shortly after the birds arrived at our home, we ended up with an investment of more than \$5,000 for one "split" to yellow gould. Such are the pitfalls of the crazed aviculturist. Breeding results and genetic speculation

The yellow strain we bought was represented as being "recessive" or autosomal. "Splits," we were told, were visually identifiable: They were the lighter-green birds we saw at the breeder's.

Had we not lost all but one bird, we might have bred those alleged splits to visuals and might not so quickly have begun to question the implications of the genetics involved. Instead, breeding from that

single split to a normal hen produced an unexpected variety of offspring including normal-looking birds of both sexes (which we are now test-breeding to determine whether they are split to either yellow or dilute); visual yellows (those old enough to sex are hens but one young bird is, I suspect, a male); and light-green birds like the split father (those that can be sexed are males). That evidence indicates the yellow mutation is either autosomal and dominant, or sex-linked, though it leaves unanswered some questions about the light-green "dilutes"--questions we are pursuing with selective breeding in an effort to isolate the two varieties for further experimentation.

Prior to my recent trip to Australia, I had spoken to or met with several Australian breeders, and one of them had seen our birds. I was assured ours looked like the Australian "dilute", but I was also assured the Australian "dilute" is autosomal and recessive.

Based on this information, it appeared clear that even if the two varieties looked alike (as, it turns out, they do not) they would have to be considered separate mutations. Now we can anticipate someday combining them and studying the results for further insight into the nature of the color changes.

None of the birds I saw in Australia, incidentally, including parents of their "dilutes" and off-spring split to their "dilutes," were light-green like the dilutes we are working with, further confirming that the Australian variety is a different mutation.

Help needed

There are precedents for "single" and "double" dilutes, which could account for our light-green goulds and the Australians' much-lighter but not clear yellow variety. But the absence of our type of dilute in their stock challenges that explanation.

It's for that reason that I welcome suggestions from those more knowledgeable about genetics, or with particular experience with another species--Lovebirds, for example--who might be able to apply what they've learned to the questions at hand. Our breeding experiments, feather structure analyses at the university and other efforts will continue our attempts to resolve these uncertainties.

It may be necessary to change the Australian nomenclature of "dilute," used to describe their nearly-yellow gouldian mutation: As with Budgerigars, where two types of plds exist, we may need to refer to "European" and "Australian" dilutes to distinguish between the two existing varieties, if further work confirms the differences between them. The sex and

frequency of future offspring (if we're able to isolate the dilute from the yellows) would determine the nature of changes in the dilute as well as its genetic characteristics. There are several fascinating possibilities, among them the chance it is autosomal in transmission but dominant to normal green birds, just as the red-head is dominant to black-headed birds. These possibilities form but one part of the genetic research project now underway. There are many other considerations re: the dilute, but I will discuss them in a future article once we better understand them.

It is also possible there are two dilute strains, which, when "doubled-up" on the same bird produce the yellow birds we're getting. Unfortunately, there are problems with that theory, too.

I think the yellow mutation involves the removal of blue (either pigment or the feather structure which creates the appearance of blue) from the normal light-green backed bird. The implications of this possibility are also very interesting, because we're also breeding the blue or blue-backed Gould, in which all areas which are normally green appear blue instead. By standard color theory, green is made up of yellow and blue: Take blue out of green and you get yellow; take yellow out of green and you get blue. If yellow Goulds are birds with an absence of blue in part of their plumage, and if blue Goulds are birds with an absence of yellow in those same areas, then the combination of the two would produce a snow-white bird with all the otherwise normal chest and head colors.

By the same logic, combining the blue and dilute mutations would produce birds that are lighter blue than the existing blue mutation, and probably far more attractive.

(The blue mutation has produced dozens of young for us, and the results conform to the autosomal genetics attributed to them when we obtained them in Holland; the strain is not as strong as the yellow, however, and many blues perish in the nest: We've raised only three to independence at this writing, in June. We're now out-crossing the mutation to our own stock to diminish any of the harmful effects of past inbreeding and to establish a hardy strain).

The costs to us have been extraordinary, but seeing such beautiful and exciting birds now flying in our cages and flights, and having such intriguing topics for further experimentation for years into the future, it all seems worthwhile.



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MEMBER AND PANEL JUDGE OF



The National Finch Society

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
PANEL OF JUDGES
1985

CHARLES ANCHOR, 630 Lake Park Drive, Addison, IL 60101
MARCO ARIDA, 10480 SW 62nd., Miami, FL 33173
DR. VAL CLEAR, 1001 Martin, Anderson, IN 46012
CLARENCE CULWELL, 913 Lydick Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 67114
KELLY S. DAHILL, 109 Seymour St., Windsor, CT 06095
DR. A. E. DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827
DAREN DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827
JUANITA McLAIN, 2410 Madrid Ave., Safety Harbor, FL 33572
CONRAD MEINART, RR 3, Box 392, Warsaw, IN 46580
WILLIAM G. PARLEE, 529 Burnside Ave., E.Hartford CT 06108
GEORGE WARREN, 28 Chedworth Crescent, Paulsgrove,
Portsmouth, England PO64E
PAUL WILLIAMS, 703 Donegal Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

* * * * *

National Finch Society Panel Judges subscribe to a format of standardized judging procedures, species standards, and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

All Panel Judges charge reasonable traveling expenses and for lodging. Fees may vary from judge to judge.

The National Finch Society asks that all of its affiliated clubs use Panel Judges for their 1985 shows. We do have apprentice judges available in some areas. For further information or special consideration on the above rules write to:

Director, NFS Panel Judges
Dr. A. E. Decoteau
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ENTER THE GREAT NATIONAL FINCH PURSUIT CONTEST. . . .

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MINI ARTICLE PURSUIT CONTEST: 1st prize-\$100
2nd prize-\$50
3rd prize-\$25.

PURPOSE: FOR FUN! To utilize some of NFS's competitive spirit other than on the show bench. To promote interest. To encourage more articles for the NFS bulletin. To educate.

RULES:

1. No past or present NFS Board Member, Panel Judge, or family member thereof will be eligible.
2. Deadline: Entries will be postmarked no later than DEC. 31, 1985.
3. Winners will be announced in the MARCH/APRIL '86 NFS BULLETIN.
4. In case of tie(s): Entry with earliest postmark will take precedence.
5. PURSUIT ITEMS may be duplicated and therefore points would be multiplied (example: 1 article = 100 points; 3 articles = 300 points), EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED ONE ITEM ONLY.
6. All entries become property of NFS, and will not be returned, including photos.
7. The G.N.F.S.C. is open to all '85 paid members (except as noted in rule #1).

All "ITEMS" requested are within any member's realm of ingenuity. Points have been figured according to degree of difficulty. All entries should be sent no later than DEC. 31, 1985 to:

Nancy A. Reed -NFS
109 Stage Coach Rd.
Windsor, CT. 06095

THE G.N.F.S.C. PURSUIT ITEMS

1. Any 1st Place "Best Finch/Softbill in Show" show tag (please write in name of show on tag).....25
2. The above signed with the Judge's autograph
(initials don't count).....10
3. Any 1985 National Finch Society (Harrisburg, PA.) show tag.....5
4. One original copy of the National (Harrisburg, PA.) Meeting agenda
(available at meeting).....15
5. #4 above signed in RED INK by any NFS Board Officer.....10
6. Recruit a member.....10
(Have the new member credit you on the application and send to NFS.
Also include new member's name in your contest entry.)
7. Any original article(s) for NFS Bulletin (500 word minimum and approved by the editor). Submitted between Aug.1 and Dec.31.....100
8. Above including printable photography.....10
illustration.....15

MINI ARTICLE PURSUIT CONTEST

Best article submitted.....	#100 plus extra 100
2nd award.....	#50 plus extra..50
3rd award.....	#25 plus extra..25
9. Original Finch artwork (5"X8") approved by editor.....	15
10. Original Finch photo (slide) approved by editor.....	10
(The bird must be predominant in frame.)	
11. Screened print 5"X8" of above (100 line screen).....	20
12. A good Finch/Softbill cartoon accepted for publication.....	25
13. <u>One</u> 1985 NFS Finch band (whole).....	5
14. An original copy of the Silver Anniversary issue of the Zebra Finch Society of England's publication (This will be returned, if requested.).....	50
15. A copy of any Zebra Finch Society of America Bulletin.....	25

THE G.N.F.P.C. PURSUIT QUESTIONS

In answering, list # of question followed by answer.

1. Volume 1, #1 of the NFS Bulletin was printed under what monthly heading and year?.....	20
2. Name the first President of NFS?.....	1
3. In what bulletin was the first NFS Zebra Standard presented?.....	10
4. What was the first mutation of the Zebra Finch to appear in the US?.....	10
5. Who has NFS membership #100?.....	20
6. How many mutations of the Society Finch are recognized by NFS?.....	15
7. What was the total entry at the 1st NFS National Show?.....	20
8. What is the only finch that is well known by three different names?.....	25
9. What finch is a member of the Whydah family but is normally not considered a part of that family?.....	10
10. When a finch can be sexed by coloration, we call this difference:.....	10
11. Finches that change coloration at different times during the year have _____ and _____ plumage.....	10
12. Who judged the Finch Division at the 1984 Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Show In Florida?.....	10
13. Who wrote the first article presenting NFS to a nation-wide audience?.....	10
14. What item in a finch's diet, if withheld, will prove fatal fastest?.....	5

THE G.N.F.P.C. PURSUIT POLL

We encourage members to respond to this segment even if you are not interested in the basic contest. It will offer some feedback on members' interests, and ideas for NFS improvement. In answering, list the # of question followed by your answer. Responses will be used for a future article.

If answered in full by a GNFFC contestant, points credited.....50

1. What is your favorite species?
2. What is your favorite mutation?
3. If you have a pet finch/softbill that is named, what is the name?
4. What topic are you most interested in reading about in your NFS Bulletins (genetics, human interest, nutrition, etc.)?
5. How long have you been an NFS member?
6. What constructive criticism can you offer to improve NFS?
7. What finches have you successfully bred?
(Not including Zebras, Societies, or Gouldians.)
8. Have you ever won a Best in Show with a finch or softbill?
Show: _____ Year: _____ Species: _____
9. How many finches/softbills do you have at the moment?
10. What brand name vitamin(s) do you use?
11. What greens, vegies, fruits do you feed?
12. What brand name(s) do you use for seed?
13. What is your favorite finch book?
14. If you keep your birds indoors, what is the minimum temperature you allow?
15. When it becomes necessary to "dispose" of a bird for humane reasons, what is your method?
16. Do you have any question(s) that you would like to hear membership response on?



The National Finch Society

NEW MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES WELCOME!!

- 204 Andrea J. Bedlak, Fort Washington, Maryland
- 205 Trevor L. Hunt, Jamison, Pennsylvania
- 206 Helen Holmes, Newton, Massachusetts
- 207 Hal M. Koontz, Bakersfield, California
- 208 John J. Boyle, Dedham, Massachusetts
- 209 Paul David Foster, New Ipswich, New Hampshire
- 210 Brian Lee Mc Kinlay, New Ipswich, New Hampshire
- 211 Leonard Hurst, Slaton, Texas
- 212 June Hurst, Slaton, Texas
- 213 Baltimore Bird Fanciers, York, Pennsylvania
- 214 Charles M. Ballard, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 215 Beckye, Ballard, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 216 Charles Giaquinta, Lanesboro, Massachusetts
- 217 Joanne Giaquinta, Lanesboro, Massachusetts
- 218 Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, KC Missouri
- 219 Harold S. Harnish, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 220 Paul Crow, Reading, Pennsylvania
- 221 Georgia Cage Bird Society, Sharpsburg, Georgia

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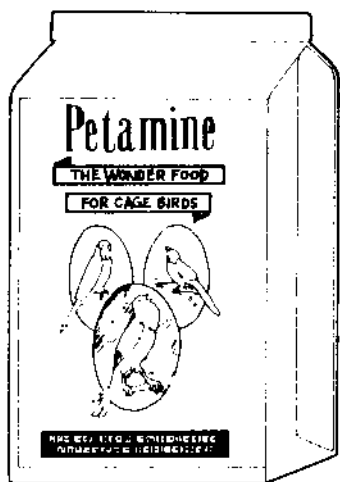
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The National Finch Society

NFS AFFILIATED CLUBS AND SHOWS

THE ASTORIA BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Alex Grivas

Show Date: November 2, 1985 - Judge: Tom Corouana*

THE BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS

Delegate: Brenda Geesey - Place: Elks Lodge Essex, MD.

Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Rody Gabel*

THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Roger O'Connell

Show Date: Show is not planned for this year.

THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: William T. Lumley

Show Date: October 5, 1985 - National Finch Show

THE CHICAGO CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.

Delegate: Charles Anchor

Show Date: Nov. 1, 2, 3, 1985 Judge: Paul Williams

THE CLEVELAND CANARY AND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delgate: Louis DiSanto

Show Date: October 13, 1985 - Judge to be announced

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Jerry D'Agata - Place: Vet's Bldg. E.Hartford

Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Kelly Dahill

THE GEORGIA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: Cecil Gunby - Ramada Central, Atlanta, GA

Show Date: November 2, 1985 - Judge: Conrad Meinert

THE GOLD COAST EXOTIC CAGE BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Karl Kline- Place: PB Ocean Hotel, PB, FL

Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: A.E. Decoteau

THE GULF COAST BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Dick Muench

Show Date: November 2, 1985 Judge: Robert Black*

THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

Delegate: Andrea Shaw - Place: Granview, MO

Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Earl Courts*

THE GULF SOUTH CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION

Delegate: Evon W. Krause

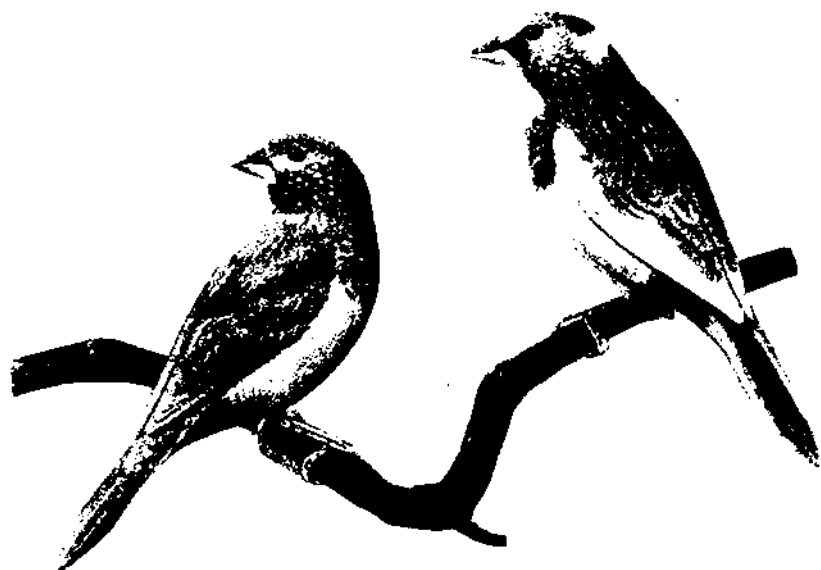
Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Dr.Val Clear

- THE LONG ISLAND CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION
 Delegate: Thomas Cauarro
 Show Date: November 30, 1985 - Judge to be announced
- THE MARYLAND CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION
 Delegate: Dallas Johnson
 Show Date: October 5, 1985 - National Finch Show
- THE MASSACHUSETTS CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.
 Delegate: Shirley Eaton
 Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Kelly Dahill
- THE GREATER MIAMI AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
 Delegate: Hector Ugalde
 Show Date: October 5, 1985 - Judge: George Warren
- THE MID-WEST CANARY AND CAGE BIRD CLUB
 Delegate: Mary Kaszyca
 Show Date: November 9, 10, 1985 - Judge to be announced
- THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW 1985
 Held in conjunction with the Maryland Cage Bird Club
 and the Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club Shows;
 Date: October 5, 1985 - Place: Holiday Inn, 2nd and
 Chestnut St., Harrisburg, PA
 Judges: Juanita McLain, Florida, and
 Conrad Meinert, Indiana
- THE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
 Delegate: F. Lawrence Brandt
 Show Date: October 12, 1985 - Judge: Daren Decoteau
- THE GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD CLUB
 Delegate: Wayne Eichelberger - Place: Ramada, Omaha NE
 Show Date: Nov 8, 9, 1985 - Judge: Clarence Culwell
- THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOCIETY OF AVICULTURE
 Delegate: Martha Wigmore
 Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Charles Anchor
- THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY
 Delegate: Bill Pattison
 Show Date: November 16, 1985 - Judge: William Parlee
- THE WISCONSIN CAGE BIRD CLUB
 Delegate: Mary Zuidema - Place: DePere, Wisc.
 Show Date: August 23, 24, 1985 - Judge: A.E. Decoteau

Any changes in above information should be sent to the editor NFS, 529 Burnside Ave. E. Hartford, CT 06108, the Sept/Oct. issue will be the last issue for these listings.

*Not NFS Panel Judges - show not for points.

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