

# The National Finch and Softbill Society



SEPT.  
OCT.  
1987



GWNOREEN

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

## 1 9 8 7

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Region Five (Mountain)	(303) 574-1594	. . . .	Martha Wigmore
Region Six (Pacific Coast)	(805) 872-1065	. . . .	Hal M. Koontz

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The show season is upon us. We find ourselves show training our finches and softbills, touching up our show boxes, making reservations, obtaining show catalogs, clipping nails, misting our birds, and the list goes on and on. Now that a few weeks of the show season are already past, we are beginning to feel the crunch. We have to get all this show stuff done, keep our aviaries clean, birds healthy, water the plants, clean the house, feed the kids, and still find the time to make a living during the few days that fall between show weekends.

I heard the other day that we should start our Holiday shopping early this year. They've got to be kidding.

The most important show date of the year, for finch fanciers is just a few days away. Our 1987 National Show, with George Warren as our judge is November 19-21, 1987 at the Rhodes Center in Columbus, Ohio. Our National Meeting will be at the Hyatt on Capitol Square, Saturday, Nov. 21, 1987.

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE FOR THIS ISSUE WAS DONATED.

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*"Let's make it 300  
in Columbus!!"*

*300 finches and softbills will make  
it a 16 point show; our largest yet.  
Win the Kaytee Best NFS B&B Award!*

# CARE ENOUGH TO COMPARE!

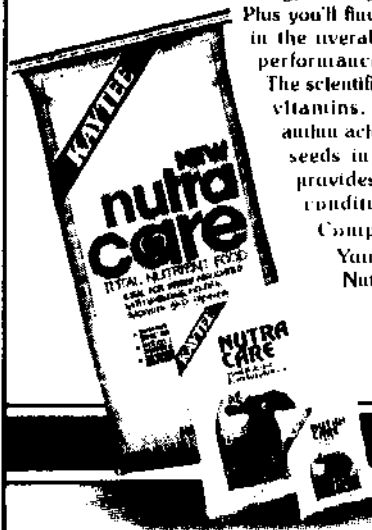
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Manganese	170 ppm	340
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# The National Finch and Softbill Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY

NFS# \_\_\_\_\_ Sel# \_\_\_\_\_

Reg.# \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Ann.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of membership desired:

Single  15.00, Dual  20.00, Junior  7.50(-16yrs), Canada add \$5.

Foreign add \$10. Canada and Foreign Subscriptions are first class.  
Please list other name to be included in a dual membership:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please answer a few questions for us:

How long have you been involved in finches and softbills? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.

How many species have you kept? \_\_\_\_\_

How many species have you successfully bred? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you exhibit in bird shows? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you keep softbilled birds? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list an occupation or special talent that may be helpful to  
the NFS (printer, artist, lawyer, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in participating in the NFS Judges Panel? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below the items you are most interested in.

Nutrition \_\_\_\_\_ breeding \_\_\_\_\_ management \_\_\_\_\_ exhibition \_\_\_\_\_ bulletin \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL YOUR APPLICATION AND DUES TO:

**NFS Member Services c/o Russ Armitage Jr.**

**345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457**



## The National Finch Society

### 1987 CLOSED ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

THE STANDARD NFS LEG BANDS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Bands are available in standard NFS color of the year only

Size	For	Cost
A	Sealler Maxbills & Owl Finches	MAY BE ORDERED IN LOTS OF 10 BANDS AT \$1.25 PER LOT
B	Cordon Bleu, Firefinch, & Lavender Finch	
C	Zebra Finch Gouldians, Stars, Heck's Grass Finch, Cutthroats, Parrot Finches, etc.	
D	Chesnut Breasted, Yellow Rumped, & Pectoralis	
E	Society Finches, Nuns, Firetails, & Diamonds	
G	Larger Maxbills & Canaries	
J	Yorkshires, Norwich, Pekin Robins, etc.	
K	Java Rice Birds, Indian Shama, etc.	
L	Quail, Doves, & Other 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 stamped: "NFS", the band size code, year and number. All numbers will be recorded by the NFS band secretary for permanent record.

Please make your check or money order payable to NFS and send your order to:

NFS BAND SECRETARY  
Roger O'Connell  
451 Noody Street, Box 114  
Maitheo, Nasa. 02154

Please send me the following bands. (Multiples of 10 only.)

A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D ( ) E ( ) G ( ) J ( ) K ( ) L ( )

Total number of 10 units ( ) x \$1.25 per unit + \$1.00 shipping = \$

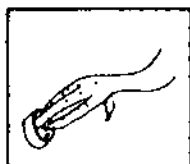
ORDER YOUR 1987 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BANDS TODAY ! ! !

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP NO. \_\_\_\_\_

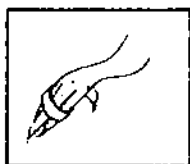
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

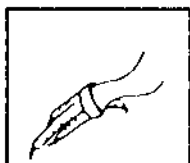
## **Leg banding Procedure courtesy of the NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY**



The most important thing to remember when you begin to band a finch is to do it over a counter or table in case the chick makes a sudden move, it will not fall to the floor.



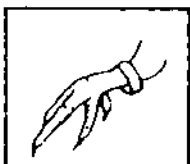
The age of the bird to be banded varies with the species. Generally it will be between five and six days old. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



The band is generally placed on the right leg of the bird. Banding just before the nightly roost will help prevent picking of the band by the parents. By the next morning the birds will have forgotten about the band.



Have the band ready with a toothpick (or other blunt instrument) and a lubricant. Hold the chick firmly but in a way not to cut off the air supply or to hurt the bird.



Put a little bit of lubricant on the bird's foot and slide the band over the front three toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band is now in the proper location between the ankle and elbow joints.

It is best to check on the chick after a few days to make sure the band has not slipped off. Before banding, make sure the band is right side up so that it can be easily read.

# NFS AFFILIATED CLUBS 1987

## CALIFORNIA

The Fresno Canary and Finch Society.  
Delegate: Richard Lujan  
Call: (408) 984-1453  
Show: Oct. 30-31, Nov. 1, 1987  
Panel Judge: Joe Krader  
Place: Madera Dist. Fairgrounds

Capitol City Bird Society  
Delegate: Helen Caudle  
Call: (916) 933-1619  
Show: Oct. 16-17-18, 1987  
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert  
Place:

Golden Gate Avian Society  
Delegate: Mary Payne  
Call:  
Show: Nov. 14-15, 1987  
Panel Judge: William Parlee  
Place:  
Reg. 6 Regional Meeting

The Aviary Assoc. of Kern Cty.  
Delegate: Hal M. Koontz  
Call: (805) 872-1063  
Show: Dec. 5, 1987  
Panel Judge: Joe Krader  
Place: Kern Cty. Fairgrounds

North Cty. Aviculturalists  
Delegate: Victor Swatsak  
Call:  
No show this year.

Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club  
Delegate: Marty Von Raesfeld  
Call:  
Show: November 27, 1987  
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

San Diego Bird Show Club  
Delegate: Wayne Schulenberg  
Call:  
Show: Nov. 14-15-16, 1987  
Panel Judge: Ray Johnson  
Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds

## COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Assoc.  
Delegate: Martha Wigmore  
Call: (303) 574-1594  
Show: October 10, 1987  
Panel Judge: Hal Koontz  
Place: Colo Spgs. Auditorium.  
Reg. 5 Regional Meeting

Rocky Mt. Society for Aviculture  
Delegate: Mary Kay Buchtel  
Call: (303) 422-6529  
Show: October 31, 1987  
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert  
Place: Embassy Suites, Denver.

## CONNECTICUT

The Conn. Assoc. for Aviculture  
Delegate: Chris Voronovitch  
Call: (203) 649-8220  
Show: October 24, 1987  
Panel Judge: Jerry D'Agata  
Place: Vet. Mem. Bldg. E. Hartford.

New England Finch Fanciers  
Delegate: Russell Armitage  
Call: (203) 346-5875  
Show: September 26, 1987  
Panel Judge: Darren Decoteau  
Place: Vet. Mem. Bldg. East Hartford  
Finch Judging only.

## FLORIDA

Gtr. Miami Avicultural Society  
Delegate: Hector Ugalde  
Call:



Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club  
Delegates: Karl Kline  
Call: (305) 276-8711  
Shows: October 31, 1987  
Panel Judge: Juanita McLain  
Place:

Suncoast Avian Society  
Delegates: Juanita McLain  
Call: (813) 726-8326  
Shows: Oct. 17-18, 1987  
Panel Judge: Juanita McLain  
Place: St. Pete Hilton Towers

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society  
Delegates: Jean Fisher  
Call:  
Shows: October 10, 1987  
Panel Judge: A.E. Decoteau  
Place:

The Panhandle Avicultural Society  
Delegates: Charles Richardson  
Call:  
Shows:  
Panel Judge:  
Place:

Miami Parrot Club, Inc.  
Delegates: Marco Arida  
Call: (305) 251-3895  
Shows: September 13, 1987  
Panel Judge: Marco Arida  
Place: Biltmore, Coral Gables

#### GEORGIA

The Georgie Cage Bird Society  
Delegates: Cecil Bunby  
Call: (404) 251-2877  
Shows: October 2-4, 1987  
Panel Judge: William Parlee  
Place: Holiday Inn Crown Plaza.  
Reg. 2 Regional Meeting

THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW  
Delegates: Ray Johnson  
Call: (404) 461-8675  
Dates: October 2-4, 1987  
Panel Judge: William Parlee  
Place: Atlanta Int. Airport  
Holiday Crown Plaza Hotel,  
Atlanta, Georgia

#### ILLINOIS

Str. Chicago Cage Bird Club  
Delegates: Charles Anchor  
Call: (312) 543-3757  
Shows: Nov. 6-8, 1987  
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert  
Place: Holiday Inn, Itasca

#### INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers  
Delegates: Vel Clear  
Call: (317) 642-0795  
Shows: October 10, 1987  
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor  
Place: Ft. Wayne, IN.

#### IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society  
Delegates: Rhoda Shirley  
Call: (515) 243-2255  
Shows: Oct. 2,3, 1987  
Panel Judge: Paul Williams  
Place: Airport Inn Best Western  
Des Moines, IO

#### LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club Inc.  
Delegates: Evon Kruse  
Call: (504) 469-2435  
Shows: October 17, 1987  
Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau  
Place: Clarion Hotel, W.Orl.

**MARYLAND**

The Baltimore Bird Fanclers  
 Delegates: Brenda Guesey  
 Call: (717) 854-2604  
 Shows: October 17, 1987  
 Panel Judge: William Parlee  
 Place: Holiday Inn - Chesapeake  
 Aberdeen, Maryland

The Maryland Cage Bird Assoc.  
 Delegates: Catherine Gaffney  
 Call:  
 Shows: September 26, 1987  
 Panel Judges: A.E.Decoteau  
 Place: Gaithersburg Comm. Center

**MASSACHUSETTS**

The Boston Cockatual Society  
 Delegates: Helen Jabra  
 Call: (617) 641-3430  
 Show: December 5, 1987  
 Panel Judges: William Parlee  
 Place: Cedars Lebanon Church  
 Jamaica Plain, MA.

The Boston Society for Aviculture  
 Delegate: Helen Holmes  
 Call: (617) 322-1562  
 No show this year.

The Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc.  
 Delegate: Shirley Eaton  
 Call: (401) 333-3394  
 Show: October 17, 1987  
 Panel Judges: Charles Anchor  
 Place: Assabet Vly.Reg.High School  
 Marlboro, MA.

The Western New England  
 Cage Bird Society  
 Delegates: Bob Clark  
 Call:  
 Show: November 28, 1987  
 Panel Judges: A.E.Decoteau  
 Place: Ludlow Elks Club

**MICHIGAN**

The Mid-Michigan Bird Club  
 Delegates: Mary Rue  
 Call: (517) 394-1047  
 Shows: November 7, 1987  
 Judges: Jon Hoffman  
 Place: McDurdy Pk. Corunna, MI

The Mid-West Canary and  
 Cage Bird Society  
 Delegates: Mary Kaszyca  
 Call: (313) 285-5168  
 Shows: November 14, 1987  
 Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

**MINNESOTA**

The Minnesota Cage Bird Society  
 Delegates: Michael Bronson  
 Call:  
 Shows: October 10, 1987  
 Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear  
 Place:

**MISSOURI**

The Missouri Cage Bird Club  
 Delegate: Tom Rood  
 Call: (217) 774-5265  
 Show: Nov. 6-8, 1987  
 Judge: Ed Hohmann  
 Place: Day's Inn, Eureka

**NEBRASKA**

The Gtr. Omaha Cage Bird Club  
 Delegate: Wayne Eichelberger  
 Call: (308) 872-2947  
 Shows: Oct. 30, 31, 1987  
 Panel Judge:  
 Place: Ranada Airport Inn

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Birds of a Feather  
 Delegates: Larry Brandt  
 Call:  
 Shows: September 19, 1987  
 Panel Judges: A.E.Decoteau  
 Place:

The New Hampshire Avicultural Society  
Delegate: Michael T. Putnam  
Call: (603) 352-2846  
Show: October 10, 1987  
Panel Judge: Ray Johnson  
Place: Hudson Mem. School, Hudson.  
Reg. 1 Regional Meeting

#### NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club  
Delegate: Alex Grivas  
Call:  
Show:  
Panel Judge:  
Place:

The Rochester Cage Bird Club  
Delegate: Jeanne Murphy  
Call:  
No show this year.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metrolina Cage  
Bird Society  
Delegate: Patricia Gibson  
Call: (704) 588-1616  
Show: September 12, 1987  
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor  
Place:

#### OHIO

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers  
Delegate: Joan Gangle  
Call: (216) 666-9773  
Show: November 20-22, 1987  
Panel Judge: George Warren  
Place: Rhodes Center, Columbus

The National Finch and Softbill  
National Show held with the NCBS.  
Show: November 20-22, 1987  
Panel Judge: George Warren  
Place: Columbus, Ohio

Lodging: Hyatt on Capitol Square  
Exhibition: Rhodes Center of the  
Ohio Exhibition Center  
NFS Annual Meeting: Hyatt Hotel

#### OKLAHOMA

The Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma  
Delegate: Gene Miller  
Call: (405) 382-7066  
Show: October 24, 1987  
Panel Judge: Earl Courts  
Place: Cent.Plz.Hotel, OKC.

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society  
Delegate: Laura Bewley  
Call: (918) 369-2717  
Show: October 25, 1986  
Panel Judge: William Parlee  
Place: Cent.Plz.Hotel, OKC.  
Region 4 Regional Meeting

#### PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Pennsylvania  
Cage Bird Society  
Delegate: Brenda Geesey  
Call: (717) 854-2604  
Show: November 14, 1987  
Panel Judge: George Warren  
Place: Quality Inn, York Valley

Chester County Bird Breeders  
Delegate: William T. Trace  
Call:  
No show this year.

The Philadelphia Avicultural Soc.  
Delegate: Rosemarie Priemon  
Call:  
No show this year.

#### TENNESSEE

The Middle Tennessee Cage  
Bird Club  
Delegate: Eva Duffy  
Call:  
Show: Oct. 24, 1987  
Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

**VIRGINIA**

The Peninsula Cage Bird Society

Delegate:

Call:

Show:

Panel Judge:

Place:

**WISCONSIN**

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Kathryn Konkol

Call:

Show: October 31, 1987

Judge: Ron Philip\*\*\*

Place:

**INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES****ENGLAND**

The Australian Finch Society

Delegate: Martin Mogg

U.S.A.

The International Dove Society

Delegate: John Pire

**NEW ZEALAND**

The New Zealand Finch Breeders

Delegate: Valerie Hughes

**ENGLAND**

The Zebra Finch Society

Delegate: J.A.W. Prior

**Yes, count me as a member of the****American Federation of Aviculture**

P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278

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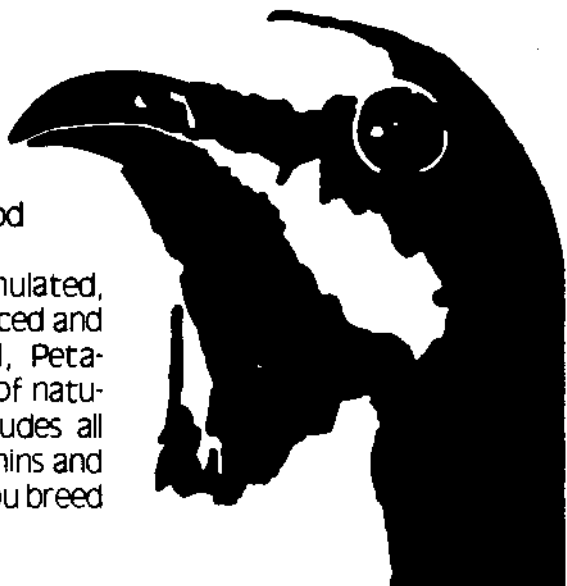
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# SEATTLE BOARD MEETING

The third quarterly Board meeting of the society was held at the Westin International Hotel, Seattle, Washington at 8 p.m. on August 12, 1987. In attendance were: Nancy Reed, Roger O'Connell, Brenda Geesey, Brian Binns, Hal Koontz, Al Decoteau, Russ Armitage, and Bill Parlee.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. Russ Armitage, society Treasurer reported our account balance to be \$6,349.71 as of August 1, 1987.

## AFA REPORT.

Bill Parlee make the AFA delegates report. He stated that AFA delegates Brenda Geesey and himself would be attending the AFA Board meeting. Also at the convention, a NFS Board meeting, General Membership meeting, and several FINCHSAVE meetings would be held.

## AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT.

Russ Armitage read the report of Pam Liddy our Club Liaison. He reported that we had 51 affiliated clubs of which three clubs were not current with their affiliation dues. Russ pointed out that affiliation dues are due January 31, and the remaining clubs must pay immediately to assure delivery of the awards for their shows. Those clubs are Gold Coast of Florida, Georgia Cage Bird, and Greater Omaha. Russ reported that we gained ten new clubs this year and lost only one: Milwaukee Cage Bird Club.

## PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The Committee chair, Brenda Geesey stated that we were taken orders for the 1986-87 Yearbook from mock copies at the convention. The fee for the yearbook is \$5.00. For those purchasing them before publication date, they will be mailed upon publication.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

Bill Parlee pointed out that December of this year is to be our election of officers for the coming two years. He asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. Nancy Reed, Brenda Geesey, and Pam Liddy appointed and accepted the appointment. The Committee hopes to present two nominees for each position. A brief report was given by Hal Koontz regarding his resignation from the post of Regional Vice-President of the Pacific Coast Region and possible nominees from that area. (Hal will be nominated for

the position of Third Vice-President in charge of the FINCHSAVE program).

### FINCHSAVE PROGRAM REPORT

Hal Koontz, committee chair, gave a lengthy report on the progress that has been made by the committee. He stated that one meeting of the committee had already taken place at the convention and that two more were already scheduled for tomorrow. It is the intention of the committee, not to leave Seattle until all the major questions regarding the program have been addresses. The outcose of those meetings is published elsewhere in this issue of the bulletin.

### JUDGES PANEL REPORT

Al Decoteau stated that he sent out notices to Judges to send in new questions for the written portion of the apprentice testing. He stated that many judges have done so and that several new tests will be made up from those submissions.

Al clarified the rules for application to the apprenticeship program. The applicant must have been a breeder of finches for at least five years, and an exhibitor for a period not less than three years with verifiable wins in the top ten at NFS shows.

A discussion was held regarding the question of Hybridization of finches.

Another lengthy discussion was held regarding the possibility of mock judgings for the purposes of the apprenticeship program. Sited was the lack of time at actual shows and the difficulty of aprentices to make connections with judges to apprentice with thee at shows. It was decided after much discussion to table this idea. Sited was the fact that nearly 75% of our shows will have apprentices being testing. The Board felt that due to this massive turnout of apprentices, further procedores for testing will not at this time be necessary.

The final report was given regarding the complaint received regarding the Panhandle show. The Board feels that many items of the comolaint were unfounded. The areas that the Board felt needed attention have been communicated to the parties involved, and that issue has been closed by the Board.

A discussion was held regarding the judging of softbills at NFS shows. It has been recommended that softbills be judged first as they tire before the finches do.

The Board discussed the International Dove Society and points that may be awarded for NFS members showing at those shows. The I.D.S. will be having two shows under their banner in the same calendar year. This oroblee

arose when I.D.S. elected to change their show date to a different date causing two shows to occur in the same year.

### LEG BAND REPORT

Roger O'Connell reported the increasing popularity of the NFS banding program. He stated that we had already surpassed 1986 leg band sales. The amount of \$1,150 had been collected as of August 1, 1987 for leg bands sold. The society has spent \$1,192.41 for the procurement of bands so far this year.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Russ Armitage reported that our membership stands at approximately 500 members and 51 affiliates. It was pointed out that this is a true figure as NFS fills unoccupied numbers caused by non-renewing members.

### PRODUCTS AND PROMOTIONS

Bill announced for Kelly Dahill, take the new 1987 tee-shirts depicting a Black-headed, White-breasted mutation of the Gouldian Finch were now available, and would go on sale the the NFS booth at the AFA convention. He also stated that the shirts would be on sale at the Great American Bird Show in Atlanta, The National at Columbus, or could be ordered from Membership Services.

### RESEARCH AND STANDARDS

Al Decoteau reported that the Shafttail Standard is near completion. Al asked Brenda Geesey, Shafttail Chair, to present to the Board the draft copy of the Standard. A visual Standard has also been submitted (drawn by Harold Harnish). Brenda reported that both the visual and actual written Standard would be finalized shortly.

Al also reported that the Java Standard Committee is working hard on the Java Standard headed by Cecil Gunby. This Standard will be proposed sometime in early 1988. Al told us that the Diamond Sparrow Committee had not progressed as well. He asked any additional volunteers for that committee would be greatly appreciated.

### NATIONAL SHOWS REPORT

Bill Parlee reported that all was in a state of readiness for the Great American in Atlanta, although the Catalog would not be ready in time for mailing. The judges for Canaries are: Bernard Devaney, Ken Minder, Bob Roberts, and Regina McCarthy. Parrots will be judged by Al Decoteau, Finches and Softbills by Bill Parlee. Lovebirds by Jancice Prichard. ACS Cockatiels by Nancy Reed, and MCS Cockatiels by Glen Sibson. Bill stated



that the format for the show would be the same as last year in Chicago. It will have the judging, seminars, sale room, commercial room, demonstrations and of course the grand banquet.

Bill announced that the Kaytee Award for Best NFS Bred and Banded Finch would again highlight our National Show, held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show in Columbus. The show will be held at the Rhodes Center at the Ohio State Fair Grounds in Columbus. The site is just a few miles from our designated hotel, the Hyatt at Capitol Square. All functions of the National will be held at the hotel, with the exception of the actual judging of birds.

Transportation between the two locations will be provided by the Host Club, the Central Ohio Bird Fanciers. Ken Stubbart and his staff have assured us of an excellent show. He said that vans would be running between the two locations throughout the show. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 1987. We suggest to afford you the least inconvenience that you, upon arrival, take your birds to the Rhodes Center.

Security will be provided at the show site throughout the duration. Vans will then be able to take you to the hotel. For the ease of all exhibitors, it is suggested that you not depend on the vans to move birds back and forth, unless special arrangements are made.

We are all looking forward to the National and our Panel Judge, George Warren from England. We will be awarding the Kaytee Award, The Kallogg for Best in Division, the NFS Plaques and Rosettes, and an array of Patronage Awards from clubs around the world.

### OLD BUSINESS

The complaint regarding the Panhandle Finch judging and the resulting investigation has been closed and no censure action was voted upon.

### NEW BUSINESS

Voted on and approved: Starting in 1988, NFS will no longer judge hybridized finches. Such will be stated in the NFS 1988 Affiliation Agreement. As a point of clarification, an affiliation is for one show per year.

Voted down was a motion to allow mock judgments for the purpose of the Apprenticeship Program.

Approved were all measures taken by the FINCHBAVE committee to date. Hal Koontz has been given authority to administer the program in accordance with the committee's findings and direction.

Adjournment was at 10:30 p.m. Next Board Meeting, Columbus, Nov. 21, 1987. 171

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No. 4 assembled (painted)	36.00	37.00	47.00

*OTHER SOCIETY SHOWCAGES AVAILABLE*

We can only paint Showcages when our backlog of work allows us to

# **"FINCHSAVE" is a reality!**

The FINCHSAVE Committee met at the A.F.A. Convention in Seattle and finalized most of the fine points of the Breeding Specialist Program.

Taking part in the series of three meetings on August 13, and 14, at the convention, were Hal Koontz, Val Clear, Nora Kopecky, and Bill Parlee. The following is a brief summary of the outcome of those meetings and form the formula that will be used to administer the program. At the end of this article is an application that you may fill out for further information on the program and the particular species you wish to participate with.

## BIRDS THE PROGRAM WILL COVER

The program will cover all finches and Softbill birds with the exception of Zebra finches, Societies, Shafttails, Gouldians, and Java Rice Birds. The program will not cover Pigeons, Doves, Quail, or other game related birds. The program may cover additional species upon individual evaluation.

SPECIFIC GROUPS. Each group will have a leader or Captain. The groups are: Australian and Parrot Finches, all Waxbills (Australian and African), All Mannikins, South American Finches, European Finches, African Finches (other than Mannikins and Waxbills), and Softbills.

## LEG BANDING

All birds bred under the program will require leg banding. NFS bands are highly recommended, however any closed coded band will be acceptable, such band will not have to be the prescribed size for the bird banded. Therefore banding after fledging is allowed. It should be pointed out however, that this is for the purpose of the FINCHSAVE program only. If any of these birds are to be shown in exhibition the normal banding rules must be followed.

Parent birds if not already banded must be banded upon purchase. Any identifying band open or closed is acceptable to the committee. This is to assure the identification of parents of babies when colony breeding is done. In order to keep track of parentage in colony situations parents will have to be caught up and identified during the raising of their babies.

## PARTICIPATION FEE

There is a five dollar participation fee for the program which must accompany your application. This fee is non-refundable.

nder the program you will be required to participate with a certain number of pairs of the species that you choose. Such requirement will not exceed five pairs, and in some cases may be as little as one pair in accordance with the rarity of the bird.

#### ADMINISTRATION

FINCHSAVE will be administered by a Director with the advisement of the FINCHSAVE Committee. The structure will continue with seven Group Managers as outlined. Reporting to the Group Managers will be individual species Captains (one for each species, as becomes necessary). Reporting to those Captains will be in individual species participants.

All administrators and committeemen of the program shall, themselves, be participants of the FINCHSAVE program.

Annual progress reports will be required from all participants of the program, on a calendar basis.

Confidentiality will be of utmost concern. Names and telephone numbers will be circulated only within the species involved.

#### REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The applicant to the program must feel and represent to the committee that he or she has the knowledge and experience to believe that he or she can successfully participate in the program. The applicant further agrees to purchase the necessary pairs for participation in a particular species. They will devote the necessary time and energies in an endeavor to raise the required number of babies per year (the actual agreement to state the required number for that species)

The participant will fill out and return a questionnaire regarding their progress in the program, no later than March 1st, for the previous years participation.

The participant will first offer to sell babies raised within the program to other participants with the aid of the Species Captain unless relieved of that responsibility by the Species Captain.

The participant must notify the Species Captain of any change of address or any change in the participant's participation in the program, including but not limited to, the decision not to continue with a species. Any new species considered by the participant must be communicated to the Program Director.

If a participant does not comply with the rules of the program (reports, etc.) he may be dropped from the program at the discretion of the  
... of all babies available for awards under the program.

the participant must accurately describe the birds that he or she is selling to another participant in regard to health, age, or any known defects.

#### DURATION, AWARDS, AND PUBLICATIONS

The awards under the program will be given upon the completion of five years and the successful raising of the required number of babies under your agreement. Citations may be published during your participation upon notable progress toward your goal under the program.

Returned questionnaires will become the property of NFS and may be used in the education of its members by the publishing committee. The confidentiality cause within your agreement will be upheld. Any materials published that would infringe upon that cause would be approved by the participant prior to publication.

Awards for successful completion of the program will include, but not be limited to, a plaque of accomplishment, and national recognition for your achievements within the FINCHSAVE Program.

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The participant releases the National Finch and Softbill Society from any liability arising from their participation in this program. NFS, its Directors, the FINCHSAVE Committee, its' Director, Group Managers, and Specie Captains shall be held harmless in any dealings between administrators or participants within the program.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM ONLY. SPECIFIC DETAILS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FINCHSAVE AGREEMENT.

---

#### APPLICATION FOR FINCHSAVE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NFS # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( )- \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to apply for participation in the FINCHSAVE program. Please send me the necessary information. Enclosed is the five (5) dollar fee.

I would like to participate with (species) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Send your check and application to FINCHSAVE, Hal Koontz, 2604 Auburn Ct., Bakersfield, CA 93306.



# Bill Parlee

PANEL JUDGE

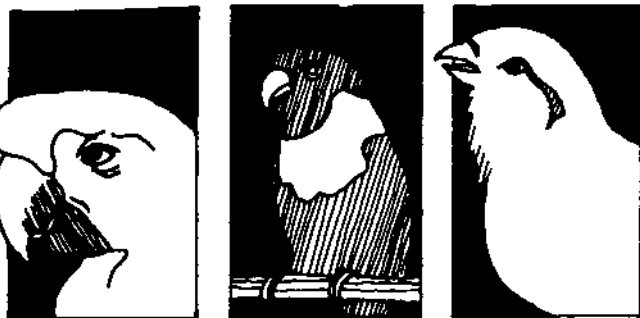
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NOVEMBER 19, 20, 21, 1987

**NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY  
NATIONAL SHOW**

**panel judge  
George Warren**

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Columbus, Ohio



## KEEPING HUMMINBIRDS, Charlie Anchor

In the early 1960's, a store in New York, Capricorn Aviaries, began importing Hummingbirds. A few from time to time. Prior to this, as far as my knowledge went, only a few Zoos were bringing them in, and then, only sporadically.

I had to have them. I had been keeping many of the Softbills and felt that Hummingbirds would be the ultimate. At this time in the world of Aviculture, you have to remember, there were no ready made nectars to feed. Each Zoo and private individual that tried to keep Hummers devised their own feeding methods. In talking to different Zoo keepers and Aviculturists around the country, it seemed each person had devised their own. Everyone agreed that there was much room for improvement. To keep a Hummer alive for a year, was quite an accomplishment.

Understanding all this, I still had to have them. I began by building a special flight to house them. Three feet wide, by four feet high, by seven feet long, built into the wall of the Family room with natural perches. Glass front with solid sides which was recommended by a Milwaukee Zoo Keeper, which I found to be good advice. Hummers and a bar cage do not mix.

I followed another theory that bird's will not fly into a dimly lit area. With a florescent fixture in the Hummer's cage and keeping the main perches at the far ends of the cage, more or less, forced them to fly past the windows not into them. Also the glass windows face into the Family room which is on the lower level and easy to keep dim. We live in a bi-level. I never had a Hummer fly into the glass and injure itself.

Inside the flight, flowering plants were kept in an effort to provide them with some natural food source. In my part of the country, flowering plants are hard to keep. This meant consistently changing the plants. In the spring and summer this was easy, in the fall and winter this sometimes got quite expensive. Another source of a natural food supply was Fruit Flies, which everyone recommended in the early days as being a necessary part of the Hummingbird diet. Believe it or not, a steady supply of Fruit Flies is a difficult order to fill. Keeping rotten fruit around is not pleasant and the house is constantly full of Fruit Flies, which was not appreciated.

We then found out about a culture scientific supply house, and the availability of Fruit Flies. We then had Fruit Flies in the winter months, but we still had flies all over the house. The supplier suggested Wingless Fruit Flies. I would shake some into a small flat dish in a




larger dish of water, the Hummers would come down to eat perched on the rim. There was no way to supply a complete diet of natural foods. Each aviculturist fed his own nectar. Sugar and water were the bases for all of them. Also there was one available from England, but it too, lacked something. Hummers were still not long-lived in captivity.

All along I was working with Hank Bates, Bob Busenbark, Ray Johnson, and Dr. Kelly, all friends of mine, exchanging our results with different formulas. We finally settled on one which I will be glad to send to anyone seriously thinking of keeping Hummers. It is also marvelous for Sugarbirds, Tanagers and other softbills. This formula was made up in 32 ounce quantities and frozen in ice cube trays.

In this way we would take out the number of cubes needed for the next day and thawed them in the refrigerator. This was put in the flight in early morning, then changed around noon. In early evening, a nectar of molasses, sugar, vitamins, and water was exchanged for the formula. This was left until early morning. It was also used to feed the Hummers while at shows.

Hummers are very sturdy birds. They stand travel very well and almost never fly in panic. They have complete confidence in the flying ability. To my knowledge nobody in the U.S.A. has bred them. This would certainly be a feather in someone's cap.





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## 3 Breeding Cherry Finches, Hal M. Koontz

When compared to the brightly colored Gouldian Finch, the flashy Diamond Sparrow and the striking Shafttail Finch, the Cherry finch appears to be somewhat plain. While the Cherry finch may not win the battle of first impressions, it is a charming species, and is quite beautiful.

The Cherry finch, Aideosyne modesta, is also known as the Plumhead finch. I usually think of the Cherry finch as a small finch, although it is larger than the Owl and Star finches. Its basic color is brown. Its back and upper tail are brown with white spots on them. Its face, chest and abdomen are white with brown barring across it in a distinct regular pattern like Zebra stripes, only brown and white. The crown and throat (in a circle of bib) are dark purple which looks black except when it is in the sunlight. The tail is black; the beak is black and the legs, feet, and eyes are brown. As with most finches, a description never does justice to the species. You need to see the bird or a picture to appreciate its' beauty.

Cherry finches are sexually dimorphic. The male has much more purple under the beak and on the crown than the hen. Consequently it is not difficult to be certain that the two birds you have set up are a pair. Cherry babies color out fast, i.e., they go through their juvenile moult into their adult plumage at about six to eight weeks of age. Prior to the juvenile moult, Cherry babies do not have the barring and do not have the purple bib or crown. It is difficult to sex Cherry babies prior to the juvenile moult.

One negative characteristic of the species (at least in my Cherry finches) is that the majority of the babies are males. My birds consistently raise more males than females. Last year I had a clutch of babies raised by a pair of Cherries and all four babies were males. Add this to the seven extra males I already had and it compounded my problem. I hope other breeders have experienced different results and have raised extra females. My birds have been heavy on males for many years now.

My Cherry finches breed all year round. Unlike most of my Australian finches, I had several pairs of Cherries nesting during last winter. Cherry finches use natural nesting sites such as tumbleweeds, tall grass or bushes. I have had nests in nest boxes only a couple of times. My birds use Bermuda grass for nesting material. They weave long strands of grass into their nest and finish it off with few feathers.

Cherry finches are a fairly nervous bird. During the day if I enter the aviary, the parent incubating the eggs will fly off of the nest as soon as

the aviary door begins to open. They must know that it is harder for me to find their nest if I cannot see them fly out of the nest while being closer. At night, if both birds are in the nest and I enter the aviary, one of the Cherries will fly out of the nest to distract my attention. He usually makes a lot of noise to attract my attention. The other Cherry continues to stay in the nest unless I get very close to it.

Cherry finches stay in constant contact with each other. The two mates are constantly calling softly to each other. Their call is not very distinct, being a soft and short call. The one instance I have noticed them to be noisy is when their babies fledge. They chirp loudly to their babies for several days after the babies fledge and they scold me for being a threat to their babies.

My Cherry finches usually nest about three feet off the ground. On one occasion, I had a pair build a nest in the branches of a tree which was growing through the roof of my aviary. The nest was touching the roof panel of the aviary. Needless to say, I could not look into the nest very easily. But generally, my Cherries build a low nest. Their nest is small when compared to most other Australian finches, and has no entrance tunnel. When not breeding, they do not build a roosting nest and prefer to sleep out in the open on a perch or in a bush. I have read the Cherries are sensitive to nest disturbances, but that is not my experience. I check my aviaries once a week and look in all the nests. My experience is that Cherries go right back to the nest when I leave the aviary and do not abandon their eggs or young.

Cherry finches are pretty hardy. Cold temperatures get down into the high 20's at my house during the winter and the Cherries still sleep out in the open and even breed. Cherry finches are fairly easy to breed. I have read that pair bonding is very important in Cherry finches and I think there is some truth to this. It is better if the Cherries can choose their own mates and are not re-paired later after having raised babies. I have had some difficulty getting re-paired birds to breed. My best results are from un-bred birds, or birds that have not been set up for breeding for awhile.

Cherry finches are very peaceful. You will have no trouble adding Cherry finches to a mixed collection unless it is the Cherry finch that is being picked on. Cherries like greenfood very much. I feed my birds Swiss chard and half ripe seed heads. They are one of the first species to start eating after I feed greens.

My Cherry finches lay five eggs in a clutch. Fertility is usually very high. My birds are slightly better than average parents. I have some pairs that do an excellent job raising their babies. I have other pairs that will only raise one or two babies per clutch. Both parents sit on the eggs at night. Incubation takes approximately 14 days. The babies

fledge at approximately 21 days of age. They return to the nest for the first few nights after fledging but thereafter sleep out on the perch like their parents. The babies are independent at about 35 days.

For many years the Cherry finch was not a very popular species. I was able to raise them but did not receive many calls from people wanting them. Consequently, I put less emphasis on the species and bred fewer of them. About six years ago, it seemed like breeders discovered the species. My surplus stock was bought and I have seen steady demand for the species ever since. I was encouraged by a breeder recently who wants to concentrate on this species for the FINCHSAVE program. We need more breeders working with this species. Cherry finches are much less common than many of the Australian finches and could use some work in getting them better established in American aviculture.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have questions about Australian finches, write to Hal at 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93306. He would probably be interested in hearing from any of you who have excess Cherry hens, as well.



**BEST**

**WISHES**

*Nancy A. Reed*

109 STAGECOACH ROAD

WINDSOR, CONN. 06095

# A BASIC STANDARD, Jon Hoffman

Note: The following is a proposed standard and subject to revision, Judges Panel input, and Board of Director's approval.

CONFORMATION. . . . .	50 POINTS
CONDITION . . . . .	20 POINTS
COLOR . . . . .	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT . . . . .	10 POINTS
PRESENTATION. . . . .	5 POINTS

## CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Conformation is always to be considered as the single most important factor in judging finches and softbills. Conformation includes considerations of size, shape ("type"), proportion and substance.

**SIZE:** Size is of course, relative. Each bird shall be judged as it pertains to that species. A bird that is markedly oversized or undersized for its species shall be considered faulted. A bird that is slightly larger than normal would be preferable to one that is slightly undersized. Until a species Standard has been developed for a particular species, a normal sized bird will receive the most consideration in the size category.

**SHAPE AND PROPORTION:** When a number of birds are shown in the same class, the comparison method of judging is of great importance when considering shape and proportion. The shape of the bird should be indicative to the species shown. The portions should be correct, i.e., head size to body size, beak size to head size, length of the neck, etc. A bird that is shaped incorrectly or out of proportion to that that is known of the species will dramatically lose points in the area of conformation.

**SUBSTANCE:** Substance is generally considered to be the degree of musculature and fat to bone structure. The terms, "Cobby" and "Snaky" are often used in judging. "Cobby" refers to a more robust, full bodied bird. While "Snaky" refers to the bird that appears more snakelike in body. Certain species should exhibit the "Cobby" appearance. They should be well developed with a 50% ratio of fat and muscle. An example of this would be the robustness of the Zebra Finch and the more streamlined appearance ("Snaky") of the Indian Silverbill. The species that are of the second reference will show a more highly developed musculature and less fat in percentage.

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:** More generally the following will be considered where appropriate according to the species shown;

The line of the back and chest. The wing carriage. The tail length and angle as it pertains to the body and species. In the "Cobbler" species the neck will appear to blend into the back. In the "Snakier" species the neck will show somewhat, giving the appearance of a "nip" in the head to back line. The wing carriage should in most cases be even and straight off the back line. The length and breadth of the tail should be as the species demands.

General faults would be tumors, growths, excess scaling of the legs and feet, missing toes and nails, obvious cracking, scaling, and crossing of the beak. Any sign of obvious disease will be faulted. Judges will fault any defect in proportion to its importance to the bird. For instance, a missing nail or hairline scaling of the beak will not be counted as heavily as a crossed beak or cataract of the eye. In general, faults that may eventually effect the health or breeding ability of the bird will count most heavily.

### CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Judges will consider a bird's condition to be of great importance. Condition refers to the overall health, appearance, and grooming of the species. The condition of feathering is of particular importance, and will make a strong impression on the judge.

All feathers should be present; broken or missing feathers will be penalized, as will any sign that the feathers have been trimmed to create a more even appearance. The feathers should lie smoothly along the body and should be clean, and free of any foreign matter, feather lumps, or deformities. There should be no visible pin feathers or bare spots other than the bare areas of skin associated with eyehags, bell birds, picathartes, and other birds to which these skin patches are to be considered normal. There should be no frayed or rough feathering in accordance with the normal perfection for each individual species shown.

Many finches and softbills will partially erect their feathers while displaying; such behavioural traits are not to be confused with poor feather condition. Allowance must be made, as well, for variations in feather texture among different species.

Excellent plumage is normally apparent in many of the waxbills, Shafttails, Palm finch, and other species; these birds will be judged with a critical eye to condition, as it is not difficult to keep them in top condition. Other birds, such as, Parrot finches, whvdahs, quail, and the like, are seldom seen in perfect condition. The degree of difficulty will be taken into consideration by the judge when these birds are shown. These "difficult" birds will especially impressive when shown in top condition.

Eyes should be bright, clear and clean, free from discharge or enlargement of the lids. The area of the nostrils should also be free of discharge. Nostril openings should be clear, and without signs of any abnormality. The beak should be clean and free of excess scale or crustiness. The mandibles of the beak must not cross or be uneven. The feet and legs should be clean and free of scaling or abnormal growths. Toe nails should not be missing and should be of the proper length; trimmed if necessary.

In general, the appearance of the bird should indicate excellent health on the part of the bird, and excellent care on the part of the owner.

#### COLOR (15 POINTS)

Color requirements will vary for each species or mutation shown. As a rule, the depth of color and evenness of color will be of importance. In birds where sharp dividing lines between colors is essential, any "ticking" of opposing colors in the base field will be less desirable. In many species color suffusion or a blending of one color into another is befitting. In these cases the degree of graduation of color tones will be taken into consideration, as the species shown demands.

In pied mutations, symmetry of markings and a pleasing degree of color contrast are desirable. Ideally the degree of piedness should be 50% light to 50% base color. The symmetry of those markings are however, a more significant consideration. In mutations where dilute or dark factors are present they are judged without prejudice.

All birds shown will be judged as to the sex of the species. A hen of the species will be judged for the type and color normally present in a hen, and not in comparison to a cock bird. Likewise, a species that experiences both nuptial and eclipse plumage will be judged for the plumage that the bird is in at the time of judging. Birds that are somewhere in-between the change in plumage will be less desirable than birds that have eclipsed or are in full nuptial feather. Juvenile birds are difficult to judge and will seldom compete successfully against birds that have full bodies and adult colorations.

Judges will examine birds for true colorations of beak, legs, and feet.

#### DEPARTMENT (10 POINTS)

Department refers to the way in which a bird carries or displays itself in the show cage at the time of judging. A judge must be very familiar with a species to be sure department is judged correctly.

Generally speaking, all birds should show themselves in a way which allows the judge to evaluate all other points of the Standard. Birds should not

cover at the bottom, or "bash" about the cage. A bird that stays at the bottom of the cage may not be able to be properly judged.

Department in finches and softbills takes on an added dimension compared to many other types of birds. A judge must consider the "demeanor" of the bird shown. "Demeanor" is the way in which, or the quality by which, a bird outwardly manifests its personality. Many species, like Zebras, Gouldians, Green Singers, Shafttails, and Societies will perch for long periods of time. These and other birds that should show a strong perching ability, should show confidence and a proudness of stance. A waxbill on the other hand will exhibit a near constant hop from perch to perch. At each turn back it will flick its tail from side to side, pause, and make the hop back to the other perch. This will continue throughout the judging. This is "demeanor" and is shown in different ways in several species. A waxbill that shows itself as a rigidly perched bird, will be easy to judge, but will not be true to form, it will lose points for not exhibiting the qualities of demeanor essential for that species.

In the case of a weavers, and other similarly flighty birds, consideration will be given to the fact that the bird will be nervous in the confines of a show box, however a bird that shows evidence of bashing and being completely unfamiliar with the show box will receive less points than a bird that is somewhat calm and relaxed. In the case of a hummingbird, perching is not necessary. Toucans, Starlings, Touracos, Chlorosis, and other similar softbills should show a degree of steadiness in the cage.

All finches and softbills should display themselves to advantage, with an air of confidence, alertness, and exhibiting characteristic behavior.

#### PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

NFS does not currently require the use of standard show cages, although it is highly recommended. Show cages, or boxes, are designed for uniformity and to show each bird off to its best advantage. Show boxes being uniform do not create distractions, and allow the bird to be judged without taking the cage into consideration.

If other than a show box is used the cage must be of correct size for the bird shown. It should admit enough light to allow the judge to be able to examine the bird. It should normally (except softbills) have two perches of correct size for the bird shown, placed from front to back. Perches should be placed far enough apart to allow for tail clearance. Swings, toys and other items must be removed from the cage before the judging. Such items along with distinctly unusual colorations of the cage or box may be considered cage marking, and be disqualified. Normal show box colors are glossy black on the exterior and white, off white, or powder blue on the interior.



The cage floor should be covered with seed appropriate to the bird shown, ground corn cob, or plain gravel. Show box bottoms should be seed covered. Waterers may be used, but should be unobtrusive and easily removed by a steward if necessary.

Cage doors should be securely latched. The cleanliness of any show cage is of utmost importance.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT OF STANDARD

This general Standard for finches and softbills is to be used as a guide to judging birds for which an official NFS Standard has not been adopted. The points attributed to each characteristic, is to show the importance of that particular characteristic as it pertains to the judging of the whole bird. Whenever judging more than one bird, judging will be done by the comparison method officially approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society.

Editorial note: Thanks goes to Jon Hoffman who wrote the original proposal for this Standard. Printed here is the first revision, further revisions may take place before adoption by the Society.

**LET'S SEE 300 FINCHES AND  
SOFTBILLED BIRDS AT OUR  
1987 COLUMBUS NATIONAL.**

**COMPETE FOR THE KAYTEE**

**BEST NFS B & B**

**BY EXHIBITOR AWARD**

# OVERSEAS PATRONAGE PROJECT

## by Tom Rood

It is with great pleasure and the permission of our President, Bill Parlee, that I am able to write this article. I am hoping that the NFS members find my project interesting, and I am also hoping it will stir even more interest in the Finch Division at the 1987 National Cage Bird show in Columbus, Ohio.

My "Overseas Patronage Project" actually started right after the St. Louis National. I was the recipient of a silver medal for 2nd best Society Finch. This medal was donated to the National through the courtesy of Dr. Val Clear. Dr. Clear received the medals from the National Bangalese Fanciers Association of England. At about the same time, I read an article in London's Cage and Aviary Birds (of which I am a subscriber) from a club in Australia wanting to exchange patronage awards. I wrote to this club expressing the interest of our local cage bird club, the Illinois Bird Fanciers. I sent some of our clubs rosettes and ribbons to Australia and in exchange received 6 beautiful diplomas, each depicting a different type of bird. I then started reading Cage and Aviary Birds a little closer, i.e. the "club news" columns. I was surprised to see that many foreign cage birds clubs were interested in exchanging patronage awards. That's when my real project started.

Being "Awards Chairman" for my local club, I decided to try and get some new and different awards for our annual show: something different than our usual ribbons and rosettes. I'm not sure if I was appointed as awards chairman, volunteered for the position, or was simply drafted! You see, our club is quite small and friendly, and whoever has the pen and paper is in charge of writing the names. Apparently, at this particular meeting, I did not have the pen and paper!

Over my Christmas break (2nd grade teacher), I wrote to several overseas clubs to see if they would be interested in exchanging awards. Since our club is an all breed club, I wrote to various clubs specializing in budgies, color canaries, type canaries, foreign birds, Zebra Finches, Society Finches, etc. Several weeks later the letters and packages started arriving. I found the letters very interesting and open to helping with the project. It seemed like I'd known these people personally for many years. As a matter of fact, I'm still writing to several overseas fanciers on a pen-pal basis and find it quite rewarding and fun. Many of the Patronage Secretaries I wrote to were kind enough to pass my exchange letters on to their friends in other clubs I hadn't even written. The friendliness and hospitality shown by these fanciers could be a separate article in itself.

well, when all was said and done, I have received patronage awards from approximately 20 different cage birds clubs in England, Scotland, Belgium, Northern Ireland, Australia and Canada. I might mention that I've been exchanging rosettes with John Bennett's (Zebrin Avianes) Zebra Finch club for 3 years now. These rosettes are quite sought after among our local cage bird clubs. Most of the patronage awards I received were in the form of rosettes, which are quite different than the rosettes we give in the U.S. They are very brightly colored and their color combinations are very striking. I also received many unique and beautiful diplomas and certificates from various specialty clubs. One Zebra Finch club sent along a gold medal and a miniature plaque. I guess the most unique award I received came from a Canary club in England. They actually sent me their official club pullover sweater, complete with embroidered patch of their club logo.

To put it mildly, I received more stuff than I could ever begin to use at one show! After covering the necessary classes and sections for our club's annual show, I sent some of the patronage awards to other all breed clubs in my area. I also set aside a good number of patronage awards for the NFS to use at the National, and I'm happy to say that Bill Parlee has given his okay to award these prizes at the National. A complete list of all awards for our National is located elsewhere in this issue.

I am hoping you are planning to show your finches at this year's National. The only way you can take some of these international awards home is to SHOW YOUR BIRDS! Best wishes and good luck to all NFS members during the 1987 show season.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom was the winner of the Best NFS Bred and Banded Finch at our 1986 National. Along with the Kaytee Award, Tom won the Kellogg with the same pair of Zebras for best in division.

We owe a debt of thanks to Tom for his hard work in obtaining these prized awards which will be awarded at our National in Columbus.

The National Finch and Softbill Society supplies Patronage Awards to the Zebra Finch Society of England, the Australian Finch Society, and the New Zealand Finch Breeders. Our Patronage awards are 24" Rosettes, maroon in color, stating that they are awarded by the National Finch and Softbill Society U.S.A. "Special Patronage Award". These are intended to be awarded at their National Shows. Unfortunately, due to the cost of these awards they are not available to local clubs, inside or outside the U.S.A.

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# AWARDS SCHEDULE FOR THE NFS NATIONAL SHOW NOVEMBER 19-21, 1987 COLUMBUS, OHIO

In addition to the standard Sectional and Divisional trophies and Rosettes issued by the National and the host club. NFS will be awarding the following special awards for our National Show.

Best in Division - NFS Plaque, Rosette and Kellong Trophy.

Best NFS 1987 Bred and Banded - The Kaytee Award.

Second in Division - NFS Plaque and Rosette.

Third in Division - NFS Plaque and Rosette.

Fourth thru Tenth - NFS Rosette.

Best Zebra Finch - Gold Medal (E. Anglian ZFS) - Rosette (Scottish ZFS)

Second Best - Rosette (Southern Counties ZFS)

Third Best - Rosette (Yorkshire and Allied ZFS)

Best Society - Rosette (London & Southern Counties Bangalese Fanciers)

Second Best - Rosette (Avon Zebra and Bangalese Club)

Third Best - Rosette (Avon Zebra and Bangalese Club)

Best Australian - Rosette and Diploma (Australian Finch Society)

Second Best - Shield from the AFS

Third Best - Shield from the AFS

Unflighted - Rosette (Foreign Bird Club of Coventry)

Best Society Pr. - Rosette and diploma (Nat'l Bangalese Fanciers Assoc.)

Best Aust. Pr. - Rosette and diploma (Australian Finch Society)

Best Zebra Pr. - Rosette (South Western ZFS)  
Diploma (Hastings Valley, NSW, Australia)

Best Softbill - NFS Plaque  
Rosette (Foreign Bird Society of Coventry)

There are a couple of other awards that are not listed here. as they have not come in as yet. One of them is being hand carried by our judge, George Warren of Paulsgrove, England.

# **BREEDING THE GREEN SINGING FINCH by Tim Morris**

Shortly after learning the basics of how to care for Green Singing Finches, I purchased a true pair for about forty dollars. The female had an unbroken necklace of brown feathers around her throat. The male's throat was pure yellow. The song of the male Green Singing Finch earns him his name. He could sing all day long, and I would never complain.

I observed the new birds in their quarantine cage for the first week. During this time, I was looking for problems which are sometimes missed when the birds enter this country through USDA quarantine. Internal and external parasites are a real possibility. I once received Blue-capped Waxbills that showed small amounts of blood in their droppings. After preparing a slide with a sample in a solution, the eggs of the thread worm could be seen through the microscope. Ivermectin was prescribed by the veterinarian and the problem was cured in a short time. even though the internal parasite may not kill the host (why should it?) the bird is weakened and becomes more vulnerable to disease.

After I was satisfied that the singing finches were not sick or carrying parasites, I put them into a large flight cage with canaries.

During the following month, the condition of the birds improved. They seemed to become more robust as the weeks went by. I had no problems getting them onto hard-boiled eggs, leaf spinach, and apple. Canary mixture and extra thistle was used as the seed portion of the diet. For extra calcium and grit, I gave them cuttlebone and Abba mineral with some bone meal mixed in.

In August, I decided to move the singing finches because of the stress that they were causing the canaries. Their new home was a thirty inch breeding cage with a modified canary nest installed. To modify the open canary nest, the inside diameter was reduced to 2 1/2" by using an insert and two felt liners. The nest itself was situated at top perch level in the back corner of the cage. Shredded paper towel worked well as extra nest building material.

Three weeks after moving the pair into the breeding cage, the female started carrying the shredded paper towel to the nest from the floor. Within 24 hours she started laying eggs, but stopped at two. The first egg was ejected from the nest at day four, and the other egg was candled and found to be clear after 3 weeks of incubation.

Within five days from the time I pulled the infertile egg, the hen was

laving eggs again. The second clutch was completed when three eggs were laid. she started incubation with the first egg and the male assisted part-time during the day.

Each egg hatched at day 13. Almost all of the food being fed to the young was being brought to the them by the male.

The male singer seemed to have the biggest appetite at that time for hard boiled egg, spinach, thistle and canary mix. I remember the nestlings sticking their heads out from under their mother, and pulling back in like turtles, when anyone came close to them.

Within a week from hatching, the nestlings eyes were open, and they were ready to band. I used the NFS size "C" band. The parents did not bother the bands because the whole operation was done late in the day to avoid this type of problem. (When the birds awake in the morning they have forgotten about the bands.)

When the nestlings were two weeks old, they started to leave the nest for short periods of time during the day, and the hen was no longer brooding the young at night. The babies were so tame at that time that they would sit on ay hand while putting in food or cleaning.

By day 18, it was decided to put the father into a separate cage because of feather picking aimed at the youngest. The hen finished the feeding to the weaning time of about four weeks. The biggest difference between breeding canaries and the singing finches seems to be the nest size as stated earlier, the egg appearance (eggs are white and about 1/2" wide), and the fact that Green Singers are naturally more active and less confiding than canaries. This leads me to believe that a larger cage is needed for a serious breeding attempt.

I would not suggest housing singers with smaller birds, simply because of the smaller, more passive bird's disadvantage of size and speed during the breeding season. The establishment of territory may be a very uncomfortable affair for the less aggressive bird when it has no place to retreat to.

Another big difference from canary breeding is that Green Singing Finches often come to us from the wild. When dealing with birds from the southern hemisphere, the seasons are reversed from our own; They think fall is spring. Obviously, there is evidence that my bird's time clocks were still set on African time.

I sincerely hope that there are many other NFS members raising Green Singing Finches. I know that I have compared singers to canaries at length because of their family relationship as Serins. It is ironic that the difference between them is what makes them so interesting to me. <



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# SHOW SEASON SURVIVAL

## by Bill Parlee

The show season is either to come, here, or already past; that's according to how many shows you travel to, where you live, or when your local show was held. The show season creature is a many faceted one. There are those who work all year on their own local show, and attend just that show. There is the more traveled show creature who attends several shows in his region. Then there is the super show creature, he is the one who travels around the country from the end of summer to the deep of winter, exhibiting weekend after endless weekend.

There are other show creatures as well, those unsung creatures who are the "workers". The ones who, hope against hope, that all their work will allow their show to come off without a hitch. The show Secretaries, Treasurers, Divisional Secretaries, Stewards, and Catalog Editors. It seems like they have worked for a year to take part in, and watch, a phenomenon that lasts just a few hours.

The other creature in all this folderol, is the show Judge. They are an odd lot indeed. They may drive a few weekends of the season to shows in their area, They may become members of the "Frequent Flyer Programs", of so many airlines that they never reap the awards offered by the airlines, as each time they travel, they find themselves on a discounted fare of a different airline. They seldom charge what their expenses really are. They are heros to some, and bums to others. They hope to do justice to all, knowing full well that they will please 50% at best.

This pretty well defines the show season creature, except for the first-timer. The first-timer is the person with one bird to exhibit. They will go to the show the day of the show, pay their fee for showing, win or lose, and go home never understanding what it took to put the show on.

Thus, this guide to help you get through the show season, this year and next. We'll set this up with suggestions in four major sections. If you follow these suggestions, life during the show season may be just a litter bit easier for you, and for those you come in contact with.

### THE FIRST-TIMER

Try to find out what goes on at a show before the fact. You will enjoy the day much more, when you know what's going on. Read this article, contact show officials a head of time, get Dr. Decoteau's book on BIRD EXHIBITING by TFH publications. Read A.C.B.M. magazine, you will find articles on shows and exhibiting. Above all, when you get to the show, ask the registrar everything you'll need to know, and have fun.

## THE EXHIBITOR

1. Make a decision as to the shows that you hope to attend. Listings are available in A.C.B.M. several months in advance. Write to the show Secretary, get a copy of the catalog and registration forms. If you have these filled out in advance, it will make your check-in much more organized and expeditious.
2. If you'll be traveling by air, purchase your tickets in advance to save money. Never schedule yourself to arrive the morning of the show. If you miss a connection, or the airlines temporarily loses your luggage or birds, you might miss the show. When making reservations at a hotel (if the show is at a hotel) try to get a room that is convenient to the show hall.
3. When arriving at the show, go in first without your birds, find out where the registration tables are, and where your entries should be put while you fill out the show tags. Remember, the show has a starting time. Don't arrive after registration has ended and expect the management to turn the show up-side-down to accommodate you.
4. When judging begins, try to learn from what the judges say about different birds. Be quiet, talk softly with associates. There is nothing worse at a bird show, than a loud mouth. If you disagree with show officials on their procedures, or the judges decisions, don't be a jerk about it. Contact the show Manager and briefly and calmly point out your disagreement. If you have not been satisfied, write to show officials after the show. If you believe critical errors have been made in actual judging, and if the judge is a panel judge, representing a national society, there is probably a grievance procedure to follow.
5. Putting on a show can be stressful for those working on the show. Whenever you are asked to help, try to do so. Sometimes on the day of the show, the show manager finds he is short workers. You may even see a way to help without being asked. Ask the show manager if you can help in some way.
6. The club sponsoring the show you are attending needs your financial support. The registration fee seldom covers the cost of putting on a show. There are many things you can do to help. Donate to the raffle, buy raffle tickets, purchase food and drink at the club sponsored booth, whenever possible attend the show banquet. Many of us cannot afford to take out a full page show ad in the catalog. Check it out! There may be a breeders listing in the catalog that only costs a few "bucks". Be a good show citizen.

## SHOW MANAGEMENT (THE WORKERS)

1. Don't wait till the last moment to plan your show. In the past few years the well organized clubs are working on next years show before this years show has taken place. It's a good idea to have two show committees in operation at the same time. One that's working on this years' show and one on next years'. The most important job for next years' committee is the early engagement of judges. As more and more shows sprout up around the country, it has become more difficult to get good judges. Many judges are booked a year in advance. If your show is in October, don't wait until the following March to contact judges. Chances are you will be disappointed.

2. To assure the success of your show, advertize it for the three months proceeding the show in magazines such as A.C.B.M. and other publications that are willing to publish such information. Many may charge a fee. It is well worth the nominal charge. Announce your show date, judges and show location. A person to contact for information is also extremely helpful.

3. Plan for enough signing. This will help direct exhibitors or the public to the show itself, the raffle area, the bird sale room, the judging, and anything else you want people to find. A general announcement sign at the entrance is helpful, listing the locations of major events.

4. If this is your first show, or you will have many untried workers, by all means have a show workshop. Your workers will be able to understand their jobs a head of time, and be more knowledgable the day of the show.

5. Something that is often forgotten, is that you want both the exhibitors and public alike to return next year. Show your gratitude. Many have made loog drives (sometimes in bad weather) or have flown to the show at great cost. Make everyone feel that they are appreciated. Instruct your staff to try to accommodate the exhibitor in anyway possible. Put your most cheerful workers in the greeting positions.

6. If you have a banquet, make it short and sweet. Do your best to have good food at a reasonable orice for that which is offared. If the awards are given out at the banquet, keep other speeches at a minimum. Don't hand out two dozen awards to your own club members for doing everything including picking up after monthly meetings. This makes for a boring time for all. A major award or two for service or breeding success at a banquet in addition to the show awards, will keep the banquet at an acceptable length. Don't ask judges to get up and say "how good all the birds were today". After you have heard a judge say this just once at a banquet, you know it is a recording.

## JUDGES

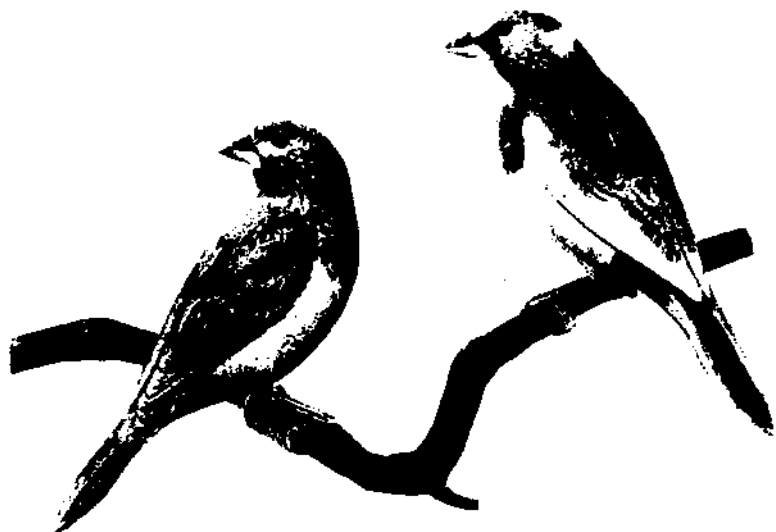
1. When a club contacts you for a quote of expenses for judging their show, be prompt with your reply. Remember that you may not be dealing with individuals that are accustomed to the procedures. Help them. Make sure they will send you a written confirmation of the agreement, and that until you receive that, you will be free to accept another judging assignment on the same date.
2. Once your assignment is complete, you cannot change your mind, and accept a different show because it is in Honolulu. You can not change your fee. You can not show up late.
3. Don't leave anything up to chance, check a few weeks ahead of the show. Did the show make your hotel reservations? Have they sent you the Airline tickets? Do you know how to get to the show? Will someone be meeting you at the airport? Get all these details nailed down. If your making your own reservations and getting your own tickets, get them well in advance, and confirm them.
4. Normally you will arrive the day before the show. It is difficult not to greet old friends and want to help in setting up the show hall. This is not your place. You should stay as sequestered as possible, until you are called to begin judging.
5. Be friendly and helpful in your judging. Most attending are there to win as well as be educated. Explain what you are doing. Explain why. If you are a panel judge for a national society, take a moment when appropriate and explain rules or Standards. Make the judging enjoyable to all those interested in watching.

## CONCLUSION

The show season is a special time for all judges, exhibitors, and show officials alike. If things get difficult, put your best face forward. Make everyone you come in contact with want to see you at next years' show. Have a good show season.

**The Great American had 2011  
Sacramento had 2171  
Columbus 300 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?**

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# **A Judge's Comments by C. Anchor**

I have read many articles on showing and judging. There are a few comments I have on points that never seem to be covered, points that I believe to be important.

When a club sets up their show stands, the proper set-up of the Judge's area should be given a lot of consideration. To begin with, when the bird's are entered and placed on the holding stands or tables, there must be enough light so the birds can eat and drink properly. Also the lights should be shut down slowly so birds can return to the perch for the night.

When stewards gather classes to be brought before the judge, don't pack them so tight that the inside of the show cage is dark. These points are very important as birds that have been in the dark, when out back in the light of the judge's bench, will immediately go to the bottom to eat and drink. When birds won't perch upon judging, the judge has no choice but to put the bird down because he can not view them properly. Everything the exhibitor has been told about show training his birds is washed down the drain because of poor planning on the part of the show set-up committee.

It is very important that proper consideration be given to properly light the judge's area, and to provide necessary space for the staging area. It is not fair to the birds or the exhibitor if the birds can't be presented correctly.

Here is another problem that often occurs. The birds are taken from a hopefully well lighted area, and packed front to back in their show cages, which plunges them into near darkness, to be left for periods of a few minutes, but in many instances much longer. Then they are brought in front of the judge who is standing in a well lighted area. Again panic, down to the bottom the birds go, or they just crouch on the perch. The first to recover is the winner. Most judges realize what has happened and will work with the birds for as long as possible without unduly holding up the show. However, when the show starts late, and the judge has a lot of birds or several divisions to judge, we can not spend too much time in this endeavor.

Also regarding the judge's area. The judging bench should of course be well lighted. There should be two levels in order for the judge to place birds in large classes without having to stack cages on top of each other. The top level should be just below the judges shoulders (4' 6"), in this way the judge's eyes are about level with the top of the show cage, and above the bird, but not so high that the judge is looking down

on the bird as this also causes the bird to crouch.

A little something about lighting; I believe that daylight is best for judging, but is too variable and in my opinion should not be used. It can not be counted on to be there on the day of the show and as the day progresses it changes so that each bird does not get the same even chance to show off in front of the judge. This is why I advocate florescent lighting. This will give every bird an even chance.

Even the placement of the light is important. They should not be over the top of the show bench, but should be in front of the show bench over the judge, and angled toward the birds. I have no preference as far as the type of florescent light used, at least all the birds will be judged under the same light.

I have one final comment. This is a hobby. When you enter your birds, sit, listen, and watch what the judges says and does. After the judging then ask the judge questions, but after 100 or more birds don't be offended if the judge can't remember exactly why your bird ended up fifth in its class.

Some judges write comments on the back of the show tag. There is a place for this. These comments are not meant to be derogatory, sarcastic or in any way to demean the bird or exhibitor. It is one way for the judge to remember what he did on the bench and the exhibitor to see what may have been the birds faults.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a fellow judge I would like to thank Charlie for making these points. The comments he has made are far to often the case at many local shows. The National Finch and Softbill Society has done much to standardize how finches are shown at shows across the country. Things have definitely improved in the last few years. One point that I would like to emphasize is lighting. I, as Charlie, believe the best lighting is daylight. I suggest the use of Vita-Lite florescent tubes for the judging area. Vita-Lite is 5500 degrees Kelvin temperature of light. This duplicates sunlight, and will not show too much blue or red. Normal tubes show blue light. Gro-Lux shows red light.

If a large showing is expected (100 or more birds) a judging bench and lights of eight feet in length may be necessary. At the final judging of best in show, often 1st and 2nd place birds are benched. This can cause there to be as many as twenty or more birds to be on the bench. Four foot lights will not light all the entries evenly. At National shows, even the Zebra and Gouldian classes can be this large. Again as Charlie stated, a well lighted judge's bench and staging area is very important to the fair judging of finches and softbills at our shows.

## **NFS NOTES AND NEWS . . . .**

The NFS Nov/Dec issue will include these among other items of interest.

Hal Koontz's column.

September/October Show Results.

Adopted Standard for the Shafttail Finch.

Softbills are fun. Dr. Robert G. Travnicek.

Brother Sun, Sister Finch - Sister Shiva Kumari.

Recognizing a "Diamond in the Rough", Tina Heinenway.

Socorro Dove Re-introduction Program, John Pire.

Notes and News from the "National Finch Show".

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WANTED - Crispen Pileated hen, Green-back Twinspot hen (Schlegeli) Tina Heinenway, Pennsylvania. (215) 752-1565.

FINCH AND SOFTBILL ENTHUSIASTS, you can relate your avicultural experiences by writing an article for the NFS Bulletin. Contact Bill Parlee, Editor, P.O. Box 18607, East Hartford, CT 06118-0607.

CORRECTION - Brenda Geesey really does know that Violet-ears come from Africa. A typo by your editor moved their origin from Africa to South America in Brenda's article last month. My apologies to both Brenda and our readers!



# Welcome new NFS Members ! !

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0579	KOZELUM, FRANK J.	LA MESA,	CA	92042
0580	PHILAGELPHIA AVICULTURAL SOC.	OREXEL HILL,	PA	19026
0581	ADAMS, THOMAS N.	PLAINFIELD,	PA	17081
0582	CAGLE, N. CLIFF	CARNICHAEL,	CA	95608
0583	SUTHERLAND, CHARLENA	FRESNO,	CA	93722
0584	SEARS, MARIA	CAMPBELL,	CA	95008
0585	SHAN, BARBARA	TACOMA,	WA	98404
0586	BROWN, FIDNA N.	EAST HARTFORD,	CT	06108
0587	CRISORIO, BARRY	NASHUA,	NH	03060
0588	WALEH, MELISSA	SEATTLE,	WA	98108
0589	SMITH, ALAN	FORT MYERS,	FL	33908
0590	LAZZERONI, IVO	WEST COVINA,	CA	91791
0591	OPEL, KURT E.	ROCHESTER,	NY	14612
0592	CHANDLER, JOAN	EDGENATER,	CO	80214
0593	SOTOVICH, ELAINE L.	BELLINGHAM,	WA	02019
0594	HOOPER, DR. R. THOREN	SANTA MONICA,	CA	90404
0595	SCOTT, ALISON M.	STATEN ISLAND,	NY	10308
0596	STEWART, JAMES N.	DONNS,	IL	61736
0597	STENART, CONNIE	DONNS,	IL	61736
0598	MYERS, JOE	JUNCTION CITY,	KS	66441
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