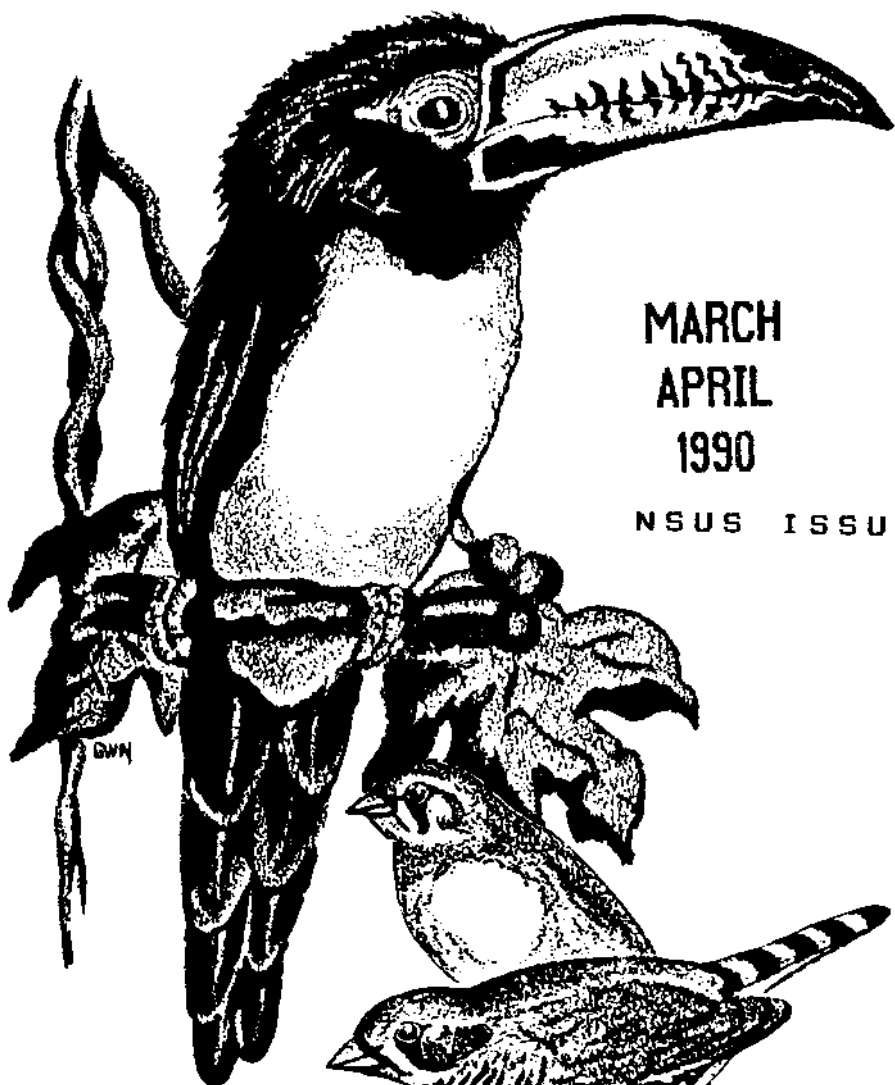


THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



MARCH
APRIL
1990

NSUS ISSUE

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President's message: Thank you very much is the presidents message !
 To the nominating committee; to all the nominees; to the members who voted,
 (a fairly good percentage), to Nancy Reed for the tally; to former officers
 for their past contributions and their continuing support of the new
 officers; and to the new officers for their courage and their determination
 to make NFS grow and prosper.

The eighteen members of the Board of Directors (all elected and
 appointed officers) are now engaged in a "Board Meeting By Mail". This is an
 innovation for NFS and we think it will provide a greater opportunity for the
 discussion of issues and ideas. Our next Board Meeting will be on June 16,
 1990 in conjunction with the New England Finch Fanciers All-Bird Symposium.
 We invite the participation of all members. If you have a point you would
 like the Board to address, write or call your regional Vice President and
 request that your concerns be added to the agenda.

A special "thank you" to the member who wrote in the vote for Mickey
 House in opposition to me. That'll keep me from getting a swelled head !

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(312) 543-3757

KELLY DAHILL
4497 Beachwood Lake
Naples, FL 33962
(813) 774-2062

STEPHEN HOPPIN
3836 Hidden Acres C
No.Ft.Meyers, FL 33903
(813) 997-2237

LAURA BENLEY
10500 E. 121st St.
Bixby, OK 74008
(918) 369-2580

DR. A. E. DECOTEAU *
P. O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
(603) 878 4391
Panel Chairman

RAY JOHNSON *
175 Stoneridge Way
Fayetteville, GA 30214
(404) 461-8675

BRIAN BINNS
97 Bent Lanes
Davyhulme, Urston
Manchester, England
M31 2WZ

OAREN DECOTEAU *
P. O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
(603) 878 4391

CLAYTON JONES
P. O. Box 266
Soquel, CA 95073
(408) 475-3151

HAROLD BOWLES *
3402 Williams St.
Marietta, GA 30062
(404) 973-1790

RODDY GABLE
600 Gist Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20708
(301) 585-9647

HAL M. KOONTZ
2604 Auburn Ct.
Bakersfield, CA 93306
(805) 872-1063

OR. VAL CLEAR
1001 Martin Drive
Anderson, IN 46012
(317) 642-0795

BRENDA GEESEY
125 W. Jackson St.
York, PA 17403
(717) 854-2604

JOSEPH KRADER
17347 Aspenglow Dr.
Yorba Linda, CA 92686
(714) 996-5538

EARL COURTS *
1807 N. E. Colburn
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-0921

CECIL GUNBY *
8031 Highway 54
Sharpsburg, GA 3027
(404) 254-1261

BRIAN MANDERICH
4743 E. Hedges Ave.
Fresno, CA 93703
(209) 255-6508

CLARENCE CULMELL *
Rt. 3, Box 61-7
Springtown, TX 76082
(817) 523-5568

KENNETH GUNBY *
8031 Highway 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(404) 251-2877

JUANITA MC LAIN
2122 Lanar Drive
Asheboro, NC 27203
(919) 692 9352
c/o Jeff Taylor

GERALD O'AGATA *
4497 Beachwood Lake
Naples, FL 33962
(813) 774-2062

JON HOFFMAN *
839 Franklin St. #2
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 584 6046

CONRAD MEINERT *
R. R. 3, Box 392
Warsaw, IN 46580
(219) 269-2873

RITA D'DELL
1737 Elm Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-1787

MARTY VON RAESFELD
1135 Chapman St.
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 985 2712

MARTHA WIGNORE
5010 Mezel Circle
Colo.Springs, CO 80916
(719) 574-1594

WILLIAM G. PARLEE *
P. O. Box 18607
E. Hartford, CT 06118
(203) 528-1458

GEORGE WARREN
2B Chedworth Crescent
Paulsgrove,
Portsmouth, England
PO6 4ET

PAUL S. WILLIAMS
703 Donegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 339-8772

NOTE: * indicates a judge who is also certified in another society.

For further information on the NFS Panel of Judges, contact Dr. A. E. Decoteau at the above address.

=====

JUDGES REPORTS DUE:

Reports were due from all NFS Panel Judges by March 1, 1990. As of March 17th, despite the fact that the Board of Directors has previously given the Panel Chairaan the authority to suspend any judge who does not fulfill these requirements, reports have not been received from these 9 judges.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Brian Binns | Joe Krader |
| Gerald D'Agata | Brian Manderich |
| Kelly Dahill | Juanita McLain |
| Clayton Jones | Rita D'Dell |
| Hal Koontz | |

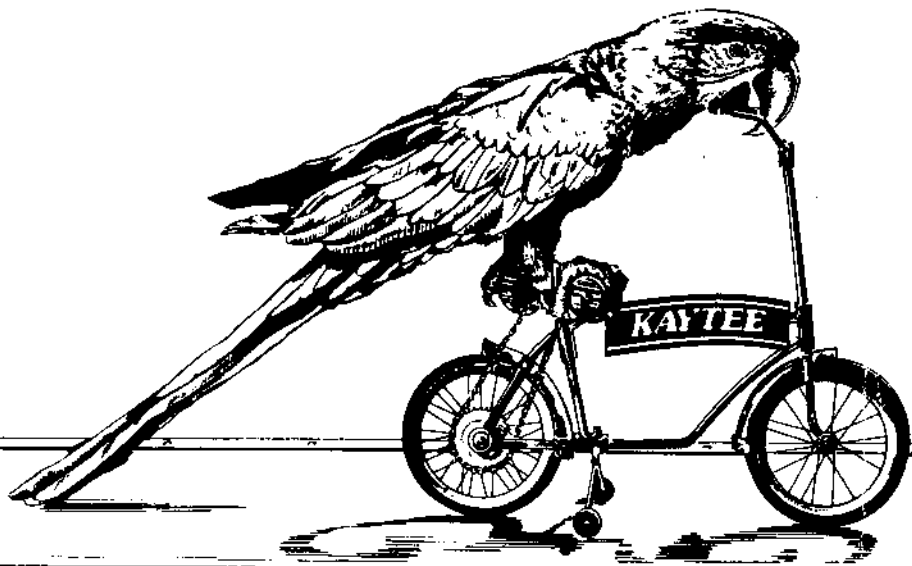
No action has been taken to reprimand them, but I am grieved by their apathy.
Dr. Al Decoteau, Judges Panel Director

=====

Please check your address label and keep your membership and your address up to date. Save the Society the work and expense of sending reminders to you. For those of you who have "dual" memberships you will see that now both names appear on the label.

RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

NFS Membership Services
c/o Russell Armitage, Jr.
345 Boston Road, Middletown, Ct 06457



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=====

NFS NEWS AND NOTES

=====

The election is completed and a new group of officers is in place. Their names and phone numbers are listed on the inside front cover. This is a diverse group with strong interests in conservation, propagation, exhibition, fund-raising and communication. Like the previous officers, this group is not afraid of hard work and is determined to promote finches and finch fanciers. As NFS has grown our Board of Directors has grown and spread. We have 18 elected and appointed officers from 10 states, all around the country. This provides better representation for our members but it makes it more difficult for all the members of the Board to get together four times a year for our board meetings. This year I have scheduled our spring, summer and fall Board Meetings as follows:

- Spring June 16, 1990
 Sturbridge, MA
 In conjunction with the:
 New England Finch Fanciers All-Bird Symposium
- Summer August 9, 1990
 Arlington, VA
 In conjunction with the:
 American Federation of Aviculture' Annual Convention
- Fall November 16, 1990
 Atlanta, GA
 In conjunction with the:
 National Cage Bird Show

These times and locations seemed suitable to me because many of our Board members attend these events. I encourage all members to participate in the decisions made at these meetings. If you have an idea or an issue that you want to present to the Board, contact your Regional Vice President and request that it be added to the agenda for any one of these meetings.

Because the election was late our winter meeting (usually held in March) is being conducted by mail. I requested reports from all committees and have distributed those reports to all Board members. I sent an agenda with several items for discussion and asked for votes to be sent to me by mail on those issues. The items we are discussing are: giving a permanent voting position and lifetime membership to Bill Parlee; creating a new appointed position of Awards Director; appointing Chris Voronovitch to that position; changing the "home office" address to my address in York, PA; and appointing a committee to study the sizes of bands we offer and what species we recommend them for.

The next issue will carry a summary of the "meeting by mail".

Members who plan to attend this years' National Cage Bird Show should register early as the show is expected to draw a very large crowd and rooms will be booked very quickly. You should contact:

Radisson Hotel - Atlanta

165 Courtland St.

Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 639 6500

Show dates: November 15, 16, and 17, 1990

The same situation is predicted for the AFA's 16th annual Convention. The location is just across the state line from Washington, DC. Contact:

Hyatt Regency Crystal City

2799 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, VA 22202

(703) 486 1234 (Ask for the convention rates)

Convention dates: August 7 to 12, 1990

We still need artwork for a t-shirt and we urgently need an advertising director to send out letters asking for ads for this bulletin !

Look at the February/March issue of AFA's "Watchbird" magazine, page 32, for an explanation of AFA's "Breeding Consortium for the Venezuelan Black-hooded Red Siskin". Or contact:

Ed Oiebold, Curator of Birds,

Milwaukee County Zoo

10001 W. Bluemound Rd.

Milwaukee, WI 53226

(414) 771 3040

for a membership application in this effort to help propagate an Endangered Species. Many NFS members have the expertise to raise these birds. I feel that we owe a debt to this species because it has been heavily depleted by aviculturists in the past. I can tell you, from personal experience, there is an great feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction in raising an Endangered Species bird. I urge you to participate, for the Siskins and for yourself.

=====
**AIR YOUR OPINIONS ! SHARE YOUR IDEAS !
ASK QUESTIONS ! WRITE TO THE EDITOR !**
=====

ALL ADS, ARTICLES, ANECDOTES AND ARTWORK SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

Brenda Geesey, Editor

125 W. Jackson St.

York, PA 17403
=====

Forpus Fanciers

60 Minutes and the Zoological Society of San Diego By Ray Conser

On January 21, 1990 60 Minutes had a segment on their show that accused the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park of selling surplus animals to dealers who, in turn sell them to hunting ranches and wildlife auctions. After this segment many of us that support the zoo financially and those that support the zoo in ideals were stunned that the possibility of this could even exist.

On January 30, 1990 I received the following letter from the San Diego Zoo, in response to the 60 Minutes segment. My only regret is that this letter was received by the Zoos members, while so many others across the nation had seen 60 Minutes. With permission from Jeff Jewett, Director of Public Relations I would like you to have the chance to read the same letter and have the chance to make your own decisions, and even respond to 60 Minutes if you feel so moved.

Dear Zoological Society Members:

Allow me, please, the opportunity to address the issues, concerns and questions raised by the Sunday, January 21, segment of the program "60 Minutes." The show included some horrible footage of an oryx being shot on a hunting ranch in Texas, some shots of wildlife auctions in Missouri, and the (unfounded) accusation that zoos in general and our Zoo in particular may be working with animal dealers who sell zoo antelope at these auctions or to hunting ranches.

It was a sophomoric job of reporting, at best, which unfairly portrayed our Zoo and Wild Animal Park, ignoring the extraordinary efforts we make to ensure our animals are placed in other zoos, wildlife preserves and, on occasion, with private collectors who possess all required government permits and licenses. Every institution and person receiving a San Diego animal signs our Humane Treatment Agreement, guaranteeing the animal a kind and capable owner who will use it only for education and conservation purposes, and who will require any third party obtaining the animal in the future to sign the same Humane Treatment Agreement.

Angered by unsubstantiated inferences in the "60 Minutes" piece, I sent a letter to the program directors, which I share with you here:

"Dear 60 Minutes:

Contrary to the implications in your January 21 program, the San Diego Zoo does not sell its animals at wildlife auctions or the hunting ranches. We do not entrust our animals to anyone who does. We find both practices abhorrent.

Like scores of zoos across the country, we use Mr Tatum and the handful of other animal brokers who are licensed, inspected and certified by federal government agencies. The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums appointed a task force, at our request, to review practices of all its approved animal broker and transporters. We will immediately suspend relations with anyone who is proven to be a participant in the sale of Zoological Society of San Diego animals to auctions or hunting ranches."

Successful captive breeding programs for endangered and other species here have established the Wild Animal Park and the San Diego Zoo as major suppliers for other zoos and wildlife preserves around the world. Articles in our March issue of ZOO NOOZ magazine will address the question "Where do all the babies go?" and detail the contributions to the newly developing science of wild species contraception being pioneered at our Center for Endangered Species.

Last year we moved 1,137 animals to other zoos, preserves and legitimate private collectors — to 171 separate destinations across the country and around the world. Only a few people are qualified and licensed to handle animal shipments. Among them, Earl Tatum has the best reputation for transporting animals with the least stress and most care. We use Mr. Tatum to transport many of our animal shipments to other zoos.

In October 1989, "60 Minutes" first presented its charge that Mr. Tatum had sold an Oklahoma City Zoo antelope at a wildlife auction. Based on this, we suspended relations with him and sent the Zoological Society executive director and our director of animal collections to Arkansas to confront Mr. Tatum with the allegations. They were shown convincing evidence that the "60 Minutes" charges were simply untrue. We then petitioned the national zoo group, the AAZPA, to conduct a review of all animal transporter and supplier practices to ensure they conform to the organization's ethics code, which prohibits participation in wildlife auctions and hunting ranches. Our executive director, Doug Myers, is one member of that national task force. He is under direction from the Zoological Society board of trustees to pursue the issue thoroughly and to ensure that all zoo animals are duly protected from business with any person or organization that participates in selling zoo animals to wildlife auctions or hunting ranches.

Another animal transporter mentioned in the "60 Minutes" segment was Jim Fouts. An internal memo of the U. S. Department of Agriculture relayed Mr. Fouts' remarks that he had taken four antelope directly from the San Diego to the wildlife auction in 1985. Because of our suspicions and a clear linkage between Mr. Fouts and an auction, the Zoo and the Wild Animal Park ceased working with this transporter.

We stand ready to take the same action against anyone else when evidence is established beyond rumor and innuendo. I again express my disappointment and frustration at the shallow treatment afforded the San Diego Zoo and the complex issue of wildlife management by "60 Minutes." I again assure you that we do not condone or participate in wildlife auctions or hunting ranches, nor do we do business with anyone who does. I urge you to read the March issue of ZOONOOZ for a balanced treatment of zoo surplus animal challenges. And please call or write to the Zoo or Wild Animal Park public relations office if you'd like additional background on sustaining captive wildlife populations and the animal surplus issues that go hand-in-hand with those efforts.

Sincerely,
Albert L. Anderson
President, Zoological Society of San Diego"

lid into the cage. At first the birds may not show an interest in the flies but once they discover this as a source of food they will eagerly await this feeding and devour the flies quickly.

I do not keep cultures longer than a month. Before disposing of the old cultures, I transfer a few of these flies into a new culture to start the next generation. If new cultures are started each week, there will always be an adequate supply of live food for your birds. After a while you will know how many cultures are required to maintain a supply of live food for your flock.

Materials are available from **Blue Spruce Biological Supply Company**, 221 South Street, Castle Rock Colorado 80104. Their phone number is (303) 688-3396. Ask for the Aviary Kit, LG-61 which contains 1 litre of Blue Instant Culture Media, 10 Culture Chambers and plugs, a starter supply of apterous Fruit Flies, and an instruction book. The price of the kit is \$15.00.

Ray Vander Leest can be reached by mail at 2201 East Dry Creek Road, Littleton, CO 80122 or by phone at (303) 795-2088

=====

MORE NUTRITIONAL NOTES

by Vicky Lane

=====

In the letter that contained these notes Vicky wrote, "I enjoyed the "Dietary Comments" article by Bill Parlee and I feel I can add some valuable advice. I feel that this is a vital area."

First of all I think that our readers need to understand one basic fact; that every animal needs just as varied a diet as do humans in order to be healthy. A good seed mix is essential for finches, as is fresh water and vitamin supplements. Where we can really make a difference is in the little "extras" we give to them. I have heard a lot of conflicting advice on what finches will and will not eat. I have come to the conclusion that you can get them to eat almost anything if it is presented properly. One of the main things I have noticed is that they won't eat some things in one form but they will if it is given in another form. For instance, they won't eat something if it is presented in very large pieces but if it is cut or torn in tiny pieces they will. I once had a good, reputable pet shop owner tell me that finches won't eat greens. When I told her that mine did she said, "I must not be cutting them small enough!" (The greens, not the finches.) Cutting greens is a tedious job, I admit, but most foods can be prepared an easier way. I grate carrots with an old-fashioned stainless steel grater. Nuts can be chopped in a food processor. (I tried peanut butter but they wouldn't touch it.) As a rule, finches aren't crazy about fruit but mine will eat orange slices. There are some excellent foods that already come bite size right from your grocery store. All you have to do is serve. Corn meal, (please look for a whole grain brand) is surprisingly high in protein. Wheat germ is very rich in vitamins and brown rice is a natural grain product high in B vitamins; it only needs to be steamed. I have had good success with all these foods and my birds are very healthy. If it makes it easier on you, a good way to vary your birds' diet is to ask yourself when you fix dinner for the family, "which of these foods can I also feed my birds?" Who knows, maybe in the process of creating healthy birds you will learn to eat more healthily yourself! One final but very important word of advice: your birds are just like children. They may not try a strange food the first time, but after offering it to them 3 or 4 times they may realize that they love it.

=====

**TODAY WOULD BE A GREAT DAY TO ENROLL
YOUR FAVORITE SPECIES IN THE NFS
FINCHSAVE PROGRAM. CONTACT OUR
NEW FINCHSAVE V.P., JEFF
BRISSETTE, (203) 649 4563. THANKS.**

Biographies of NFS Folks

The NFS Bulletin will be carrying a new regular (we hope!) feature to help acquaint Society members with their officers, judges, and others who help run the organization or who have contributed significantly to the finch and softbill fancy. This was a suggestion of mine to NFS Editor and President Brenda Geesey. As soon as I mentioned it, I had two well-known lessons reinforced: "good leaders delegate" and "those who suggest must be willing to follow through." Mine will be the first biography, partly to serve as an example of what we are looking for from other Society "VIPs". I will be serving as ad hoc biographical editor to assist Brenda. In this capacity, I will be contacting individuals for their biographies, but we also welcome unsolicited submissions if you know of an individual whom you feel deserves recognition and whose story you would like to tell.

Roddy Gabel

Roddy Gabel developed an early interest in birds because of the chicken flocks on his grandparents' farms in western New York. When he was 7 years old, his grandparents gave him some chickens of his own, and later this expanded to small layer, broiler, and exhibition flocks for 4-H projects. These were accompanied by several pet budgies and canaries. By the time he was in high school, Roddy was keeping, breeding, and exhibiting a variety of chickens, pheasants, quail, ducks, and geese, and breeding budgies.

While earning his Bachelor's degree in Animal Science at Cornell University, Roddy assisted in the development of poultry projects, especially in incubation and embryology, for 4-H and elementary schools. He also served on an advisory committee of former 4-H members to Professor Edward Schano, who was the Youth Development Specialist in Cornell's Poultry Science Department.

After moving to Maryland in 1976, Roddy returned to cage birds. Beginning with budgies and canaries, he eventually specialized in finches. From 1980 to 1989, Roddy was the aviculturist for the endangered species breeding

program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There he assisted with propagation efforts for endangered species such as whooping cranes, Mississippi sandhill cranes, bald eagles, Andean condors, Puerto Rican parrots, and Aleutian Canada geese. Roddy ran the incubation facilities for the entire program and directly supervised several projects. In addition, he was a consultant to programs in Puerto Rico for the Puerto Rican parrot and Puerto Rican plain pigeon, in Hawaii for endangered forest birds, and to zoos and other government facilities. From 1982 to 1987, in addition to working full time, Roddy completed a Master's degree in avian physiology at the University of Maryland.

Currently, Roddy is working as a science editor and keeps a varied collection that includes mutation and normal Gouldian and shafttail finches, Society finches, and rufous-backed mannikins (with which he may have achieved a first U.S. breeding), along with Goffin's cockatoos, Senegal parrots, and green-cheeked conures. He has shown finches at numerous shows over the past 12 years and just recently became a panel judge of the National Finch and Softbill Society (NFS). Roddy has several publications and has made presentations throughout the U.S. on aviculture and the endangered species program at Patuxent, including a talk at the 1987 Delacour Symposium on Breeding Birds in Captivity. He is a member of the American Federation of Aviculture, NFS, and the National Capital Bird Club, and is President of the Maryland Cage Bird Improvement Plan, Inc.

=====

AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Tom Rood, Vice President for the Mid-West Region, is working on an international program with clubs in Europe and elsewhere. The object is to exchange rosettes and/or trophies between NFS and those clubs. Tom has been doing this for several years, on his own, and it's because of his efforts that we've had those nice rosettes at past National Shows. This year, NFS will help him expand his efforts. Tom says he has already received 3 plaques and 2 or 3 medals, including TWO GOLD MEDALS from the German National Club! We'll have more news about this in upcoming issues. To get involved, contact:

Tom Rood
313 N. Broadway
Shelbyville, IL 62565
(217) 774 5265

=====

=====

NEWS AND NOTES ON THE CENSUS

by Tom Rood

=====

The 1989 NFS census is FINALLY over and the complete report is contained within this bulletin. Believe me, I'm much happier that it's over than you are!! I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I told Bill Parlee that I'd accept the job.

As much work as it turned out to be, I did have my own system to keep the information in order and record it quickly. The most enjoyment came in opening each envelope and seeing what kinds of finches are kept and bred in other parts of the country. I was really surprised at all the different varieties out there; particularly the many rare mutations. It was tempting to pick up the phone, call someone, and order a bunch of new birds -- but my pocketbook and Bell Telephone kept me from doing that!

In looking at the responses received, Gouldians and Zebras seem to be the most popular finches kept -- no real surprise I guess. I was surprised to see how many fanciers keep Cordon Bleus, Strawberries, Owl Finches, Parrot Finches and Star Finches. Looks like we'll have to give Florida the credit for most responses, followed by California, Pennsylvania and New York.

I have two suggestions for the ongoing activity of the NFS census. First of all, a space should be provided on the census form for each member to include his or her NFS membership number. I still wasn't able to come up with everyone's membership number even after going through all old bulletins and making a few phone calls. Secondly, we should have a definite deadline for receipt of census forms so it isn't drawn out over a 3-4 month period.

In closing, I would like to thank all the NFS members who participated in the census. It was interesting seeing what kinds of birds you have. I must also apologize for any mistakes I made in organizing the census report. As you can see there are lots of names, abbreviations, member numbers, and phone numbers. I know some mistakes were probably made in relaying the information from paper, to the brain, and through the fingers.!!

=====

A job well done Tom. Thanks a lot from all of us, especially from all of us who really don't type numbers very competently! We'll incorporate your suggestions into next year's form. The Editor.

=====

SOME FORMS ARRIVED TOO LATE TO BE INCLUDED----they're on file here and I will give the information to members who write or call. The Editor again.

=====

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY 1989 CENSUS

NUMBER	STATE	MEMBER'S NAME	PHONE NUMBER
AL0643	ALABAMA	VERNON MCMAHAN	(205) 355-2728
AL0888	ALABAMA	ROY E. ROBERTS	(205) 767-6133
CA0469	CALIFORNIA	JIM COMUNALE	(619) 753-5666
CA????	CALIFORNIA	BEN JONES	(209) 579-2530
CA0457	CALIFORNIA	JERRY MARSTON	(916) 756-3323
CA0428	CALIFORNIA	CHRIS MCGINNIS	(415) 837-6296
CA0327	CALIFORNIA	BILL NOVICKAS	(805) 589-2081
CN0790	CANADA ST. TIMOTNEE	JAIME MONTES	(514) 371-3759
CO0743	COLORADO	JOE NEARD	(303) 979-1568
CO0343	COLORADO	TERI MCAULIFFE	(719) 576-9009
CT0627	CONNECTICUT	JEFF BRISETTE	(203) 649-8196
CT0901	CONNECTICUT	TIMOTHEE GRAZE	(203) 669-6462
CT0475	CONNECTICUT	ANTHONY NOLLAUER	(203) 374-7052
FL0272	FLORIDA	JACKIE BARTON	(904) 997-8485
FL0552	FLORIDA	VALERIE BAKER	(407) 747-6597
FL0316	FLORIDA	ROSE GIANFERRARA	(813) 992-6331
FL0042	FLORIDA	STEPHEN HOPPIN	(813) 997-2237
FL0673	FLORIDA	MICHAEL & GLENN HUDSON	(813) 659-1663
FL0547	FLORIDA	JOHANNA MASTERS	(813) 453-2730
FL0649	FLORIDA	ANDREA WHITING	(813) 888-5935
GA0535	GEORGIA	VICKY LANE	(404) 299-0016
IL0797	ILLINOIS	CINDY CLARK	(815) 963-7160
IL0043	ILLINOIS	TON ROOD	(217) 774-5265
IL0608	ILLINOIS	ANDREA SUPLER	(708) 748-6767
IN0887	INDIANA	SANDY FRAZIER	(317) 882-8505
MD0342	MARYLAND	TONY RUSSELL	(301) 356-9258
MD0812	MARYLAND	FR. TOM WALSH	(301) 485-5511
MA0866	MASSACHUSETTS	SNERRY PUCKO	(419) 779-8066
MA0847	MASSACHUSETTS	ELIZABETH VAUGHAN	(508) 663-7874
MI0273	MICHIGAN	DON CLARKE	(517) 689-4201
MI0441	MICHIGAN	MARY RUE	(517) 394-1047
MI0908	MICHIGAN	PATRICK VANCE	(313) 443-0643
MN0688	MINNESOTA	SANDEE GREGORICH	(612) 493-2436
MO0795	MISSOURI	LAURA GEORGI	(314) 442-0936
MT0918	MONTANA	JUNE RICHTER	(406) 866-3537
NH0459	NEW HAMPSHIRE	JO ANNE HAMEL	(603) 659-8046
NJ0671	NEW JERSEY	C. CALVIN & B. BUCKLEY	(609) 783-2039
NJ0871	NEW JERSEY	JACK ROOK	(201) 383-8478

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY 1989 BIRD CENSUS

BA = BIRDS SOMETIMES AVAILABLE

NA = NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE

SPECIES	STATE - MEMBER NUMBER - AVAILABILITY OF BIRDS																								
AURORA	CT0627NA																								
AVADAVAT - GREEN	FL0042NA VA0632NA																								
BICHEO - OWL	NA0847BA	MN0688NA	CO0743NA	PA0749NA	AL0888NA	OH0907NA	CA0469NA	NY0832NA	VA0632NA	NY0922BA	NY0843BA	NJ0871NA	NJ0671BA	PA0801BA	FL0649NA	FL0272BA	MI0908BA	FL0316BA	IL0608BA						
BLACK CHEEK WAXBILL	CO0743NA CT0627NA FL0042NA																								
BLACK NECK ARACARI	VA0632NA																								
BLUE WING LEAFBIRD	CD0743NA																								
BRONZE WING MANNIKIN	MA0847NA AL0888NA CN0790BA VAPOWELLNA																								
BUTTON QUAIL - NORMAL	CA0469NA FL0649NA																								
BUTTON QUAIL - SILVER	MA0847NA																								
CARDINAL BRAZILIAN	MN0688NA PA0801BA																								
CARDINAL GREEN	NJ0671NA																								
CARDINAL PYGMY	MN0688NA FL0042NA NJ0671BA PA0801NA																								
CHERPY - PLUMHEAD	CO0743BA VAVAUGHNBA																								
CHESTNUT BRT MANNIKIN	NY0843BA NJ0671BA																								
COMBASSOU - STEEL	IL0797NA MT0918NA CAJONESNA																								
CORDON - BLUE CAP	AL0888NA	IL0797NA	NY0832NA	CO0343BA	NY0922BA	MT0918NA	NY0843BA	PA0657BA	IL0608NA																
CORDON - RED CHEEK	NY0414NA	AL0888NA	IN0887NA	IL0797BA	OH0907BA	CA0469NA	FL0042NA	PA0930NA	CO0343BA	VA0632NA	MT0918NA	NY0843BA	PA0278BA	NJ0671NA	PA0657BA	AL0643BA	CT0475NA								
CRIMSON PILEATED	NJ0671NA																								
CUBAN MEOLOIUS	FL0316BA																								
CUTTHROAT	PA0748NA GA0535NA OH0907NA CN0790BA NY0922BA PA0278BA																								
DIAMOND DOVE	MA0847BA MI0908BA IL0608BA																								
DIAMOND SPARROW	CO0743NA NY0922BA NY0843BA NJ0671BA PA0801BA																								
EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH	NY0843NA WI0904NA IL0608NA																								
FAIRY BLUEBIRD	CO0743NA PA0801NA																								
FIREFINCH	MN0688NA	AL0888NA	IL0797NA	OH0907NA	MI0273NA	FL0042NA	CO0343BA	VA0632NA	NY0843NA	PA0278BA	PA0657BA	MI0908BA	CT0475NA	IL0608NA											
GOLD BREAST WAXBILL	MN0688NA	AL0888NA	CT0627BA	CA0469BA	NY0832NA	FL0042NA	CO0343BA	OH0808BA	NY0922NA	NY0843BA	FL0649BA	CT0475NA	IL0608BA	CAJONESNA											
GOULDIAN - BLACK HEAD	MN0688NA	FL0673BA	CO0743BA	MA0866BA	PA0748BA	AL0888NA	MD0812BA	IL0797BA	MD0342BA	OH0907BA	CA0469BA	CO0343BA	NY0922BA	VA0632BA	NY0843BA	NJ0871BA	PA0278BA	FL0649NA	CA0327BA	FL0547BA	PA0657BA	MI0908BA	CT0475BA	IL0043BA	VAVAUGHNBA
GOULDIAN - ORANGE HEAD	MN0688NA	FL0673BA	CO0743BA	MA0866BA	PA0748BA	AL0888NA	MD0812BA	CT0627BA	IL0797BA	MD0342BA	CA0469BA	MI0273BA	CO0343BA	VA0632BA	NY0922BA	NJ0871BA	PA0278NA	CA0327BA	FL0547BA	FL0552NA	PA0657BA	MI0908BA	CT0475BA	IL0608BA	VAVAUGHNBA
GOULDIAN - RED HEAD	MN0688NA	FL0673BA	CO0743BA	MA0866BA	PA0748BA	AL0888NA	MD0812BA	CT0627BA	IN0887NA	IL0797BA	MD0342BA	OH0907BA	CA0469BA	CN0790NA	NY0832NA	MI0273BA	PA0930NA	VA0632BA							

GOULDIAN - RED HEAD	MN0688NA MD0812BA CA0469BA NY0922BA CA0327BA CT0475BA	FL0673BA CT0627BA CN0790NA NY0843BA FL0547BA VAVAUGHNA	CO0743BA IN0887NA NY0832NA IL0608NA FL0562NA VAVAUGHNA	NA0866BA IL0797BA MI0273BA NJ0871BA FL0657BA	PA0748BA MD0342BA PA0930NA PA0278BA MI0908BA	AL0888NA OH0907BA VA0632BA FL0649NA AL0643BA
GOULDIAN - WHT BRBAST	FL0673BA MD0342BA NY0843BA IL0608BA	CO0743BA OH0907BA NJ0871BA CAJONESNA	NA0866BA MI0273BA FL0649NA	PA0748BA CO0343BA FL0552NA	MD0812BA VA0632BA MI0908BA	IL0797NA NY0922BA FL0316BA
GOULDIAN - NARE	FL0673BA	NA0866BA	NY0843NA	NJ0871BA	FL0547NA	MI0908NA
GREEN SINGING FINCH	NY0414NA FL0649NA	AL0888NA FL0552BA	PA0930NA IL0608NA	CO0943NA	NY0843BA	PA0278BA
GREY SINGING FINCH	PA0930NA	PA0657NA	IL0608NA			
JAVA RICE - CINNAMON	OH0907BA					
JAVA RICE - GREY	NA0847NA	PA0748BA	OH0907BA			
JAVA RICE - PIED	WI0904BA	FL0547NA				
JAVA RICE - WHITE	PA0748BA	WI0904BA	FL0547NA			
LAVENDAR WAXBILL	CT0627NA	OH0907NA	CO0343NA	VA0632NA		
NASKED GRASSFINCH	MN0688NA	CO0743NA	NY0843BA	NJ0671BA		
MELBA	OH0907NA	VA0632NA	NJ0671BA			
MOLUCCAN NANHIKIN	NJ0671NA					
MYNAH BALI	VA0632BA					
MYNAH CRESTED	MI0441NA					
MYNAH INDIAN HILL	MI0441NA	NH0459NA				
ORANGE CHEEK WAXBILL	NA0847NA VAPOWELLNA	MN0688NA	AL0888NA	OH0907BA	OH0808NA	
PAINTED FINCH	FL0673NA	NY0922BA	NY0843NA	NJ0871BA	NJ0671BA	
PARROT FINCH - BAMBDO	NY0922NA	NJ0671NA				
PARROT - BLUE FACE	PA0748BA FL0649NA	IL0797NA PA0657BA	NY0832NA VAVAUGHNA	NY0843BA	NJ0871BA	NJ0671BA
PARROT - RED HEAD	FL0673BA PA0278BA FL0316BA	CO0743NA NJ0671BA CAJONESBA	OH0907BA PA0801BA	FL0042NA FL0547NA	NY0922BA MI0908BA	NY0843BA AL0643BA
PARROT - RARE	FL0042BA	PA0657BA				
PARROT - TRI COLOR	PA0287BA	PA0801BA	IL0608BA			
PARSON	CO0743NA	NY0922BA	NY0843BA			
PARSON - WHITE	NY0843NA					
PEARL HEAD AMADINE	NY0843NA					
PEKIN ROBIN	CO0743NA	OH0907NA	CO0343NA	VA0632NA		
PINTAIL NONPAREIL	NJ0671BA	IL0608NA				
PURPLE GRENADIER	FL0673NA AL0643BA	CO0743NA	FL0042NA	NY0922NA	NJ0671BA	PA0801NA
PYTILIA - ORG. WING	FL0042NA					
PYTILIA - YEL. WING	VA0632NA					
RED BILLED HORNBILL	VA0632BA					
RED BRBAST BLUEBILL	PA0801NA					
RED CRESTED TOURACO	FL0042NA	VA0632NA				
RED EAR WAXBILL	MN0688NA	NY0414NA	AL0888NA	OH0907BA	FL0649NA	

RINGNECK DOVE - NORMAL	NA0847BA								
RINGNECK DOVE - WHITE	MA0847BA								
ROSY RUMP WAXBILL	OH0808NA	IL0608NA							
SAFFRON	HN0688NA	CT0901BA							
SHAFTTAIL HECKS	CT0627BA	CA0469BA	NY0843BA	NJ0871BA	CA0327BA	IL0043BA			
SHAFTTAIL NORMAL	MA0847BA FL0042NA VAVAUGHNVA	MN0688BA NY0922NA	CO0743NA FL0649NA	PA0748BA IL0043BA	AL0888NA MI0908BA	CT0627BA IL0608BA			
SHAFTTAIL FAWN	CO0743NA	FL0042NA	NY0843BA	NJ0871BA	MI0908BA	IL0043BA			
SHAFTTAIL WHITE	PA0748BA	FL0042NA	IL0043BA	VAVAUGHNBA					
SILVER EAR MESIA	CO0743NA	IL0608NA							
SILVERBILL AFRICAN	MO0795BA	FL0649NA							
SOCIETY ASSORTED	MA0847BA CN0790NA CAJONESNA	CO0743BA MI0273BA	PA0748BA IL0043BA	GA0535NA CA0327BA	AL0888NA FL0547BA	CA0469NA CT0475NA			
SOCIETY CHOCOLATE	MN0688BA FL0552BA	OH0907BA PA0657BA	PA0930NA MI0908BA	MT0918BA IL0608BA	WI0904BA	FL0649BA			
SOCIETY CINNAMON	MN0688BA	OH0907BA	CO0343BA	FL0649NA	FL0552BA				
SOCIETY CRESTED	CO0743BA MI0908BA	FL0649NA	IL0043BA	FL0547BA	FL0552BA	PA0657BA			
SOCIETY DILUTE	FL0649NA	IL0043BA							
SOCIETY FAWN	MA0866NA IL0043BA	CO0343BA PA0657BA	MT0918NA MI0908BA	PA0278BA VAPOWELLNA	WI0904NA	FL0649NA			
SOCIETY SELF	MT0918BA								
SOCIETY WHITE	CO0743BA	OH0907BA	CO0343BA	NJ0671BA	PA0657BA	IL0608BA			
SPICE	MA0847NA	GA0535NA	AL0888NA	MI0273NA	MT0918NA	PA0657BA			
ST. HELENA WAXBILL	OH0907NA	PA0657BA	CT0475NA						
STAR FINCH - RED	MN0688NA NY0843NA IL0608NA	CO0743NA PA0278NA VAVAUGHNBA	PA0748NA PA0801BA	OH0907NA PA0657BA	PA0930NA MI0908BA	NY0922BA FL0316BA			
STAR FINCH - YELLOW	MN0688NA	CO0743BA	FL0042NA	PA0278NA	PA0657BA	MI0908BA			
STRAWBERRY	MN0688NA OH0907BA CO0343NA PA0657BA	CO0743NA CA0469NA CN0790BA OH0808NA AL0643BA	NY0414BA NY0832NA NY0843NA	AL0888NA MI0273NA FL0649NA CAJONESNA	CT0627BA MI0273NA FL0649NA	IN0887NA FL0042NA FL0547NA			
SUPERB STARLING	FL0042NA								
SWEET WAXBILL	NJ0671NA								
SYDNEY WAXBILL	FL0042NA	NJ0671BA							
TIMOR SPARROW	NJ0671NA								
TOCO TOUCAN	VA0632NA								
TRI COLOR NUN	AL0888NA	MT0918NA							
TURQUOISE Tanager	VA0632NA								
TWINSPOUT OYBOWSKI	PA0801BA								
TWINSPOUT GREEN BACK	CT0475NA								
TWINSPOUT PETER'S	OH0907BA	CA0469NA	FL0042NA	NY0843BA	NJ0671BA	FL0316BA			
VIOLET EAR WAXBILL	IN0887NA	FL0042NA	NJ0671NA	IL0608NA					
WEAVER HALF MASK	FL0649NA								
WEAVER ORANGE	OH0907NA								

Using Live Food For Small Birds

By Ray Vander Leest

For tinches and other varieties of birds requiring live food, I have found a source that is inexpensive, convenient, and easy to produce. The Fruit Fly, Drosophila melanogaster (mutant; apterous) is a small wingless insect providing an excellent source of protein for the domestic flock. They can be grown with a minimal investment of time and equipment. Since the apterous variety can not fly, they are less apt to escape into the aviary or your house and are more available to the birds. They reproduce readily in either a specially prepared culture media or decaying fruit, but will not survive longer than a few days away from this environment.

Equipment needed for growing your own stock of fruit flies consists of: culture tubes, foam plugs, culture media, and dry yeast. Culture tubes should be washed, thoroughly rinsed, and dried before using. Place the clean culture tubes in an inverted position on a clean paper towel until they are needed to avoid mold spore accumulation. To prepare the culture media, place 1/8 cup of media and an equal amount of cold tap water in the tube making sure the media is equally soaked. After two minutes, place 8 to 10 grains of yeast on top of the media. Allow this to stand for two more minutes before introducing the new fruit flies. To transfer the breeder fruit flies into the newly prepared media invert the tube containing the new media and place it on top of the open tube containing the stock fruit flies. Allow about 8 or 10 flies to crawl up into the tube. Plug both tubes and place them in an area where the temperature will remain at about 68 to 80 degrees and out of direct sunlight.

As you become more familiar with culturing Fruit Flies, you will learn to distinguish the sexes and can be more selective when transferring them into the culture tubes, but for now, using 8 to 10 adults will most likely provide both males and females for your new culture. A single female can produce up to 500 eggs in a ten day period and will remain fertile throughout her life of several weeks. Eggs are deposited in the media and hatch in one day. Larvae move through the media, using it as their source of food for about eight days. They then move up onto the inside of the tube where they remain until emerging. About two weeks after introducing the adults into the culture media, you will have the next generation of Fruit Flies.

When feeding Fruit Flies to the birds, I shake several into a white plastic lid having a 3/8 inch lip which discourages them from moving beyond the

PROPOSED LAVENDER FINCH STANDARD

(Lavender Waxbill)

Estrilda caerulescens

Submitted for the consideration of the membership by the committee. Comments and constructive criticisms are invited and should be submitted to:

Dr. Al Decoteau
P. O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450

CONFORMATION:	45 Points
CONDITION:	25 Points
DEMEANOR:	15 Points
MARKINGS AND COLORATION:	15 Points

CONFORMATION: 45 POINTS

This must be a 4 1/2 inch bird. The head should be gently rounded at the crown with a somewhat broad base that meets evenly at the point of the mandibles. There should be a straight topline with no sharp curves. The line from the chin through the neck and into the chest should be gracefully arched. The Lavender is a deep bodied bird with a full curved abdomen. The legs must be wide set and free of scaling. The straight back should be wider at the shoulder gradually tapering to the tail.

The wings must be carried evenly while blending smoothly into the back. The wing tips must meet at the base of the tail and not cross. The Lavender frequently drops its wings so that the primary flight feathers form a straight line with the tail. This exposes the crimson rump. This is a behavioral position and should not be faulted unless it is noted as a chronic weakness in the wing carriage.

The tail should be 1/4 of the total length of the Lavender. It must be carried to follow the backline. It should not be elevated or droop. It must be compact and full.

CONDITION: 25 POINTS

The Lavender must be a bird of immaculate feather. Exhibited specimens must be in top show condition. All feathers, skin, beak and toes must be clean, smooth and lustrous. There must be no pinfeathers nor must there be any missing feathers, toes or toenails.

DEMEANOR: 15 POINTS

This waxhill is and should be a very active bird. It is bright and inquisitive and quite active in the show cage. On the perch it must have a backline with a 35 degree angle. The legs should be wide set and strong with the weight of the bird evenly distributed. They must move from perch to perch spreading or fanning out their tail as they move giving a proud appearance.

MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 15 POINTS

The Lavender is a bird of soft feather with a pearly white to pearly red beak ending with a black tip. Legs are reddish brown to black. There must be a sharp black stripe running from the gape of the mouth to just past the eye. The cheeks, ear coverts, throat and upper breast are a whitish gray. This blends into a delicate bluish gray above the eye stripe, over the back and wing and through the flank. This shades to a sooty gray in the lower flank. There are small white spots on the lower flanks, most readily seen when the Lavender is in motion. The lower back, long tail coverts, rump and tail are a rich, vivid crimson. The Lavender is prone to melanise; this should be deducted heavily if it occurs.

The Black Tailed Lavender, *E. perreini*, is slightly larger and darker with a darker red over the rump and a black tail. There is a greater velvet look to the finish of the feathers.

This standard will be presented to the next Board Meeting of the National Finch and Softbill Society for possible acceptance. That meeting will take place on June 16, 1990 in Sturbridge, MA. All interested members are invited to submit constructive criticisms, in writing, before May 15, 1990 as to revisions they may feel are necessary in this standard. Those revisions will also be considered by the Board for acceptance.

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A SUMMARY OF 1990 BAND SALES

Denise reports sales of 13,940 bands as of March 20, 1990! This represents a profit of about \$ 182.00 and includes 165 orders from members! (In 1989 we made a total of about \$50.00.) It also represents a LOT of work and very careful record-keeping by Denise. Thanks from all of us, Denise. Hope you don't have nightmares about tying all those knots.

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Tough European Bird Laws Mean Little When It's Time for Dinner

By RICHARD L. HUDSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BRESCIA, Italy—Smiling like the cat that swallowed the canary, the waiter proudly presents the main course.

On a plate, beside a serving of steaming corumeal, three tiny, blackened beaks point up at the hapless diner. The birds' grilled bodies are plucked but not gutted. Their charred wings and spindly legs resemble insect appendages. They glisten in fragrant olive oil.

This is *polenta osei*, a traditional specialty in this north Italian region. It's a festive, expensive dish, often served at holidays; the birds are popped into the mouth whole, crunching bones and all. "Buon appetito," the waiter says.

Piorgiorgio Candela, an official of Italy's bird-protection society, waits for the waiter to leave. Furtively, he prods the three small corpses with his dinner knife, attempting to identify the species. "Fringuello (chaffinch)," he concludes. "These birds are illegal."

The Dark Side of Bird Feeders

Mr. Candela is one of Italy's leading campaigners against trapping, killing and selling protected birds, violations of Italian law. A few species can be killed and sold legally; most can't. No matter. Each year, 50 million protected robins, larks and other songbirds end up on Italian dinner plates.

Birds beware: Avoid Europe.

If not trapped and grilled in Italy, birds are snared with glue in Spain or caught in forest nets in southern France. Such behavior is a European tradition; centuries ago the Dutch invented garden bird-feeders—not to feast their feathered friends, but to keep them handy to feast upon. Today, birds also face more modern dangers, like pesticides and pollution, land development and urban sprawl. After centuries of man-made mayhem, the truth is dawning on ornithologists: Bird life in Europe is in serious trouble.

Ornithologists say the population of common songbirds in central Europe has

been dwindling by 1.7% a year since 1974, implying 35% may vanish in one human generation. In all, one-third of Europe's 400-odd bird species are declining. Austria lists 60% of its bird species as threatened, France 40% and Portugal 39%. By comparison, the U.S. figure is just 7%.

Already the white stork, whose rooftop nests signal spring in Holland and Denmark, has dwindled to a tenth of its prewar numbers. The capercaillie, a game bird whose droppings were prized in the Middle Ages as remedies for impotence, is vanishing. It is rare to see a gray partridge in a pear—or any other—tree. The days are gone when a Keats could write odes to a nightingale seen in a London garden.

Basically, people are crowding out birds. "It's a very simple calculation," says Peter Berthold, a prominent West German ornithologist. "The more people we have, the less space is left for plants and animals." Europe is the world's most densely populated continent with, at 101 humans to every square kilometer, triple the world average. Those people build suburbs, go hunting, drain estuaries and fell forests. Since 1970, European farmers have expanded their fields 27%, plowing, fertilizing and spraying land crucial to much wildlife. Some bird species adapt—the crow, magpie and gull thrive on the tidy farms and littered coasts of European civilization. But many others dwindle.

John Humphrey studies the habitat problem from his bungalow near the Bird in Hand pub, in rural North Curry, England. A spare man of few words, he is a bird warden on the Somerset Levels and Moors, a flat, ancient wetland that is among Europe's most important waterfowl habitats. Each year, hundreds of British birders don green Wellington boots to tromp these wetlands in search of golden plover, black-tailed godwit or Bewick swan, an annual visitor from Siberia. These people are of a tradition of British

bird-love: Years ago, one English peer was known to motor about the countryside counting and banding birds, with chauffeur and butler in tow.

In his modest blue sedan, Mr. Humphrey drives himself down a muddy dirt track toward a pond by a meager clump of willow. Teals, widgeons and mallards dabble in the chilly water. "This is a small oasis," he whispers—part of a 300-acre plot purchased as a bird sanctuary by his employer, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

All around is farmland, devoid of ponds or flocks. In times past, farmers used these boggy lowlands only in summer, when the land dried enough to graze cattle. Now they are pumped dry to extend the grazing season or plant wheat. The birds can fly elsewhere, of course; but undisturbed wetlands are rare in Europe, and the remaining ones can't support all the dispossessed birds.

A flock of lapwings flies overhead. "A few years ago," Mr. Humphrey says, "I could count 20,000 lapwing here in a day. Now, I'd say there are no more than 20,000 over the whole Somerset Levels."

Human governments try but don't succeed in helping the birds. On paper, the European Community has the world's toughest bird-protection code. Among other things, it requires the EC member-states to identify and preserve any land that is an important habitat for any of a long list of protected bird species.

The U.S., naturally, also has millions of acres of protected land, ranging from national forests to EPA-protected wetlands. The EC, however, makes the preservation of just one bird species adequate legal justification to declare even private acreage a conservation area. As required, all member-states have incorporated the EC code into their national laws.

But enforcement is rare, and politicians constantly legislate exemptions for their hunter or farmer constituents. Altogether, hunting and trapping kill about 15% of migratory birds in the Mediterranean area. In Spain, Catalan farmers smear twigs with glue to stick birds fast, before picking them. Near Bergamo, in Italy, trappers blind songbirds to make sweeter-singing house pets. And in Malta, 10% of the 300,000 inhabitants have an annual orgy of shooting, caging and stuffing four million

wild birds. One ornithological study satirically concluded: "People in Malta are far from indifferent to birds. Basically, they want to hold them in their hands—dead, stuffed or alive."

In northern Italy, the naturalist Mr. Candela has been campaigning for years against such destructive attitudes. On weekdays, he is a mild insurance-company employee in Turin; on weekends, he becomes *il justiziere*—the lawman, as his bird-society colleagues call him. Deputized under Italian bird-law, he and friends patrol the countryside destroying traps. Though he has legal power to make arrests for violations of nature laws, Mr. Candela finds it more prudent to organize police raids on restaurants illegally serving protected species. In one kitchen, he found 1,400 plucked robins.

One misty Saturday dawn finds him in uniform—hiking boots, green forest garb and a pistol. His followers—five bird-loving friends, two armed forest rangers and his wife, Ida—are tense as their small caravan of cars heads up into the remote hill country north of Brescia, near the Swiss border. On a similar expedition a week earlier, one volunteer was wounded by an angry trapper's shotgun. They park in a green, upland valley and draw straws to choose a guard, lest the hillfolk slash their car tires.

Like a platoon sergeant, the 50-year-old Mr. Candela deploys his troops on foot up the steep, scraggly hillsides. He climbs like a nimble mountain goat; panting, his followers labor after him. He stops at a clearing. "See, see," he hisses, pointing through the underbrush.

At the edge of a glade is a small, crude device, made of a slender oak stick and bent into the shape of an archery bow by a piece of twine. More twine dangles from one end of the bow, alongside a clump of red berries. This is an *archetto*—a type of trap made here since Roman times.

With a ballpoint pen, Mr. Candela gingerly taps the device near the hanging berries, where a bird would alight to feed. The ~~trap springs, its twine instantly entangling~~ the pen and snapping it tight against the wooden stick. It is designed to break and hold a bird by the legs. The trappers collect the bleeding birds later, hanging them from their belts like a bunch of keys on a chain. They pluck them, and sell them to

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REPLIES TO A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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from the Neo-Commercial Aviculturist

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Editor's note: One of the most widely noted and quoted articles I have printed was the Letter to the Editor in the March/April 1989 issue of the Bulletin. To refresh your memory I will quote a few excerpts from it, then some comments from several replies I received and the complete text of an article that suggests a solution.

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The Neo-Commercial Aviculturist said, "I've spent a very frustrating morning contacting pet shops trying to sell banded third generation Cutthroats for \$6 each and cage-bred, banded Strawberries for \$15 each. Not one shop was interested. I've advertised in our local club bulletin and haven't sold a bird. This has led me to the bitter conclusion that it's not worth the time and effort to breed these species as long as wild caught birds are available. I didn't get into breeding to make money but I am disappointed that so little value is placed on domestically bred and banded birds of common species. I for one will be glad to see the day that importation ends. Birds are not cheap to keep and it takes a lot of time and energy to do it properly. From now on I'm going to concentrate on birds which have more economic value; Goulds, Stars, Owls, etc. It just doesn't pay if you can't find an outlet."

Kenneth Archer from North Kansas City replied, "I have been pondering this problem of bird dispersal for years. I have been in the same situation. I have had chicks of common species that I couldn't give away. Maybe I could trade them for supplies but usually not. Perhaps we live in a part of the country where there are few "finch people". Even expensive species can be difficult to sell unless you aim at a national market and are willing to ship.

If shipping was not so expensive I would love to buy those \$15 Strawberries but \$50 for air freight is too much. I prefer to buy birds from breeders that have been parent-raised, indoors. I have found that some dealers will tell me what I want to hear and then sell me imported or outdoor raised birds which don't breed. There is no sure market even at regional or national shows.

As importation becomes more difficult it will become more urgent to develop a system of dispersal to keep finches available and affordable. Sounds simple. Step one: starting it up and making it functional. Set up a national network of birds available and birds wanted, using any number of periodicals and newsletters. Distribute it to all clubs and individuals that might be interested. Step two: get people to participate by submitting information. Step three: set up some system for safe and affordable shipping year round.

I think safe and affordable shipping is the major problem. The airlines do an excellent job and they go just about anywhere. BUT, it costs a great deal to ship by air. One way to save is to pool birds and ship them together and share the costs. Another is to develop a cooperative network of individuals who travel to shows and exhibitions who would be willing to take the responsibility for holding and transporting birds. This works well on a local basis but has logistical problems when it involves nationwide travel.

I feel that another part of the problem is that finches are short lived, difficult to breed and have a short breeding life. This coupled with cheap imports makes it easier to buy them than to breed them. Even if one is successful in breeding at this time the price is fixed by the import market."

Laura Georgi of Columbia, Missouri wrote, "I would like to second some of the sentiments expressed in the letter. I too have cage-bred, closed banded birds for which I cannot find buyers. Nine are African Silverbills which are even less commercially attractive than the neo-commercial aviculturist's species.

The parents came from a pet store and were the first pair of any bird species I had ever owned. The summer after I bought them they had nine young in three clutches until I intervened to stop them. When I heard about FINCHSAVE, I wrote for information. I didn't want to get into breeding on the scale required by FINCHSAVE though I didn't think it would be difficult to raise the requisite number of chicks. Besides, although African Silverbills were not named among the species that were excluded because of breeding so freely in captivity it seemed to me that they could have been. Now my experience has given me reason for not breeding on a larger scale. If I can't find homes for nine chicks it seems irresponsible to breed twenty-five. My response has been to discontinue breeding altogether. I agree that further import restrictions would probably bolster prices to a more respectable level. In fact, M-C A might want to try his luck in New York.

This brings up another question. I have long been puzzled by aviculturists hostility to New York State's Wild Bird Law. It's easy to see why importers don't like it but it should have the effect of making domestic breeding stock much more valuable. Perhaps it's like the Equal Rights Amendment in Utah. In opinion polls, Mormon women said they would vote against the amendment, but responded very much more favorably to the actual text of the proposed amendment if it was not identified as the ERA. Just in case this is so here's the essence of the law: "no person shall sell live wild birds. . . unless such birds were born and raised in captivity." It's fantastically protectionist legislation concealed as conservation. If you're curious you can find it in McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York; it's Environmental Conservation Law 11-1728. It has been emphasized that the only thing that the law regulates is the sale of birds; this is one of its strengths. You can bring wild-caught birds into New York State for any other purpose, including breeding. If you really want to know what New York requires of sellers of birds, you'll need to read Codes Rules and

Regulations. Under one provision listed there (6 NYCRR 174.3c), any sale of birds is permitted provided they are closed banded.

I'm not saying this law is perfect. For one thing, there are bound to be domestic birds that lose their bands or need to have them removed when a New York licensed veterinarian isn't available to do the job officially. But it's a pretty good starting point, and I think we all recognize that the large-scale importation of wild-caught birds is not good for them or even for aviculture. Instead of reflexively fighting every effort by conservationists to restrict this trade, why don't we, as aviculturists, study New York's Codes Rules and Regulations, find out if there are things that really need modifying, and work together with conservationists to propose legislation that all parties (especially the birds) can live with."

Kris Kroner, of Ambler, PA responded by submitting this article:
DON'T STOP BREEDING...CREATE A MARKET

I have previously experienced the same frustrations as many of you who breed finches, close-band the offspring and then discover there is little market for the domestically produced chicks.

We have all been angered by pet shop keepers who claim to want domestic stock but actually want only domestic Psittacines. Finches, they say, they can get cheap from a wholesaler or jobber.

Unfortunately, while this isn't fair, it is something we finch breeders are forced to deal with. The problem is that we have to create a market for our birds. There are people out there who like finches but don't understand the different unfamiliar species so they stick with the easily accessible ones. We have to show them our more uncommon stock and talk about the birds to get them interested.

I appreciate the beauty of many of the species, however, the ones I particularly enjoy are the species which few would say are colorful. I am speaking of those in the Mannikin group. These birds are mostly shades of black, brown and tan and I am totally hooked on their beauty and personalities.

These birds have been difficult to sell for a fair price to almost anyone. They just don't draw the attention that the more brilliantly colored species always receive. But, they are breeding for me and it became obvious that I had either to actively promote my birds or I would be overrun with "shades of black, brown and tan". Calls to pet shops elicited the same response many people have received - it was either a few dollars per bird or total disinterest in the species being offered.

I have always enjoyed exhibiting my birds and this year I actively campaigned two species in particular; the Blue Billed Mannikin, (aka Black and White Mannikin) and the Magpie Mannikin. The birds I exhibited were domestic stock and the Magpies were also closed NFS banded. My purpose in choosing these two in particular was to create a market. I wanted to show people how beautiful these birds can be. The birds helped out by doing well this show season, placing on the top bench in numerous shows.

I spoke to many people at shows about these species, their personalities and their requirements. Lo and Behold, I found that people wanted to buy them. I now have a waiting list for the Blue Billed Mannikin and have sold my excess Magpie Mannikins.

Exhibiting other species has produced the same result. When I go to shows I plan on having fun competing and taking the opportunity to promote the Mannikins. I'm encouraging you to take your birds and exhibit them. Go back to the benches after judging is over and talk to individuals about your birds. You will find there are folks out there who just need to hear about the species to decide to purchase it.

This year at shows there was an increase in spectators just walking in and looking. Many were hoping to buy. The word is getting out in many different ways that there are breeders who sell birds that they have raised. This opens up a new supply of better birds to fanciers. The birds show their "stuff" on the bench. It is up to us to tell people why our birds are worth buying.

Don't give up breeding because pet shops don't want to pay a fair price for your domestics. There is a market for the birds but we have to get out and find it. Talking about the birds and showing them has helped me in that respect. I sincerely hope it helps you. GOOD LUCK.

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Another Editor's note: As I told you at the beginning...this has been the most quoted article I have printed and it has brought the most responses from the Bulletin readers. I think you have plenty of new and old points of view to consider by now. I'd like to continue this dialogue in further issues because this situation is FAR from resolved. Drop me a line and I'll print your opinions or put you in touch with the folks who have written so far.

Write to:

BRENDA GEESEY, EDITOR
125 W. JACKSON ST.
YORK, PA 17403

Also be sure to read the article entitled "Finches Flying Express Mail ?" elsewhere in this issue. Maybe some research into this possibility will help to resolve the problem of shipping being so expensive.

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Nifty tip: For an economical bird-room "air-cleaner". Buy a 20" window fan, put a 20" furnace filter on the front and back, secured by "bungie cords". Brother Anthony Michael of Grand Rapids, MI says it does a good job and you know he wouldn't be fibbing to us !

=====

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Tough Bird Laws

restaurants for 40 cents to \$1.20 apiece, depending on the species.

Mr. Candela angrily breaks the trap in two, and points along the clearing to a row of similar traps, primed and spaced at intervals of a few paces. He orders them all broken. "Each one you leave behind is a dead robin," he tells his followers for encouragement.

As his squad passes, smashing traps, farmers stop their work to watch sullenly. When questioned, they profess ignorance. "I'm not from this area," says Renzo Mescolini, sharpening his scythe; "I don't know anything about it." Later, the bird-lovers find traps behind his house. None of the hillfolk resist, but they clearly don't understand or welcome the intruders. Such trapping has gone on for centuries here.

By noon, the raiders have broken or seized more than 500 traps. Conducting such raids "is like trying to empty the sea with a spoon," says a member of Mr. Candela's band. Within days, the hillsides will be bristling with new traps.

But the leader isn't discouraged. Mr. Candela's plan is to make such a public stink with his raids that, gradually, Italian public opinion will turn against the practice. And he doesn't discount the value of the few birds he manages to save on each raid.

With a stack of seized traps at his feet, he and his wife attempt first aid on one tiny victim, a robin. One of its legs, broken in a trap, hangs like a snapped twig. "Tighter," he commands his wife, as she tries holding the leg steady. With scissors, he gently severs the irreparable limb. The terrified creature, red breast pounding, struggles free and flies away—most likely to die.

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ZEBRA - NORMAL GREY    CO0743NA GA0535BA AL0888NA CT0627BA IL0797BA OH0907BA
CA0469NA CN0790NA NY0476NA CO0343BA MT0918BA FL0649BA
IL0043BA CA0327BA FL0552BA PA0657BA CA0428BA CA0457BA
VAPOWELLNA
ZEBRA - NORMAL GREY    CO0743NA GA0535BA AL0888NA CT0627BA IL0797BA OH0907BA
CA0469NA CN0790NA NY0476NA CO0343BA MT0918BA FL0649BA
IL0043BA CA0327BA FL0552BA PA0657BA CA0428BA CA0457BA
VAPOWELLNA
ZEBRA - LIGHTBACK      NY0843BA CA0327BA CA0428BA
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THE CENSUS ISSUE...1989'S COUNT

Tom Rood deserves a lot of thanks for compiling and typing those statistics. Nice job Tom! 1989's numbers include submissions from 53 members which represent 82 species and 36 mutations. Thanks to those who participated too.

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All articles, anecdotes, artwork,
ads and other additions to the
bulletin should be sent to:

NFS Editor, Brenda Geesey
125 W. Jackson St.
York, PA 17403

Thanks.

P.S. Also all complaints, comments,
compliments, colloquies, critiques
and consternations. Thanks again.
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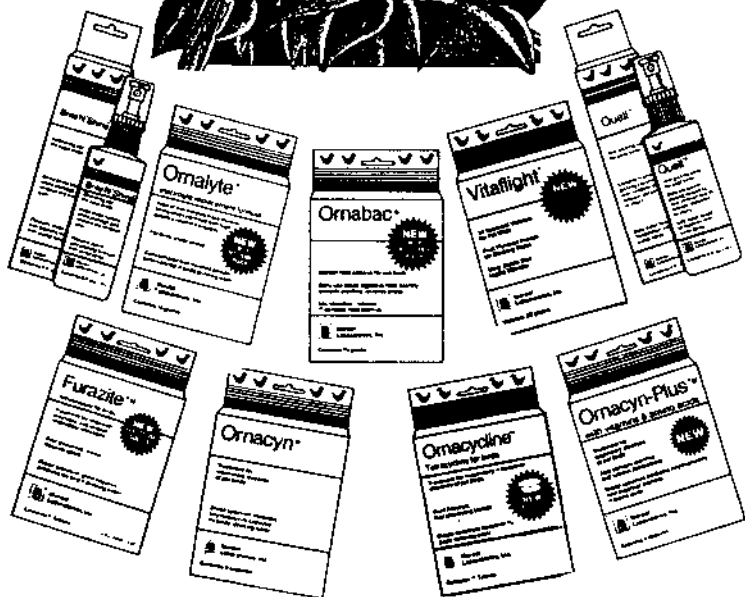
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TO ALL FINCHSAVE PARTICIPANTS

Please write an article for publication in the bulletin. Other members would like to know what you did to succeed with your species. Even if you haven't reached your goals yet, it would be good to know what you have tried and what worked and what hasn't. Remember that your reports should be going to our new Third Vice-President:

Jeff Brissette, 34 Liberty Street, Manchester, CT 06040

ARE YOU A BIT TIMID ABOUT WRITING ?

Jon Hoffman, our new Second Vice-President, and well known BIRD TALK columnist has volunteered to help you! In a letter to me Jon said, "since some people are shy about writing and aren't comfortable about their ability to write, perhaps they could submit the outline or sketch of what they want to say, and then I can put it into an edited-form of article for them. The procedure might be that a breeder sends me the information or calls me to discuss what they want to say. I then write it up and it goes back to the breeder for approval. The breeder makes notes of any clarifications or requests for changes and sends it back to me. I put it into a final form and send it to the bulletin editor for publication."

This is a very generous offer and I hope many members who have hesitated to write for the bulletin will be contacting you soon Jon ! Thanks. The Editor.

Jon Hoffman, 839 Franklin Street, #2, Louisville, KY 40206

Classified ads:

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NFS SHOW CAGES FOR SALE: Sizes 1 & 2 available - fully assembled and painted in your choice of white or light blue interior. Send SASE for pricelist and shipping info. J. Brown, 23 Beacon Hill Road, East Hartford, CT 06108 mj

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FINCHES: All kinds. Domestic and imported. Will ship. Send SASE. A-1 Aviary, 5503 Axion Ave., Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 352 1593 jf

FOR SALE: Red-Billed Hornbills; \$175 each; Bali Mynahs; Unsexed, \$250 each, Permit needed outside of Virginia. Jeff Puryear, RT. #1, Box 507, Troy, VA (804) 589 1103 ma

WANTED: Female Black-headed Sibia, (*Heterophasia melanoleuca*) to pair with 3 yr. old male, buy or borrow. Would like to correspond with anyone having experience with *Rollulus roulroul*. Kenneth Archer, 2106 Erie, N. Kansas City, MO, 64116-3439. Phone (816) 221 6723. ma

FINCHSAVE Classified ads

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NEEDED: One pair and one extra male European Gold Finches for breeding program. Contact Patti Ripple between 5 and 10 p.m. any day or leave message anytime. (414) 527 1980 (Wisconsin)

NEEDED: New blood for Cherry Finches. Could use two extra hens. Jose Aleman, A-1 Aviary, 5503 Axion Ave., Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 352-1593

NEEDED: Black-Crested finches. (*Lophospingus pussilus*) for Finchsave program. Need hens, however singles and pairs accepted. Stephen Hoppin, (813) 997-2237 after 7 p.m..

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Please list other name to be included in a dual membership:

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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.) _____

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- Lysine and Methionine amino acids improve diet protein quality
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- Micro-encapsulated Beneficial Bacteria (Probiotics) keep birds in top condition
- Significantly improves the growth of handrearing babies



Years of formulation and field testing have resulted in the most advanced avian supplement. Prime has excelled above all other supplements in providing all species of companion birds with their required nutrients. Prime is not a dumping ground for every nutrient known to man. However, ingredients were selected strictly on the basis of need. This results in higher levels of those nutrients truly needed by birds. For most accurate dosage administration, we recommend Prime be sprinkled over your bird's favorite fruits and vegetables.

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR
LOCAL PET DEALER

THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE TOTAL NUTRITION FOR ALL CAGE BIRDS

DISTRIBUTED BY: DISTRIBUE PAR
U.S.A. ROLF C. HAGEN (U.S.A.) CORP., Mansfield, Ma 02048
CANADA: ROLF C. HAGEN INC., Montréal, Qué. H4R 1E8

NFS BAND ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: DENISE CAPAZZI
280 BURNINGTREE DRIVE
GROTON, CT 06340

1990

NFS offers, to members only, closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFS color of the year. Engraved with the initials NFS, size code, year and number. No number choices. All orders recorded for permanent reference. Bands may be ordered in strings of 10, all same size. Anticipate needs to avoid re-orders. Shipped within 30 days of receipt. No shipping charge.

NOTE: Due to increasing losses in shipment, please include .70 for postal insurance on orders up to \$50 and \$1.50 for orders over \$50 up to \$100. If you choose NOT to include this sum NFS WILL NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SIZE # OF STRINGS TO FIT LEGS OF:

- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| A | _____ | Small Waxbills; Strawberry, Owl, Orange-cheek Red-ear, Gold-breasted and others. |
| B | _____ | Cordon Bleu, Fire, Lavenders, Cuban Melodius, Olive. Blue caps and others. |
| C | _____ | Grn Singers, Silverbills, Star, Shafttails. Cutthroats, Parrot, Cherry, Painted, Heck's Pileated, Grey Singer, and Pytilias. |
| D | _____ | Zebras, Gouldians, Pictorella, Yellow-rump, Chestnut-breast and smaller mannikins. |
| E | _____ | Society, Nuns, Diamond Sparrows. (Gloster, Fife, and other small Canaries). |
| G | _____ | Larger Mannikins and Canaries. |
| J | _____ | Pekin Robins, Yorkshires, other Sm. Softbills |
| K | _____ | Java Rice, Indian Shama, and etc. |
| L | _____ | Doves, Quail, and Larger Softbills. |

Total # strings _____ x \$ 1.75 = \$ _____ Total amount enclosed

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Mem.# _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NFS 1990 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS THAT YOUR CLUB WILL HAVE TO MEET ARE TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE AFFILIATION FEE AND SELECT A DELEGATE TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN DEALING WITH NFS. THE DELEGATE MUST BE A MEMBER OF NFS.

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

THIS IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT DO NOT HAVE SHOWS. THE FEE IS \$25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO, IN AUGUST OF YOUR AFFILIATION YEAR, YOU WILL RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FOR YOUR CLUB. THIS PLAQUE CAN BE A SERVICE OR BREEDER AWARD FOR ONE OF YOUR MEMBERS. (NEED NOT BE AN NFS MEMBER.) THE PLAQUE ALONE IS WORTH THE AFFILIATION FEE. REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE PLAQUE AND ITS' WORDING MUST BE FORWARDED TO NFS NO LATER THAN JUNE 1ST .

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO IS FOR CLUBS WITH SHOWS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL INCLUDE BEAUTIFUL PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND BEST IN DIVISION AT YOUR SHON. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION WITH ROSETTE PACKAGE

SAME AS LEVEL TWO BUT WITH THE ADDITION OF 10 LONG STREAMER ROSETTES FOR THE TEN BEST FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS IN DIVISION PLUS THREE ROSETTES FOR THREE BEST UNFLIGHTED IN THE DIVISION. THIS OPTION WITH LEVEL TWO COSTS \$65.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION WITH SOFTBILL PACKAGE

ADDS A PLAQUE FOR BEST SOFTBILL TO STANDARD LEVEL TWO PACKAGE. COSTS \$65.

LEVEL THREE AFFILIATION

THIS LEVEL INCLUDES PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN DIVISION; A PLAQUE FOR BEST SOFTBILL IN DIVISION; 10 LONG STREAMER ROSETTES AND THREE ROSETTES FOR UNFLIGHTED BIRDS. TOTAL COST FOR LEVEL THREE IS \$90.

SEND YOUR FEE AND A NOTE INDICATING WHICH LEVEL AND WHICH ADDITIONAL PACKAGES YOUR CLUB WANTS TO;

PAM LIODY, LIAISON OFFICER
245 Draper Street
Springfield, MA 01108

A LITHOGRAPH by ERIC PEAKE for NFS

Each signed and numbered by the artist. offered exclusively by
THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



"In my art work, I have been able to add or subtract areas of development in the avian subjects I choose. Being an artist who loves birds, and having been fortunate to paint the things I love has been a rewarding achievement in itself.

Most of my years as an artist, I have been connected with the parrot family. But from time to time, I paint other birds, Raptors, Cage Birds, etc. When I painted the beautiful "Diamond Firetails" I tried to portray the beauty of this lovely bird, also to show its' character for bird lovers.

It has been my pleasure to have the "Firetails" issued by the National Finch and Softbill Society as a Limited Edition print. Please support the Society by purchasing a print. I will continue to paint one subject a year, if it proves successful."

Eric Peake (UK)