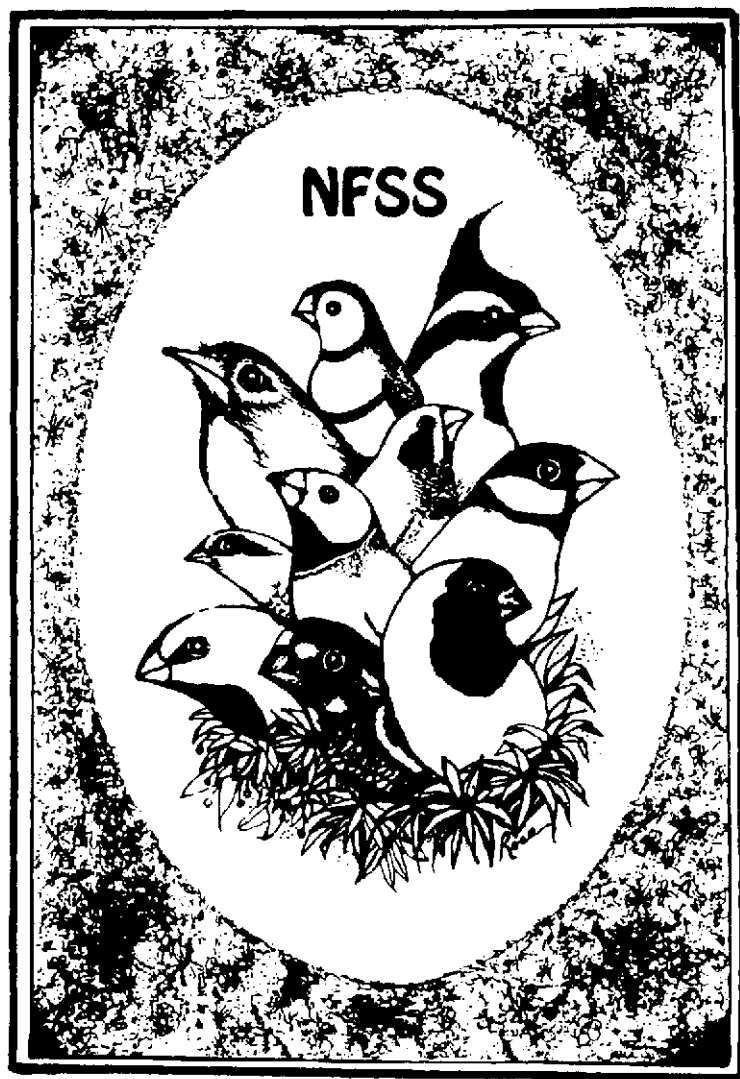


The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 14, No. 1



NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

January—February 1997



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Thank you to you all!!

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In this issue:

The 1996 show season is over and we have part I of the '96' show season results. The rest of the results will be in the March/April issue of the *Bulletin*. This issue has part II to Mr. Castaner's informative article on "Treating Finches for Shock". We also have an intriguing article concerning the use of inbreeding and line-breeding to reproduce more birds with a specific characteristic. And there is another wonderful article on Owl Finches. In this issue is the hopeful beginnings of a continuing column that will have a look at various views of a particular topic. The first topic will deal with the possible causes of egg and nestling mortality. I hope some of our viewers will write something more for the column on hatchling mortality.

It's also that time again for the annual census form. Please consider filling it out and sending it to the census manager. The census information not only helps fellow aviculturists know what species are out there, but it will prove to be valuable proof to the federal government that we finch and softbill enthusiasts can, and do, reproduce most of the birds we keep.

**Deadline for the next issue is
March 1st 1997**

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by Rose Gianferrara, Bonita Springs, Florida

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NFSS News & Notes

*Compiled from
NFSS Directors*

News from the Band Secretary

New band sizes proposed.

For the past year I have been trying to add bands for larger size birds. The going has been slow but I am now ready to order larger sizes as soon as I hear from you with suggested sizes for the species you are either breeding or keeping. Please drop me a note, call or fax me at (407) 657-7989 or E-mail me at dalel@magicnet.net. Below are band sizes and the proposed species for those bands:

Size M (4.3 mm) (L&M brand # lovebird)
Pagoda Mynahs, large Sunbirds, Leaf Birds

Size R (7.1 mm) (L&M brand #9)
Green/Purple Startlings, Superb Startlings

Size S (7.6 mm) (L&M brand #9 1/2)
White-tailed Jays, Java Hill Mynahs, Indian Hill Mynahs,
Toucanettes, Aracaris, Rind-necked Doves.

Size T (8.7 mm) (L&M brand #11)
Touracos, Plush-capped Jays, Toucans.

Size U (9.5 mm) (L&M brand #12)
?

I would also like to hear from anybody banding Silver-eared Mesias, Pekin Robins, Euphonias, Lilac-breasted Rollers, Violet-eared Waxbills, Purple Grenadiers, Cut-throats, Red-headed Finches, Pearl-headed Amadines, Timor Sparrows, Shelly Seed-eaters, Scaly-crowned Weavers, any of the Whydah family, Pallid Nun, Jacarinis, Rufous-backed Mannikins, Parrot-billed Seed-eaters, and finally any other species not listed on the NFSS band chart.

From the Editor's Desk...



A characteristic of mine that took my wife awhile to adjust to was my desire for things in our house to serve a purpose and for them to be organized. For example, all the tools in my workshop are hung-up in their specific place. Screws, nails, etc. are sorted and organized. If it were left up to me, our house would only be decorated with things that serve some function, such as bookshelves and cabinets. I'll be the first to admit I'm not big on knick-knacks and other purely decorative items. It's not that I'm some sort of clean freak or don't appreciate a well decorated room, it's just that I like things to be as efficient as possible.

This desire for efficiency goes extremely well with my fascination with birds. The one thing that defines a "bird", at least most birds, is the ability to fly. This unique form of locomotion has shaped the avian body plan into a highly efficient machine. One of the things I do remember from those boring Animal Physiology lectures is that, of all the forms of locomotion, flying is the most energy consuming and so birds have been forced to be as efficient as possible.

The avian kidney is one of the most efficient, in the animal kingdom, at minimizing its use of water. A by product of metabolizing protein is nitrogen. This left over nitrogen in the body is highly toxic, especially as it builds up. Simpler animals, like jellyfish, simply flow water through its body and nitrogen flows out with the water. This method works if you are an animal with the same body fluid make up as the water that you live in. But for vertebrates, especially ones that live on dry land, that method would not be feasible. So most vertebrates use a substance called urea. Urea is a moderately stable compound, more of it can be dissolved in water, without ill effect, than the simple nitrogen. But urea still uses a lot of water to flush out that nitrogen. The biggest requirement for flight is the need to be as light as possible. Water is a relatively heavy substance and so birds need to carry as little as possible. Birds excrete their nitrogen as a product called uric acid. Uric acid is a much more stable compound than urea and so more of it can be dissolved in the same amount of water than urea, without ill effect to the body.

The bones of birds are another area of savings in weight. In order to use those powerful muscles birds require strong bones, just like in mammals. But mammal bones are very heavy. The major structural component of bones is the element calcium and it is very heavy. One way to lighten something without sacrificing much strength is to hollow

it out. And this is the approach birds take. Another weight saving device is the unique beak. Size for size our teeth are our heaviest possession. A beak is much, much lighter and as anyone who has ever been stabbed by a crane, woodpeckered by a crow, or mutilated by a parrot will tell you there is still a lot strength there.

There are other unique characteristics of birds that are efficient, but none so as the respiratory. I'm sure everyone has heard of the Canary in the coal mine. Why is it that the Canary died before the coal miners? Is it because of size? I'll bet if you take a mouse and a turtle down in the coal mine with you, you would succumb before they did so. Are Canaries weaker?

The reason is their efficient respiratory system. Because flying is so energy demanding, birds need much more oxygen than another animal their size and they need it quicker. Our method of breathing would not be effective enough for flight. Heck, if I ran down the street I'd quickly be out of breath. Can you imagine flying just a couple of miles!

In order for us to get oxygen we breathe air directly into our lungs where some of the oxygen diffuses into our blood. Much like water rushing on to the shore and then back out again. There is only so much water you could scoop up before the water rushed out again. Birds have deployed a method called

counter-current exchange. This method brings in air one way and out another. The air flows alongside the bloodstream, but in the opposite direction. This allows for a much higher percentage of oxygen being drawn into the blood. That's the method we use in our digestive system and our kidneys.

This ability to extract more oxygen was the downfall of the Canary. Birds extract toxins, just like they do oxygen, from the air more efficiently than we do and that is why they are more vulnerable to air pollution. More vulnerable or not, birds still have my curiosity and admiration.

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 Qtr. page \$20/issue; \$80/year
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NFSS 4th Qtr 1996 Board Meeting

**Held: National Cage Bird Show
Dearborn, MI
recorded 11/14/96**

*recorded by Petrick Vance
Executive Secretary*

The meeting was called to order by NFSS President Frank Hudson at 8:03 p.m. Board members in attendance were; Frank Hudson, Dr. Al Decoteau, Miki Sparzak, Patrick Vance, Tom Rood, and Julie Kern. The lack of board members in attendance meant there was no quorum.

The minutes of the 3rd quarter board meeting were read and a motion by Dr. Al Decoteau, seconded by Miki Sparzak, that the minutes be approved. Motion was passed.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report: Miki Sparzak reported that the NFSS savings account totals \$4,200.00, the checking account is \$10,200.00, and the bill for bands is \$6,000.00.

Judge's Panel: Dr. Al Decoteau reported that Roddy Gabel has resigned as a Panel Judge due to job constraints, and that Marty Von Raesfeld is resigning effective 12/31/96. Dr. Decoteau reiterated the fact that NFSS is losing two very capable judges. Dr. Decoteau reported that currently NFSS has three

apprentice judges, Frank Hudson, Jerry McCawley, and Jackie Civitarese. Also, two NFSS members have made arrangements to take the NFSS Judge's exam at the Dearborn National. New Judges to the Judge's Panel were voted on and approved. The NFSS Board of Directors wishes to extend a welcome to Christine Voronovitch and Armando Lee.

Standards Cnnmittee: Dr. Al Decoteau reported that there are currently committees working on standards for the Star Finch, the Pintail Parrotfinch (Nonpariel), the Parson Finch, the mynah bird, and the Red-head Finch. Additionally, the Zebra Finch standard is being reworked by Martha Wigmore, Tom Rood and Clarence Culwell. The committee welcomes help and suggestions from the membership.

FinchShop: Julie Duimstra faxed her report for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1996, reporting that 37 orders were processed and filled and that there are no back orders at this time. FinchShop sales for this period totaled \$630.00, with expenses totaling \$419.12. Results of sales at the Kaytee and the National Show are unknown at this time.

Band Reprnt: Eileen Laird reported that through the 3rd quarter 409 band orders were filled totaling 29,240 bands being mailed out. The order for 1997 was placed by Eileen in August. Eileen ordered the same quantities for '97' bands as 1996. In addition, 5 larger sized bands were

ordered. The board will evaluate the need for the larger bands and the membership is asked to offer their suggestions. The band color for 1997 is violet.

President Frank Hudson next opened the floor for nominations for judges for the 1997 National Show in Denver, Colorado, and the 1998 Kaytee Show. Receiving the most votes were Tom Rood, Miki Sparzak, and Martha Wigmore. NFSS will submit these names to the National Cage Bird Show for their consideration. Harold Bowles was nominated to judge the 1998 Kaytee.

A question was raised regarding the late arrival of the Eric Peake prints. Several clubs did not receive theirs in time for their show. A discussion ensued concerning transferring this responsibility to another position. It was decided to discuss this issue further in the next Quarter meeting.

New Business: A brief discussion followed concerning the need for the NFSS fax to be utilized. Frank

Hudson stated he would look into this matter.

P. Vance expressed the need for NFSS to award points to specialty shows, such as the All Zebra And Society Finch Show Held in Kansas City in 1996. Currently the rule is that there be no points awarded unless finches and softbills are judged against each other. P. Vance felt this rule discourages exhibitors and that every effort must be made to encourage the exhibition of finches and softbills. It was suggested that the membership respond with their comments.

Finally, President Frank Hudson read a letter from Jerry McCawley explaining the lateness of the mailing of the Eric Peake prints and offering his apologies to clubs affected by this.

Motion by Miki Sparzak to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Julie Kern at 9:26 p.m..

Is It Time to Renew Your Membership?

Check the mailing label on the back of your Bulletin for your expiration date.

And please remember to mail your membership dues to:

Lynda Bakula, Membership Director

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022

NFSS Annual Meeting

Held National Cage Bird Show: Dearborn, MI recorded 11/16/96

*Recorded by Patrick Vance
Executive Secretary*

Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m. by President Frank Hudson. NFSS currently has 843 members and 80 affiliated clubs.

Band Secretary's Report: Through the 3rd quarter, 409 orders were filled and 29,240 bands sold. The band color for 1997 is violet.

Judges Panel Report: Dr. Al Decoteau introduced the judges in attendance at the meeting and announced two new judges to the Judge's Panel, Christine Voronovitch and Armando Lee. Current apprentices are: Frank Hudson, Jerry McCawley, Jackie Civitarese.

Dr. Al Decoteau announced that committees are currently working on standards for the Redhead Finch, the Pintailed Parrotfinch, the Star Finch, the Parson Finch, the Cut-throat Finch and themynah bird. A committee, headed by Martha Wigmore, has worked for three years on a revised Zebra Finch standard. Martha Wigmore was recognized for all her work on the Judges Handbook.

FINCHSHOP Report: Sales for the 2nd and 3rd quarters totaled \$630.00, expenses totaling \$419.12.

President Frank Hudson announced that Harold Bowles has been nominated to judge the 1998 Kaytee, and that Tom Rood, Martha Wigmore, and Miki Spartzak were our three nominees to judge the Colorado National Show in 1997.

President Hudson presented Champion Exhibitor Awards for 1995 to Dale and Eileen Laird, Gene and June Miller, Frank and Sandy Hudson, Dennis Burhams, Sally Huntington, Alvin and Dixie Lee, and Patrick Vance.

Awards for birds achieving Champion Status in 1995 went to Gene and June Miller for their Diamond Sparrows, and to a normal Shafttail exhibited by Ellen Buchanan.

Exhibitor of Excellent Awards for 1995 were presented to Frank and Sally Hudson, Dale and Eileen Laird, Rick Schlachta, and Christine Voronovitch.

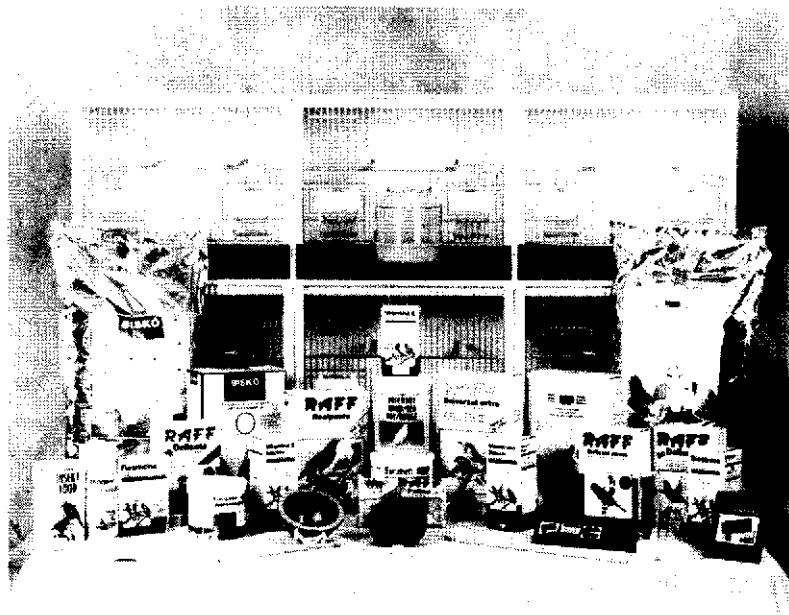
The Val Clear Award for the best softbill at this year's National was presented to Norma and Robert Tri-cado for their Red-legged Honeycreeper.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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Inbreeding, Line breeding & Out crossing: A Breeders Point of View

by Luis Garcia
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ouch! I start this article with that word for the simple reason that I know I have just opened a very large can of worms when it comes to this subject. However; before you decide to sit down and write a response to this article, at least take the time to read what I have to say, you may find something that may change your mind about inbreeding and line breeding forever.

Most folks condemn this form of breeding because of religion or bad results that they have had with their birds. The religious look at it as a sin to breed father to daughter or mother to son, the same goes for brother to sister or any other birds which are closely related to the birds intended for breeding. The ones which have had the bad results with their birds, condemn it because they do not know how to properly use this form of breeding, something which I hope to clear up with this article.

I have been keeping and raising birds since I was seven years old and in the last 27 years I have raised birds from finches to Amazons, as

well as a large assortment of game birds from the small button quail to turkeys. As a kid I never had a lot of money to buy more than one pair of birds of one kind, however I would always try to buy the best pair that I could afford for my money. In order to raise young from the young that I raised I had to inbreed my young back to their parents, most of the time raising some very good birds from this pairing while a few of the times raising some of the worst birds that I have ever seen.

It wasn't until I was 17 years old that I found out the real truth about what I had been doing and why I got the results that I did. I was raising Racing Homers (pigeons) for more than three years when I decided to buy some books advertised in a Racing Homer supply catalog, one of the books was title: *Practical inbreeding for the pedigree livestock breeder, What it is and what it can achieve* by W. Watmough. The book is out of print now but even today all of the data in it is still worth a million dollars, in my opinion.

As I have found out this form of breeding works well if properly done and in order to achieve the most out of this form of breeding one must start off with the best stock that one can buy. The word inbreeding is just that a word, it does not put anything into the breeding itself, it just works with the genes your birds have in them.

INBREEDING:

As an example lets say you have a bird (male or female) which we will call Bird A, that shows good condition, conformation, is a good breeder and does very well on the show bench and you wish you had more birds like it. Yet out of all the rest of your birds, most come close but not quite as close as you would want them to be. Here is where inbreeding comes in, the best way to produce birds that are similar to this one would be to pair the best bird (Bird B) you can find to it and in the second round (once old enough to breed) pair one of its young (Bird C) back to the parent (Bird A).

The young produced in the very first breeding would carry 50% of BIRD A's genes and 50% of BIRD B's genes in it, both good and bad genes from both parents. When this young (BIRD C) is paired up to its parent (BIRD A), it will pass 50% of its genes to its young and so will BIRD A, both good and bad genes. The new young from the breeding (BIRD D) will carry 75% of BIRD A genes and 25% of BIRD B genes.

EXAMPLE: BIRD A = AA/AA
paired to BIRD B = BB/BB produce
BIRD C = AA/BB, when paired
back to BIRD A = AA/AA
produce BIRD D = AA/AB

As you can see in the example above you have just produced a bird with 3/4 or 75% of BIRD A's genes, however if BIRD A has any weak

points you have also passed these onto this young as well, at 75%

LINEBREEDING:

Linebreeding is another form of inbreeding the only difference is that here you would pair up birds from the same family such as cousin to cousin or uncle to niece and etc..... The goals of linebreeding are the same as those of inbreeding, however it takes a little longer to achieve your goals than inbreeding would.

OUTCROSSING:

This is the form of breeding that most of us use with our birds. Outcrossing is no more than pairing up two birds that are unrelated and letting fate produce for you the best it can and just like inbreeding it will also only put into your young what your birds have in them both good and bad genes.

Most folks that are into English Budgies or Racing Homers use inbreeding and linebreeding often to improve the quality of their birds and only use outcrossing when their birds are lacking in a particular area which they need to improve.

As you may have figured out by now we do use all three of these forms of breeding in our bird room and have achieved very good results with them. So if you have any questions or comments feel free to call me at (719) 630-8483, it would be interesting to hear your comments.

Your Bird's Health

RECOVERY FROM SHOCK

*by Ron Castaner
West Palm Beach, FL*

*Written specifically for the "Aviary
and Cage Bird Society of South
Florida".*

In the article "Treating Finches for shock" we left off with a sick bird in the intensive care cage for eight to twelve hours unable to perch, eat and all fluffed up. If the bird remains on the bottom of the cage, without any signs of improvement, give it an additional twenty four hours without any treatment. If there are no signs by then it will be next to impossible to reverse the illness, but try anyway.

Assuming the bird is out of danger now, the first step is to feed the bird. This must be done very carefully so the bird will not choke and die, but if it is not fed, it could die due to lack of food.

Perhaps the easiest way to feed the bird is with a metal crop needle. Care must be taken as these can damage the crop. So please take your time. It might be a good idea to practice on a Society or have someone

show you how it is done. Everyone, and I mean everyone, should know how to crop feed with one of these crop needles. It could mean life or death to a bird. To insert the crop needle hold the bird gently but firmly on its back in the upright position, gently extending the neck. Pass the needle slowly to the right side of the bird's mouth, remember, the bird is facing you so the bird's right would be to your left, allow the bird to swallow as it passes. If the needle is correctly placed it will be visible or can be felt as a bump under the skin at the base of the neck. **DO NOT RELEASE ANY LIQUID INTO THE CROP UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE THE NEEDLE IS IN THE CORRECT SPOT!!!** It is very possible to suffocate the bird if the needle is placed down the airway by mistake, instead of the crop.

Crop needles come in different sizes. For adult finches number 16 is commonly used, do not use it on baby finches. There is a smaller size for the babies. Now comes the fun part. What do you give the bird? How much, how warm, how often and how long? The following is what I have done and has worked well for me.

First, get some Pedialyte. The same one used for human infants, because just like babies that get dehydrated when they have diarrhea or a fever, birds can also become dehydrated. Pedialyte comes in a liquid or powder form. When using the powder form heat 9 cc of water and dissolve a half a teaspoon of powder electrolyte. If you are using the liquid form, use 9 cc of the liquid. To the electrolyte liquid add one drop of vitamin B Complex and one drop of vitamin A. Add a quarter of a tablet of Pancreatic Enzymes. Stir and mix well before adding the baby hand feeding formula. Water temperature should be about one hundred and five degrees. Add the exact amount for baby birds hand feeding formula to the water. The consistency of the formula should be watery so that when you stick the crop needle in the formula it runs off the needle.

When ready to insert the crop needle the temperature should be between eighty and eighty five degrees. There is no need for a higher temperature because the bird is of such a small size and there is danger of burning the crop. Draw the formula up into the crop needle to about one cc, turn the needle up so it points to the ceiling. You will probably see a small bubble of air in the syringe. Tap the syringe with your finger until the bubble moves close to the needle. Push the plunger of the syringe to force out the bubble. Now the syringe should read about three quarters of a cc with no air in the crop needle. Now continue to feed the

bird. This works for larger birds as well, but you would use a larger needle and more food. About one quarter or one half of a cc would be fine. It is possible the bird will spit up some, this is to be expected, especially if the bird has never been crop fed before. Follow this procedure three times a day if possible, if not twice a day, once in the morning and again in the evening. Meanwhile, try to figure out the cause of illness, you can probably keep the bird alive for a short time, but you need to know the cause to proceed with the correct treatment.

Recovery is very difficult and many times it is impossible if vital organs are damaged. Once you have determined the cause of the illness, you can figure out the type and amount of medicine to use, then incorporate it into the formula for hand feeding. Later on we will list some of the diseases and medicines. It takes a lot of time and patience to determine the cause of an illness and to administer the correct treatment. With every situation you will gain experience and the knowledge of how to treat the next crisis. In the mean time, do not hesitate to confer with someone that you feel has more experience or knowledge than you. In the long run it will only help the bird to stay alive if we communicate with each other.

After the third day of crop feeding, the bird should be perching and we can continue with the examination. If the bird perches before the

third day of feeding do not examine until after the third day of feeding. Now we will conduct a visual and audio examination. Carefully look at the bird in this cage. Listen for strange sounds, such as sneezing or wheezing. Make sure both nostrils are open, no swelling, redness, or discharge. Any or all of these symptoms would indicate a cold or sinus problem. Normally, if there is a problem with sinus congestion one eye will be swollen. Next, check the droppings. Make

sure they are not watery, but most importantly, that the bird is not passing whole seed. We call this the popcorn affect, because the undigested seed is passed whole and resembles a small popcorn ball.

This is a very critical stage because the digestive system is not breaking down the seed into nutrients which keeps the bird alive. If this is the case, you will see the bird constantly eating seed, it is always by the seed bowl. Next, you will need a toothpick to hold the birds beak open. We want to look at the roof of the mouth. It should be nice and clean with a nice pink color. If you find a cheesy looking substance this could indicate a vitamin A deficiency or a yeast infection.

Moving quickly but thoroughly, avoid handling too long, look and feel the birds keel (breast) bone. You can tell if the bird is in good or bad

condition. Breast muscle should be well developed so that the keel feels covered with muscle, (it should feel round). For the bird that has been sick for a long period of time, this muscle will have wasted away and will feel sharp and will not feel round. Most of the time you will find this condition in finches and it is called "going light". This term is used most by aviculturists and veterinarians. There are numerous causes for going light. Those of us in avi-

culture could write numerous books on just this topic of going light.

Check the abdomen (which is right below the keel) with the tip of your index finger. It should feel empty or hollow. The gizzard can be felt

just behind the keel on the left side of the body. Should you find the abdomen enlarged or swollen, this could be caused by egg binding, tumors, or infection. If the bird was in breeding period and was found on the bottom of the cage floor, that would have been your first clue to egg binding. Also with egg binding, there is no sign of severe weight loss. At this point, we are not concerned with egg binding. Next, you should check the vent to see if the feathers are contaminated with moist, watery, or sticky droppings. This would indicate diarrhea or kidney problems. Diarrhea will be the easiest to treat and correct if caught right

Make sure... that the bird is not passing whole seed.

This is a very critical stage because the digestive system is not breaking down the seed into nutrients which keeps the bird alive.

away. If left untreated or unnoticed it could lead to the damage of other vital organs, such as the liver. If the liver is damaged by any sickness over any length of time, it is impossible to reverse the damage. So act quickly when you find a bird in ill health.

Over the course of many years of working with finches I have found that a bird that has been sick for a long period of time, and just does not get better no matter what treatment is used, and finally dies, on a postmortem examination (necropsy), most of the time the liver or the spleen has been affected. Remember, that I only deal with finches. So please, at the first sign of illness, place the bird in a warm intensive care cage and monitor it often. The quicker you react the less chance of permanent damage to vital organs. As you well know, with finches there is not much to work with because of their small size, so when they get sick they go down hill very quickly. So be very alert to any warning sign of ill health.

When I first started, I had a couple of canaries. One of them got ill, so the first thing I did was to run to our vet. I spent a little over three hundred dollars, and the bird died a week later. I do not blame the vet, but I hear this all the time. Small birds, especially finches, do not have much to work with or is there much time to work. So work quickly when you see a bird showing signs of ill health. I do not assume to have all

the answers. What I mean, for instance, you have a sick Strawberry or Gouldian or any other common finch that normally cost say fifty dollars on the average. You say to yourself it will cost twice as much if I take it to the vet. This is probably true, but you can try and do something your self or ask a friend, or even ask a member of your local bird club if they have run into this particular problem. Or you could do as I have done. I have read almost all of the books on birds in the West Palm Beach Library. Some I have read two or three times. I have even ordered some books that had some particular information that would be good to have at all times. We have some of the best veterinarians here in the United States, and they have written many books. You can learn what antibiotics to use, you probably will not have the latest equipment to run tests, but you can become very good at diagnosing the problem with experience and common sense.

When a bird dies, there has to be a reason. For myself, I have to know what caused the death, so I will open the bird and go through and find the cause. It has taken a lot of time and devotion to learn and put to use all I have read, and that is not to say I have not had my share of casualties, but I also had some great success in saving birds lives. So go ahead and try to treat the bird, and learn what happened so it can be prevented in the future.

There are some antibiotics that have worked for me that are prescription, but if you look in different places you can find compatible antibiotics such as tetracycline; it can be purchased in your local pet store that sells tropical fish and it does not require a prescription. Birds that are critically ill and in shock will not tolerate handling or injections very well. Such a bird could die in your hands from the stress of the handling or the extra stress of an injection.

But, left untreated it will die anyway, so go ahead and administer the drugs very gently and carefully. As we all know, there are advantages and disadvantages to administering drugs in the water, but here are a few of each.

ADVANTAGES; can be used for a large number of birds. Easy to prepare. No stress due to capture and restraint

DISADVANTAGES; most medicines taste bad resulting in the water not being consumed adding to problem of dehydration (tip: add honey or glucose for taste).

Unsure of the amount of medication to use.

Drug must have a wide margin of safety if bird is drinking a lot.

Drug may not be completely soluble in water requiring regular mixing.

Can lead to drug overdose.

Other things to consider when using antibiotics in the water: keep it out of the sun, do not use metal containers, some medicine will react to the metal, use glass. Stir when ever possible, mix daily, avoid administering on hot days as birds will drink more liquid, consider reducing the concentration of the drug. Adding honey, or glucose will improve the palatability and by all means make sure the drug is completely water soluble

Now we will continue with some of the advantages of administering the drugs for yourself in the beak of the bird or mixing with the formula for crop feeding. For one thing, you know that it is receiving the exact amount of medication given. If left in the water the bird could overdose if it is drinking a great

quantity of water or not get enough medication if it does not drink the right amount of water. If you feel the bird is still too fragile to be handled you can treat the water for a few days. For me, I feel it is best to mix with the formula and administer with a crop needle or with a dropper if bird is eating and not losing weight.

If you are lucky enough to know someone that can show you how to administer an injection this is the absolute best way, as it acts quickly. You see almost immediate results. Intramuscular (IM), is the preferred method of giving an injection. This

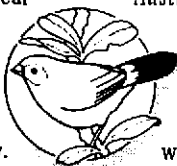
If left in the water the bird could overdose if it is drinking a great quantity of water or not get enough medication if it does not drink the right amount of water.

is done by injecting the bird in the pectoral muscle. In a very sick bird this muscle will be next to nothing due to the fact it has lost so much weight. In this case, you would have to use an alternative method, such as by mouth with a dropper. Again, let me repeat. I'm dealing with finches. You can use the insulin needles or any other fine and sharp needles. Make sure there is no blood loss from the site of the injection, loss of blood in the smallest amount will put the sick bird into shock.

You must know the bird's weight, which for finches is between ten to twenty grams. You will need this important information to administer the correct dosage for the injection. This information is essential to ensure safe and accurate dosage. If for any reason you are not sure, please consult your Veterinarian or someone who may have the experience.

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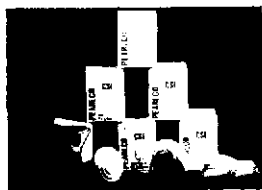
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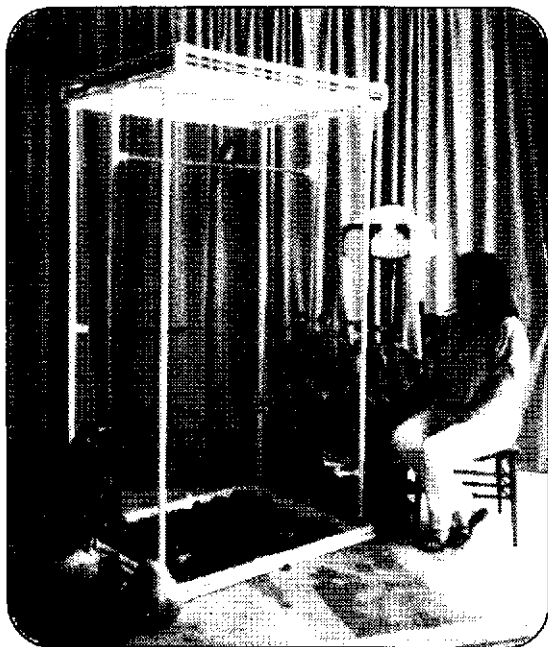


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Cage Breeding the Bicheno Finch

by Lyn D. Black
Manassas, VA

Poephila bichenovii, (formerly *Stictoptera bichenovii*), pronounced *bye CHEE no*, alias... Bicheno's Finch, Double-Barred Finch, Double Bars, Owl Finch, Black-rumped Finch/Owl, Double-Banded finch. Order: Passeriformes. Family: Estrildidae 2 subspecies 1) White-rumped (Ringed Finch) (*P. h. annulosa*), and the 2) Black-rumped (*P. h. bichenovii*), with only the black feathers of the rump telling the difference.

Characteristics of this tiny 3-4" bird includes the standard description. Light tannish-browns color with fine bars; black wings with white dots; black tail; white rump (in most birds available in this country); dark browns on the forehead; white throat and face; greyish beaks; creamy tannish-brown underneath areas; dark brown eyes; two vivid thin black bands at the breast and neck area; dark gray-brown legs and feet. The Female is often said to be duller shaded than male but this doesn't always apply, especially in some birds where she can be just as pristine in her shades as he is, especially noticeable between the black chest bars and lower tan abdomen

areas. Young birds have a dirty look to their shades. Thus I introduce any and all to this smallest of the Australian Finches... The Owl Finch... too cute to be legal!

In the autumn of 1994, I saw my first 'pair' of Owl finches at a local petshop, listed at \$50. I hurried home to look them up quickly and seeing that I would be able to care for them properly, I hurried back to the store where in the space of less than an hour, the birds had been sold. Terrihly disappointed it would be 2 years before finding this species again and when I saw these birds, I was thankful I hadn't wasted my time and money on the first ones. I now know that that petshop's Owls were much smaller and their whites dirtier; whereas my birds from good bloodlines are easily twice the size as some I have seen, and have a much whiter breast with cleaner shades. I have to emphasis large cages for this species... the larger the better!

There are three important things usually not mentioned about this species. First, before you buy, LISTEN! to the birds. I've encountered many people this past year who can not tolerate the lasering call of the male Owl Finch or even the normal eeeep calls. So if you don't like what my friends and I teasingly call Beepers, alias Zebra Finches; you may want to take care in listening to Owls for awhile before purchasing them. Second thing is this, they are escape artists! Quick to dart out of their enclosures and lead me on a

merry chase about the bird room until tired, they will then come to me and allow themselves to be gathered up. The third is that Owl Finches are much like Zebras in my experience. They breed easily! The problem lies in getting live, fledged chicks from a pair. Clear eggs seem to be a common complaint. Thus I would clarify that they are not hard to breed at all, just hard to get grown children from them. On the plus side of this similarity with Zebras is that the Owl won't build up nesting material in continuous frenzy where even eggs get covered over. They know when to stop nest building.

Although several experienced breeders said this species bred best in aviaries, this was not an option for me. Other articles I read said to put them in a back room by themselves where they are undisturbed by anything; again, this was not an option for me. My birds have a partial role in keeping me 'entertained'. And they had to fit into a small bedroom I used for my office, everything was moved out for cages except my computer so we are with each other upwards of 12 hours a day! All my finches are used to me. I move quietly, speak softly and they respond to me without panic and some even, are fairly tame. I even vacuum daily each morning whether it is needed or not, just to maintain this routine noise and action, as well. I wonder if those birds left in backrooms without human contact are made even more panicky by this lack of attention? Whereas my constant

presence is something to be gotten use to? I guess time will tell in how well or not, my breeding seasons go.

The natural habitat of Owl Finches, is tall grasses of scrub areas where water is nearby and easily accessible. Various cultivated and uncultivated fields, lawns, gardens, and parks are also used if grasses and water are present. In captivity almost all the information you will find on Owls Finches will tout them as being an extremely peaceful species. However, I have found that when several birds of the same sex are housed together, they can be quite antagonistic with each other, with one bird fighting its way to cage dominance. This bird will drive others off perches, pluck feathers, and in general be quite the little dictator! This can also occur if one of the group happens to be of the opposite sex. Then, this bird will partner with another bird and drive the rest away from its chosen companion, regardless of what sex that bird happens to be, same sex or opposite.

Never keep in threes! Because one bird will fall victim to the other two. Some people have cautioned me this will occur with any species if there is an odd number, such as five birds in the cage; however with the Owls, I've never found this true, only with three to a group. Birds housed together then, should be equally paired up with plenty of flight space for all. This does not apply to birds in with other species. I'm speaking of Owls housed with

Owls. If you have room for a larger aviary setting, then a colony set-up is quite an ideal environment for the Owl Finch. My pairs are set up 1 pair per cage, then these placed close enough for a 'colony' feel.

Caging should ideally be 4' in length by about 2' x 2'. Even my 3' long cages are too short in my opinion for this species. They need room for their dynamic flights.

Birds are most happy when feeling secure, so place plants such as Ficus, Asparagus Fern, and Spider Plants so these drape about the cage, hiding its occupants. Just take care that the birds still get their Vitalite/Sunlight exposure. Because the species is of the grasslands, they spend much time on the floor, so do not use grating. Simply put their Birdy Salad, fruits, & veggies, etc. on the floor. This species likes to spend time on the floor/ground scratching about and such as they would in their native habitat.

Water is used in copious amounts so be prepared to supply plenty of fresh, pure water several times through-out the day. They drink by sucking up water like Zebra Finches do. They also like to bath twice a day, morning and late afternoon. I've found that mine prefer tepid water in a 4-5" round flower-pot dish, at about 1/4"-1/2" depth. Deeper and they won't use the dish. In winter, I warm the water slightly more while providing slightly cooler water in summer, changing with the heat of the day. Owls also must

have a drinking container, preferably a covered type, and this too will need changed fairly often because Owls like to dunk their foods, greens, seeds, even protein foods. So drinking water might be changed several times per day depending on how many are in the flight-cage. Thus each day all food and water dishes are washed and changed and on weekends, all food and water dishes are disinfected.

The diet I am using is a mixed seed diet from Kaytee of one 2 lb. bag Forti-Diet into which is mixed one each of 8 oz. containers of Tropical Fruit, Orange Blossom Honey, Garden Vegetable seed mixes. Frozen for 24 hours to kill pests, I then store this mix in large, sealable container. Millet sprays are given only as treats, about 1" of seeded stem twice a week unless I'm using it to introduce a new food. Birdy Salad is supplied daily in the morning, as a pile on the floor. Owls love digging through these so change the floor paper then add the salad, it will be long gone before the floor gets messy unless the cage is over-crowded. I might use for example the following... broccoli, carrots & greens, chicory, chickweed, clover, collard greens, cress, young dandelion leaves, endive, ginger coltsfoot, grass seed-heads, kale, mustard greens, plantains, shepherd's purse, spinach, and swiss chard. Small diced-up portions of each, and rotate the salad ingredients. Greens are given in small portions each variety and then on a

rotating basis so no two salads are alike, two days in a row. And I give about 1 cup of Salad per pair of birds. Once a month, I sprinkle a little bit of grit over their salad during the winter, otherwise I don't because my gathered salad has bits of dirt clinging to the roots. Veggies are given by dicing frozen mixes into small pieces so favorites like corn, aren't eaten out and the rest ignored. I also add these to Birdy Bread made from Jiffy Corn Bread mixes along with adding eggs, egg shell, and whatever else I might have at that time about the kitchen.

Fruits like apple and pears can be sprinkled with lemon juice to keep them fresh throughout the day, a trick I learned from a friend. A teaspoon of fruit, 'juiced' a little and, offered on a plate, leaving it for an hour or so then removing before it can spoil. I don't give pits or seed, nor the skins either because of fear of what chemicals might have been used on it. I've tried adding fruits to Birdy Bread but so far without success, as the finches refuse it. They also refuse pelleted foods of all brands.

For protein food I use Ce-De products; about 1/4 teaspoon per pair of birds per day, placing it in a shallow dish or on the cage flooring. And of course, my Birdy Bread mixtures. During chick season though, this food is readily available throughout the day.

Sexual Display and Copulation: the male's display includes

swift flight; hanging on to the cage sides; wiping his beak on perches; grooming his hen; and loud, proud lasering calls. Two of mine act much like Lady Gouldian males; bobbing up and down in place, with a piece of grass in beak, accompanied by mumbled lasering. Her display is an intense preening of her chosen male's head and neck area. Copulation occurs on a high perch. It works best when the birds can choose each other but if setting up a specific breeding program, then use young birds and pair them before they are sexually active for best compatibilities.

If the birds are failing to go into breeding mode there are several things to try. Such as an aquarium in the room with a filter that has a waterfall; or playing a tape/CD of natural rain forest sounds. This will stimulate your birds quickly! Of course make sure there is proper daylight hours in the birdroom, nest and nesting material, and breeding diet has been presented, etc.

Nests fall into two categories. First, some birds must have a sleeping nest or they will become quite agitated after a few days, much like any person who isn't getting restful sleep. Second is the breeding nest. Mine are preferring covered finch-nests for breeding purposes; if left with only the open-style sleeping nests, they will refuse their nest for breeding activity. Breeding boxes have been repeatedly and soundly rejected, though it sure would make it

easier to hand chicks. Provide soft grasses in short 2-3" lengths; small, fluffy feathers saved from previous molts, and other dry grass-like materials.

Breeding diet should be supplemented with extra calcium and protein foods, thru to when chicks are done being parent-fed. This includes more of like soaked and sprouted seeds, eggfoods, etc. Please note, that though several sources I have seen recommend various live foods for Owls in breeding, I do not offer such to my birds. Eggs are laid one per day and then hatch one per day, which can cause problems for the youngest chicks, so have Society foster-parents ready in case they are needed. Articles and data I've seen talk about 4-5 eggs, but my hens are laying an average of 6-8 eggs.

Incubation is 12-15 days; mostly by the hen and as the days go into second week, she sticks tighter and tighter to nest. Males spends the night in the nest with hen and eggs but occasional visits during the day too. About 24-48 hours before the first eggs hatches, the male also joins her in the nest.

After chicks start hatching, hens may actually attack intruding hands, though can not inflict damage. However some birds can be quite dramatic in their protection. She will crouch down in the nest at strange sounds or movement in the room, trying to make herself

invisible. The male may freeze posture at the same time. With the hatching of the first chick, male starts a crooning sound of lasering that is more muffled and soft, almost like he is singing a lullaby to his new offspring. This discontinues about 2-3 days later.

I've had poor luck in ID banding my Owl chicks. Although I've bred birds before, it was with common varieties and I've never bothered to band before this. Now I wanted to be serious, keep records, etc. and here was this tiny, tiny little thing needing a band! The first time I waited until they were 7-10 days old respectively only to find out that the band would only fit the youngest chick's leg. At least, it was the only one I managed to get a band on. My second clutch I banded them at just a couple days of age and patted myself on the back; these chicks later fledged minus their bands! Friends have assured me that I'll get the hang of this, sooner or later <smile>.

Fledging begins about the 18th day of age. A couple days after, that they take their first bath. Often sitting all in the dish at the same time, facing inward, and making kissy sounds while they proceed to drench everything about them. I've been leaving my chicks with the parents into the 7th-8th week, depending on when I observe total independence amongst every chick from the parents. They are then Family Color Banded and moved to a 'chick cage'. They will later be

moved again to male/female cages and Male/Female Color Banded (pink or blue). On sexing, the only sure thing is, he sings and she lays eggs! This kind of color banding is very important for there is just no way to distinguish birds by sex or age without such bands, unless you capture the bird and check its ID Band with your records.

On Jan. 4th of 1996, a dear friend, delivered to me my first Owls, a clutch of four weaned 'chicks'. It has been love ever since! In early June of 1996, I received mates for my birds. Meanwhile I had been trying to read all I could on this species beyond the scant information in most books. Unable to gain a copy of the Mobbs book, I did have two fine articles written by Jayne Yantz, *A Glimpse at Owl Finches*, BIRD TALK Feb. 1991 and Information on Owl Finches, BIRD TALK March 1992 in Ask the Experts column.

Thus my own Owl experiences really got going in the Spring of 1996, when four weeks after obtaining my second birds, I had four pair set up in individual Safe-Guard cages of about 2' x 2' by 3' length sizes, three to a stack, with clear view between cages for a flock feel and plants hanging all about the

cages. This spacing also allows for lighting between cages and this lighting is controlled by timers. I think Owls would do better in 4' cage lengths but have been unable to obtain this larger size. My Alpha and Beta pair went right to business, alternately giving me three and two chicks respectively with a loss of two chicks and three dead-in-shells (DIS). The third pair laid many eggs but all were clear; and they kept throwing the eggs out of the nest, too. So I removed their nest and sleeping nest and nesting material to try and rest them. This pair would later go to nest but again with only clear eggs resulting, so I allowed them to abandon the nest before removing it and by this time was putting all the birds 'to rest'. The last pair had and brooded their eggs which ended with all DIS and they did not go to nest again. All in all, I feel pretty good about this first trial period with young parents at their first try and me with my first try at a harder species, and I look forward to the coming season just starting as I write this. Right now I've three nest of eggs and the fourth pair are getting 'in the mood'. So right now, my concerns are more with finding trusted new homes for any resulting chicks.

The Round Table

Editors note: Ms. Cryberg sent this article to me with a letter explaining her intent of the article was to stimulate some discussion on the issue of egg and hatchling mortality. I thought this was an excellent idea. At conferences roundtable discussions are often held, but we are a national organization and different points of view on a topic are difficult to get. So my intent with Ms. Cryberg's article is to start a column that will contain articles on a specific issue. That issue will be dealt with in several Bulletins until no further responses are received. So if you have any opinions, view points or information on hatchling mortality please write a short article and submit for inclusion in one of the next issues of the Bulletin.

Causes of Baby Deaths

by Dawn Cryberg
Chardon, Ohio

General Thoughts:

1. Young hen, poor feeder, or single chick
2. Unhealthy hen passes sickness to babies.
3. Humidity of room: over 70%; under 50%.
4. Adult/baby food = poor nutrition
 - a. eggfood - too old, too wet, growing bacteria that poisons the young. Wrong mixture and

not enough protein or short on fat.

- b. pellets/mashes: too low in fat

Eggs: infertile, dead in shell or abandoned. All of these results can be from the same causes. Anything that drives the hen from the nest can cause abandoned eggs that appear infertile but actually never had a chance to develop. Dead-in-shell can be caused by early abandonment. Check for mice in the bird room, mites in the nests or on the hens, kids playing haseball off the back of the breeding room, and even young hens that are not in the right rhythm of laying/incubating.

Non-feeding Hens. Any tricks to get a non-feeding to feed? We have tried multiple choices of foods, watching her, and supplemental feedings. We have decided she will do whatever she pleases!

Training of the young moms: some young moms seem to need to experience a first nest failure to do it right the next time. We used to move the babies that were not growing to good feeding moms. The problem was the next time the non-feeder had a clutch of babies she had not learned the step after brooding is feeding, not more brooding. So now we let the first

time mom struggle with the first nest whether she succeeds or fails in raising the young (Supplemental feeding helps the chicks). She usually is much better the second time.

Relearning in the old hen: The experienced hen usually is great the next year but if the first nest is only one chick, even the experienced hen has troubles feeding. Maybe the single chick is not insistent enough as are two or more chicks squirming or pecking at mom's belly to get off and feed them.

Slow growth/no growth chicks: a no growth/slow growth chick is easy to spot - the skin looks sticky and pulled over the bones plus the abdomen is not rounded and full. It has been our observations that a chick that is not growing right from day three to a normal banding day will not succeeding in fledging. They may feather up but the body size is way too small. The reasons for this failure to continue growth we are not sure of but may be due to damage to vital organs, due to simple dehydration, or even protein/fat deprivation during those first critical growth days. Thus a poor feeding mom who becomes a good feeder may still not succeed in raising the no growth chick.

Use fake eggs to save breakage/tossing chicks: fake egg types are ceramic, glass and plastic. For the klutzes of the crowd, like me, the plastic eggs are a necessity. For you steady of hand, I understand marbles

are great heat retainers in nest of only one or two eggs or chicks. When mom leaves the nest of a single chick, it chills down quickly. When she comes back to feed the chick is too cold to respond. Thus a vicious cycle of non-begging, non-feeding starts.

Some hens leave the nest with such speed the egg flips out. For the infrequent egg flippers, two fake eggs in the nest seems to reduce the number of eggs that flip out of the nest. For the even more infrequent egg breaking hen, two fake eggs in the nest seems to give her something to move around and peck at without breaking. Maybe she needs to learn her beak strength. If you determine the male is breaking eggs, sell him immediately as a pet.

Fake eggs are great for single chick nests: great child supporters. The single chick needs support to sit up and beg long enough to attract the mom's attention. The fake eggs give it something to rest its head upon instead of it sagging to the nest bottom. Replace any real clear eggs with fake eggs for they will not break. Plus 18-20 days after the last chick hatched the appearance of a real egg will indicate that the hen has started her next clutch.

Moving the eggs: This is the method of taking away the eggs, storing them in a cool, not cold, safe place and then putting the eggs, all the eggs, back in the nest at the same time, so the chicks will hatch at the

same time. We decided that the amount of work needed to keep multiple hens' many eggs straight was too much effort to save the occasional chick. We probably lost that many due to dropping eggs on the floor.

The best tool we found for moving eggs is the plastic melon ball spoon by Tupperware. There are two types, you want the heavier looking one. Get a few since they crack when they hit the floor.

Moving the chicks: Occasionally we do move a banded baby to a single baby nest. This gives the former single kid a better chance and also gives any remaining smaller chicks of the banded baby nest a better shot at life. If there are two banded and two more unhandable kids in a single nest, we have started to use the trick of a second nest in the original hen cage. She seems to know she is supposed to brood the smaller ones especially if you put the bigger chicks in the new nest.

Very young babies tossed from the nest: sometimes the hen's reasons for tossing will never be understood. The biggest cause of tossed chicks is the hen is removing chicks that have died in the nest. Sometimes the hen is spooked and flies off the nest with a toenail wrapped around a chick. We get in the habit of looking at the bottom of the cage and floor for fallen chicks. Replace live chicks into their nest. Warm up any stiff bodies, in case, the chick is still alive. Also, we

place two canary eggs in the nest to anchor the young so they are not as easily dragged out of the nest. Sometimes this works.

Hen tossed her banded chicks: A hen tosses her recently banded chicks because she is a cleaning worldwind. She tosses the chick in the attempt to remove the strange item from the nest. Darken the band and replace the chick. Observe her actions. Some hens never give up and break the chick's leg in the attempted removal. Your choices are move the chick to another nest or leave the chicks unbanded.

The purpose of this article: We are relatively new canary and finch breeders (about 7 years) with many thoughts and questions. We started with five pairs of canaries and we now breed hundreds of birds each year, but we still have questions. This article was written to stimulate some comments and especially rebuttals.

Send your written rebuttals, observations or additions to:

Dawn Cryberg
ATP/Birdwise Publications
9531 Robinson Rd
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or phone (216) 285-2172

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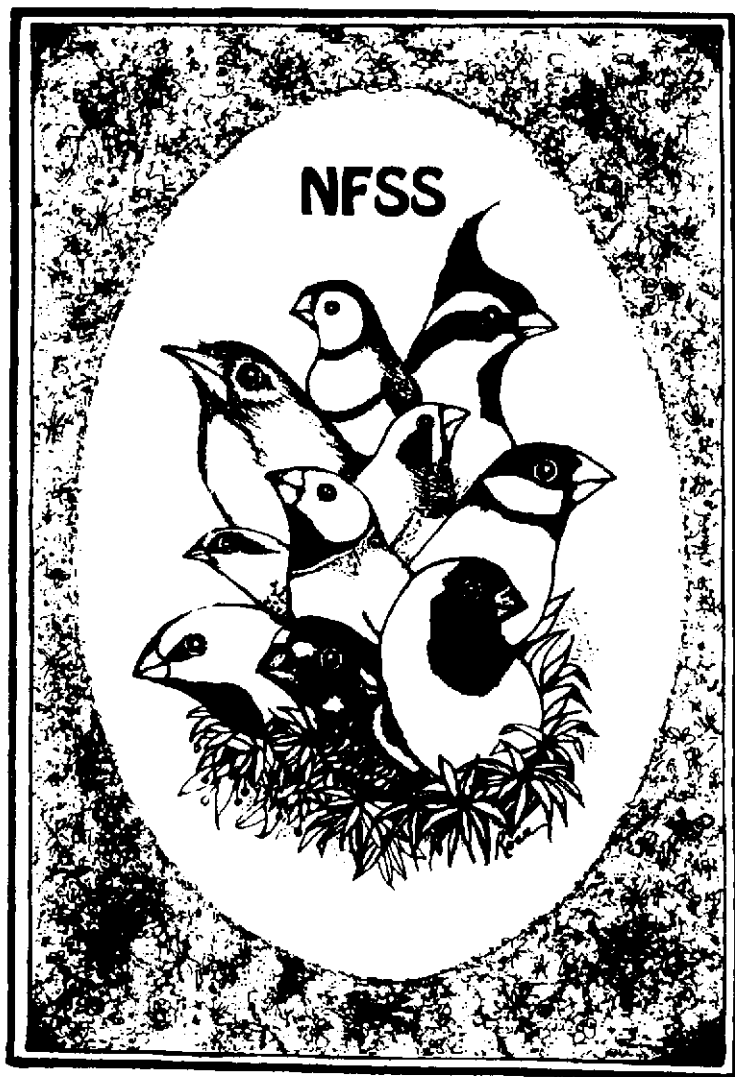
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1996 Show Report part I



NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

Awarding Points at NFSS Shows

Exhibiting NFSS members and the birds they have exhibited automatically receive points at a show where an NFSS judge is judging. These points are determined by the number of birds shown in the division. All points are awarded in accordance with the schedule below and are not official until the official show report is received and the points are recorded by the NFSS Points Director.

National Finch and Softbill Society POINTS SCHEDULE

<i>Entries</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>20-29</i>	3	2	1							
<i>30-39</i>	4	3	2	1						
<i>40-49</i>	5	4	3	2	1					
<i>50-59</i>	6	5	4	3	2	1				
<i>60-79</i>	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
<i>80-99</i>	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
<i>100-119</i>	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
<i>120-139</i>	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<i>140-159</i>	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
<i>160-189</i>	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
<i>190-219</i>	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
<i>220-259</i>	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
<i>260-299</i>	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
<i>300 ></i>	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

Note: In order for a softbill, finch, or dove to attain points, it must have been judged against all the birds in the Finch and Softbill Division. Points will not be allowed in a specialty show where finches are not judged against softbills or other birds within the division.

The National Finch & Softbill Society

Report of Shows in 1996

There were 62 shows judged and reported to the Panel Judge Chairman with a total of 3850 birds entered and the average was 62 birds per show. There were 36 major shows with 50 or more birds entered. Only 7 shows had less than twenty birds.

Top Ten Shows in the country

1 National Cage Bird Show	Detroit, MI Judge: Stephen Hoppin	175 entries
2 Capitol City Bird Society	Sacramento, CA Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld	169 entries
3 Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida	Ft Lauderdale, FL Judge: Charles Anchor	163 entries
4 Florida State Fair	Tampa, FL Judge: Daren Decoteau	161 entries
5 Florida State Fair	Tampa, FL Judge: Harold Bowles	150 entries
6 Illini Bird Fanciers	Shelbyville, IL Judge: Clarence Culwell	140 entries
7 Golden Gate Avian Society	Tracy, CA Judge: Clayton Jones	118 entries
8 Kaytee Great American Bird Show	Sarasota, FL Judge: Stephen Hoppin	114 entries
9 Puerto Rico National Show	Carolina, PR Judge: Daren Decoteau	106 entries
10 Greater Brandon Avian Society	Tampa, FL Judge: Conrad Meinert	100 entries

1996 Exhibitor Awards

The Exhibitor of Excellence in 1996 is:

Jerri Wiesenfeld

Champion Exhibitor of 1996 are:

Sally C. Huntington	130 points
Dale & Eileen Laird	111 points
Alvin & Dixie Lea	101 points
Margie & Harold McBrayer	74 points
Tom Rood	67 points
Felipe Bonilla	55 points

Champion Birds in 1996 are:

European Starling	Jacky Civitarese	(Band - SPBE BRA15"93")
Persa Touraco	Dale & Eileen Laird	(Band - DJL37"93")
Java Rice Bird	Dale & Eileen Laird	(Band K493"94")

1996 Individual Bird Point Records

These are birds with 20 points or more towards Championship title.

49 Cinnamon Java Rice Bird (K58"93")	Patrick Vance
41 Fawn Parson Finch (C215"93")	Pat & Mary Kritchen
39 Cherry Finch (D4948"92")	Dennis Burhans
38 Green Singing Finch (C511"91")	Virginia Patrick
38 CFW Zebra Finch (C3126"91")	Tom Rood
37 Java Rice Bird (K463"90")	Jerri Wiesenfeld
33 Parson Finch (C197"93")	Pat & Mary Kritchen
33 Bronze-wing Mannikin (D7216"89")	Kris Kroner
33 Fire Finch (B14"94")	Gene & June Miller
32 Pintail Nonpareil (D3649"91")	Stephen Hoppin
31 Black-crested Finch (E2331"91")	Stephen Hoppin
29 Cordon-bleu (B268"89")	Pat & Mary Kritchen
27 Self Society (D1936"91")	Rick Szlachta

26 Dilute Society (E446"93")	Dennis Burhans
23 Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow (E25"95")	Gene & June Miller
23 Red-headed Gouldian (D2312"90")	Pat & Mary Kritchen
23 Fire Finch (B123"92")	Gene & June Miller
23 Yellow-faced Star (C192"89")	Gene & June Miller
22 Shaft-tail (C2951"92")	Jan Thomas
22 CFW Zebra Finch (C3159"91")	Tom Rood
21 Orange-breasted Zebra Finch (D6248"95")	Sally Huntington
21 Fire Finch (B@"92")	Gene & June Miller
21 Crimson-winged Pytilia (C463"91")	Pat & Mary Kritchen
20 Shaft-tail (C35"92")	Patrick Vance
20 Shaft-tail (C474"94")	Chuck Galusha

**Note - Birds not earning points in a two year period will be dropped from the list starting in 1997 - But not from the Master List.*

Florida State Fair, Tampa, FL., February 17, 1996
Judge: Daren Decoteau—21 Exhibitors, 161 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
12	Dale & Eileen Laird	Persa Touraco	SPBE DJL 3293
11	Joy Johnson	White Java	
10	Phil & Denise Barth	Pintail Nonpariel	
9	Ken Miller	Diamond Sparrow	
8	Dale & Eileen Laird	Combassou	
7	Sally Huntington	Chestnut Flanked Society	
6	Phil & Denise Barth	Fire Finch	
5	Phil & Denise Barth	White Breasted Gould	
4	Ginny Allen	Fawn & White Society	E1043 (95)
3	John Dupas	Red Siskin	

**Florida State Fair, Tampa, FL., February 18, 1996
Judge: Harold Bowles—19 Exhibitors, 150 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
11	Julia C. Mateo	Normal Shafttail	C207 97
10	Sally Huntington	White Zebra	D12171 (95)
9	Steve Hoppin	Black Crested Cardinal	
8	Jerri Wisenfeld	Pied Java	K431 (91)
7	Phil & Denise Barth	Melba Hen	
6	John Dapas	Crimson Pileated	
5	Ron & Linda Castaner	Pictorella	12171 (94)
4	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl Headed Amadine	
3	Ron & Linda Castaner	Orange Headed Gouldian	13266 (94)
2	Phil & Denise Barth	Fire Finch	

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Grandview, MO.,
June 8, 1996 Judge: Miki Sparzak— 7 Exhibitors, 48 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Gene & June Miller	Pearl Head Amadine	
4	Gene & June Miller	Fawn Yellow Rumped Diamond Sparrow	E 25 (95)
3	Earl Courts	Bunting	
2	Gene & June Miller	Normal Diamond Sparrow Hen	93E 12
1	Nita Haas	CFW Zebra Hen	D 4360 (93)

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Grandview, MO.,
June 9, 1996 Judge: Harold Bowles—7 Exhibitors, 46 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Gene & June Miller	Gouldian Normal Cock	D 148 (95)
4	Nita Haas	Zebra Fawn Hen	D 2594 (96)
3	Earl & Shirley Courts	Queen's Whdah	
2	Gene & June Miller	Diamond Sparrow Fawn	E 25 (95)
1	Nita Haas	Zebra Normal Hen	D 2596 (96)

**Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves, Salinas, PR., July 8, 1997
Judge: Miki Spartzak—8 Exhibitors, 52 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Jacky Civitarese	Common Starling	SPBE BRA 15 (93)
5	Jacky Civitarese	Pied Zebra	
4	Samuel Eiqueroa	Cuban Melodious	
3	Jacky Civitarese	Spice Finch	
2	Jose Diaz	Shafttail Normal	
1	Jacky Civitarese	Silver Bill Pair	

**Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL,
August 24, 1996 Judge: Charlie Anchor—20 Exhibitors, 163 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
12	Carrie Estuthqun	Owl	
11	Felipe Bonilla	Chestnut Flanked Zebra Hen	D 12841 (95)
10	Ron Castaner	Timor Sparrow	
9	Felipe Bonilla	Fawn & White Society	E 3400 (95)
8	Felipe Bonilla	Pr Dilute Society	E 2611 (96) E 2614 (96)
7	Ron Castaner	Male Pictorella	
6	Joy Johnson	White Java	
5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Superb Starling	
4	Phil Barth	Gold Breasted Bunting	
3	Phil Barth	Pair Fire Finches	

**Bay Area Cage Bird, Galveston, TX., August 31, 1996
Judge: Ray Johnson—10 Exhibitors, 68 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
6	Margie & Harold McBrayer	White Eye	
5	Clarence Culwell	Normal Zebra	
4	Margie & Harold McBrayer	St. Helena	
3	Gene & June Miller	Red Gouldian	D 65 (96)
2	Gene & June Miller	Yellow Rump Diamond Sparrow	E 112 (94)
1	Clarence Miller	Dilute Society	

**Canary & Finch Society, Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX
August 31, 1996, Judge: Ray Johnson—14 Exhibitors, 59 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
5	Michael Lee	Violet Eared Waxbill	
4	Margie & Harold McBrayer	White Eye	
3	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Shafttail	
2	Clarence Culwell	Chestnut Flanked Zebra	
1	Margie & Harold McBrayer	White Breasted Gouldian	

**Central Alabama Avicultural Society, Montgomery AL., August 31, 1996
Judge: Conrad Meinert—8 Exhibitors, 29 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Eva Duffey	Green Singing Finch	
2	Eva Duffey	Green Singing Finch	
1	Ginny Allen	Parsons Finch	B 853 (94)

**Chester County Bird Breeders, King of Prussia, PA., September 14, 1996
Judge: Stephen Hoppin—9 Exhibitors, 48 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Pat & Mary Krichten	Parson Cock	C 197 (93)
4	B. Vargo	CFW Cock	11,350
3	Rick Szlachta	St. Helena	A 382 (96)
2	S. Funk	Tri Colored Nun	
1	Rick Szlachta	Fawn Cherry Finch	C 284 (96)

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Tampa, FL., September 14, 1996

Judge: Conrad Meinert—13 Exhibitors, 100 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	Dale & Eileen Laird	Persa Touracco	SPBE DJL 37 (93)
8	Ginny Allen	Shafttail	G 62 (96)
7	Dale & Eileen Laird	Normal Java	K 493 (94)
6	Felipe Bonilla	Cream Zebra	D 15573 (95)
5	Ken Miller	Diamond Sparrow	
4	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pagoda Mynah	
3	Felipe Bonilla	Fawn & White Society	E 3400 (95)
2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Crimson Pileated	
1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Combassou	

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society, Manchester, NH., September 21, 1996

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau—14 Exhibitors, 41 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Tim Roche	Greenfinch	
4	Dianna Smith	Rufous Backed Mannikin	
3	Alfredo Robles	Normal Shafttail	271 (96)
2	Charlie Loukeris	European Goldfinch	
1	Mary Edmunds	Orange Weaver	

Palmetto Cage Bird Club (Carolina Classic), Anderson, SC.,

September 21, 1996, Judge: Harold Bowles—4 Exhibitors, 16 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Derrel Ward	Zebra	NFSS 1636 (94)
	Bob & Veta Holloway	Red-Eared Waxbill	
	Derrel Ward	Zebra	NFSS 5288 (95)

**Palmetto Cage Bird Club (Carolina Classic), Anderson, SC.,
September 22, 1996, Judge: Conrad Meinert—3 Exhibitors, 9 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Bob & Veta Holloway	Red-Eared Waxbill	
	Bob & Veta Holloway	Indian Hill Mynah	
	Earl Owens	Spice	

**Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK., September 28, 1996,
Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld—8 Exhibitors, 81 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
8	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
7	Earl Courts	Gold Breasted Rock Bunting	
6	Gene & June Miller	Red Headed Gould	D 108 (96)
5	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Red Headed Parrot Finch	
4	Gene & June Miller	Red Siskin	C 3 (95)
3	Margie & Harold McBrayer	St. Helena	
2	Earl Courts	Green Singer	
1	Gene & June Miller	Diamond Sparrow Fawn	D 87 (94)

**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Show, Grantville, PA., September 28, 1996
Judge: Hal Koontz—11 Exhibitors, 48 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	E. Woody Hughes	Pygmy Cardinal	
4	E. Woody Hughes	Lilac-Breasted Roller	
3	Donald Strause	Parson	D 1640 (95)
2	John & Marie Dunn	Orange Headed Normal Gould	
1	Pat & Mary Krichten	Yellow-Wing Pytilia	C 4009 (95)

Fort Defiance Bird Club, Fort Defiance, OH., September 28, 1996

Judge: Dr Al Decoteau— 9 Exhibitors, 68 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java	NFS K 31
6	Bob & Lynn Almy	Zebra Male	
5	Patrick Vance	Fawn Shafttail	
4	Conrad Meinert	Pearl Headed Amadine	AACDAS 17 (93)
3	Patrick Vance	White Java	
2	Bob & Lynn Almy	Zebra Cock Gray	D 1042
1	Conrad Meinert	Diamond Sparrow	

Illini Brd Fanciers, Shelbyville, IL., October 1, 1996

Judge: Clarence Culwell—22 Exhibitors, 140 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
11	Bob & Lynn Almay	Zebra Cock Gray	D 5269 (95)
10	Richard & Rose Dickman	Orange Headed Gould	D 6856 (95)
9	Dennis Burhans	Chocolate Self Society	E 4373 (94)
8	Tom Rood	Cutthroat Finch	E 105 (96)
7	Tom Rood	Normal Pair Zebras	D 5264 (95) D 5303 (95)
6	Tom Rood	Dilute Pair Societies	E 94 (96) E 96 (96)
5	Dennis Burhans	Parson Finch	C 529 (94)
4	Bob & Susan Rahe	Violet Ear	
3	Tom Rood	Zebra Cock Gray	D 5266 (95)
2	Tom Rood	Black & White Seed eater	

Great American Bird Show, Sarasota, FL., October 5, 1996**Judge: Stephen Hoppin— 21 Exhibitors, 114 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	Sally Huntington	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	
8	Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye	
7	Nancy Keeler	Red Face Star	E 301 (96)
6	Jerri Wiesenfeld	Chestnut Flanked White Hen Zebra	D 2832 (96)
5	Sally Huntington	Pearl Headed Amadine	
4	Nancy Keeler	Parson Finch	
3	Sally Huntington	Red Headed Finch	G 140 (96)
2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Normal Java	K 493 (94)
1	Ron Castaner	Crimson Pileated	G 3840 (93)

Mid-America Cage Bird Society, Des Moines, IA. October 5, 1996**Judge: Martha Wigmore—9 Exhibitors, 56 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Nita Haas	Red-eared Waxbill	A 510 (95)
5	Bob & Lynn Almy	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	B 5269 (95)
4	Nita Haas	Orange Pied Ringneck Dove	AFANIH (96)
3	Richard & Rose Dickman	Dilute Red Head Gould	D6832 (95)
2	John & Jane Muscato	White Java	GC 128 (92)
1	Nita Haas	Silver White Rump Diamond Dove	K 1011 (95)

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club, Nashville, TN., October 5, 1996

Judge: Conrad Meinert—7 Exhibitors, 35 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Sarge & Eva Duffey	Normal Shafttail	
3	Bill Mullins	Diamond Sparrow	1,635
2	Cecil & Judy Gunby	Violet Ear	
1	Sarge & Eva Duffey	Green Singing Finch	

Fort Worth Bird Club, Fort Worth, TX., October 5, 1996

Judge: Paul Williams—7 Exhibitors, 57 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
5	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Shafttail	
4	Margie & Harold McBrayer	White Eye	
3	Gene & June Miller	Diamond Sparrow	25 (95)
2	Margie & Harold McBrayer	Black Headed Nun	
1	Clarence Culwell	Startling	

Cleveland Cage Bird Society, Parma, OH., October 12, 1996

Judge: Tom Rood—5 Exhibitors, 22 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Donald Strause	Parson	D 1640 (95)
2	Donald Strause	Orange Headed Gould	D 1621 (95)
1	Jackie Meyer	Chestnut Flanked Zebra Hen	D 11016 (96)

Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves Exóticas

O.P.A. SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 1997

NFSS - SPBE - NCS - ALBS - NPA - COM

- * FEBRUARY 23 CENTRO SISTER ISOLINA FERRE
PLAYA DE PONCE
PONCE, PUERTO RICO
- ** APRIL 20 QUEBRADILLAS, PUERTO RICO
- ** JUNE 22 GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO
- * AUGUST 24 CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO
- *** DECEMBER 6-7 6th PUERTO RICO NATIONAL
GUILLERMO ANGULO COLISEUM
CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO



- * All Bird Show

DIVISIONS:

Color Canaries
Finches
Pigeons
Parrots
Lovebirds
English Budgies
American Budgies
Cockatiels

- ** All Bird Show, except Canaries
- *** All Bird Show, including Color, Type & Song Canaries

Contact Persons:

Jacky Civitarese & Rafael (Pilo) Suarez
PO Box 6771 Loiza Station
San Juan, PR 00914
Tel/Fax (787) 752-4433

THE EXTRAS...

Warm Tides
Faithful Winds
Sunshine Unlimited
El Yunque Rainforest
Colonial Old San Juan
Camuy Cave Park
400-year Old El Morro
Botanical Garden
Guanica State Forest
Bacardi Rum Distillery
etcetera, etcetera...

PUERTO RICO



National Finch and Softbill Society

1997 Affiliation Agreement

- * Select a current NFSS member to represent your club
- ** Send the appropriate fee and all the enclosed form to Jerry McCawley, Affiliation Manager, by April 30, 1997, Make checks payable to NFSS.
- *** The minimum affiliation fee is \$35. 00.

_____ Base Affiliation Fee - \$10.00... Add to award fees.

This includes an Eric Peake lithograph "Diamond Sparrow".

_____ Service/Breeder Award Plaque - \$ 25.00

This is primarily for clubs that do not have shows. You will be entitled to a 7" X 9" plaque, to be used at your discretion. In addition, you will receive all NFSS publications.

_____ "Best in Show" Plaque - \$25.00 (7" X 9")

_____ "Second Best in Show" Plaque - \$ 25.00 (6" X 8")

_____ "Third Best in Show" Plaque - \$25.00 (6" X 8")

_____ "Best Softbill in Show" Plaque - \$25.00 (6" X 8")

_____ Rosettes - \$25.00

Ten long-streamer rosettes for the ten best finches or softbills, plus 3 rosettes for the three best unflighted finches or softbills. Unflighted birds are those close-banded with 1997 bands.

Please check the award (s) your club wants. Total the amounts plus the \$10.00 base affiliation fee and send check and forms to:

Jerry McCawley, NFSS. . 111 Barton Bnd. . Dripping Springs, TX 78620

_____ Total amount of check, payable to NFSS

Club Name _____

Show Date _____

Club Officer _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Club Delegate _____

Address _____

NFSS # _____ Phone# _____

NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of March 1, 1996)

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society

Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168

Show August 31, 1996

Montgomery, AL

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Rocket City Cage Bird Club

Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern County

Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110

Show December 7, 1996

Taft, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Capitol City Bird Society

Dare B. Cagle (916) 944-2437

Show October 20, 1996

Placer County Fairgrounds

20th Anniversary Show

Roseville, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Finch Society of San Diego County

Sharon Russell (619) 273-2005

Show November 2, 1996

San Diego, CA

Fresno Canary and Finch Society

Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Golden Gate Avian Society

Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

Show November 9, 1996

Livermore, CA

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

Show November 30, 1996

Santa Clara, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

Show October 26, 1996

Manchester, CT

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

New England Finch Fanciers

Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida

Phil Barth (305) 426-5340

Show August 24, 1996

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

Central Florida Bird Breeders

Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami

Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Show November 30, 1996

25th Anniversary Show

Hialeah, FL

Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Exotic Bird Club of Florida

Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498

Florida West Coast Avian Society

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Double Show

February 15, 1997 *Saturday*

Panel Judge Martha Wigmore

February 16, 1997 *Sunday*

Panel Judge William Parlee

Tampa, FL

* not NFSS affiliate, but points
earnable under NFSS Panel Judge.

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.

John Floyd (813) 677-7679

Sun Coast Avian Society

Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

Show October 19, 1996

St. Petersburg, FL

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Show October 12, 1996

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

GEORGIA**Georgia Cage Bird Society**

Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

Show November 2, 1996

Marietta, GA

40th Annual Show & Fair

Panel Judge: Earl Courts

HAWAII**Honolulu Canary and Finch Club**

Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**

Jane Muscato (708) 305-9043

Show November 2, 1996

Rolling Meadows, IL

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

Show June, 1996

Shelbyville, IL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

**National Institute of Red-Orange
Canaries (NIROC)**

Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8455

Show November 30, 1996

Elk Grove, IL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Springfield Pet Bird Club**INDIANA****Indiana Bird Fanciers**

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

Show October 12, 1996

Ft. Wayne, IN

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

IOWA**Mid-America Cage Bird Society**

Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-1511

Show October 5, 1996

Des Moines, IA

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

KANSAS**Kansas Avicultural Society**

Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

Show October 12, 1996

Wichita, KS

Panel Judge: Laura Bewely

KENTUCKY**Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society**

Patricia Wilkins (606) 271-0273

LOUISIANA**Capital Area Avicultural Society**

Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.

Jeanne Murphy (504) 833-4241

MARYLAND**Baltimore Bird Fanciers****Maryland Cage Bird Society**

Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

MASSACHUSETTS**Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc.**

Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

Show October 19, 1996

Hanover, MA

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

MICHIGAN**Great Lakes Avicultural Society**

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Show October 19, 1996

Rockford, MI

Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.

Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

Show September 21, 1996

Roumulus, MI

Panel Judge: Bill Parlee

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES**

CANADA

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Ontario**
Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**

Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978
Show September 27, 28 & 2, 1996
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Sam Crabbe

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398
Show October 18, 19 & 20
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Paul Williams

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENTS**

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Finch Society
Gavin Dietz, P.O. Box 1600,
Coorparoo DC 4151
Queensland, Australia

GREAT BRITAIN

The Estrildian
Ian Hinze, Coetref, Tyn Lon,
Holyhead, Gwynedd LL65 3LJ,
Wales, United Kingdom

The Waxbill Finch Society

Mr. Buzz Hope-Inglis,
10 Litchfield Close, Plympton,
Plymouth PL7 3UU, England

Zebra Finch Society, England

Margaret Binns, 97 Bent Lanes,
Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester,
M31 8WZ England

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.
293 Albany Highway
Albany, New Zealand

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.

Robert Zalewski (313) 356-5942
Show October 26, 1996
Warren, MI
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avic. Society

Nita Haas (816) 331-5285
Show October 19, 1996
Raymore, MO
Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

**Hear America Hookbill & Finch
Society**

Moses Linn (816) 523-4661
Show June 8 & 9, 1996
Grandview, MO

Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak & Harold
Bowles

Missouri Cage Bird Association

Richard & Rose Dickman
(314) 928-3444

Show November 2, 1996
Eureka, MO

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.

Gail Ranshaw (505) 822-1483

Show September 28, 1996

Albuquerque, NM

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association

Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Marie Grein (718) 468-0881

Rochester Cage Bird Club

Patrick Goonan (716) 288-5653

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

April Blazich (919) 851-8079

Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

Jim Cody (704) 686-5157

OHIO

Cleveland Cage Bird Society

Arnette Howard (216) 337-7654

Show October 12, 1996

Defiance, OH

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Fort Defiance Bird Club

Larry Endsley (419) 263-2795

Show September 28, 1996

Toledo, OH

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club
of America**

Robert Ayling (419) 536-8736

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

Show September 28, 1996

Oklahoma City, OK

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

Doug Paris (918) 446-2447

Show October 26, 1996

Tulsa, OK

Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

OREGON

The Finch Connection

Kristine Spencer (206) 253-4572

Rose City Exotic Bird Club

PENNSYLVANIA

**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird
Society**

Donald Strause (610) 926-5210

Show September 28, 1996

Grantville, PA

Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Chester County Bird Breeders

Lorraine LaBoyne (610) 269-6003

Show September 14, 1996

Kimberton, Pa

Delaware Valley Bird Club

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438

Northeastern Penn. Cage Bird Club

Gary Fino (717) 829-3891

PUERTO RICO

**Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves
Exóticas, Inc.**

Jacky Civitares (787) 752-4433

Show December 7, 1996

Carolina, PR

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club

Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319

Show September 21 & 22, 1996

Anderson, SC

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles &

Conrad Meinert

TENNESSEE**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

Show October 5, 1996

Nashville, TN

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

TEXAS**Bay Area Cage Bird Club**

Linda Beeman (713) 485-0291

Capital City Cage Bird Club

Fenton R. Mereness (512) 310-1802

Fort Worth Bird Club

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Show October 6, 1996

Arlington, TX

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Show October 26, 1996

Temple, TX

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Texas Canary Club

Chris Davis (713) 361-3364

Show November 2, 1996

Panel Judge: Laura Bewely

VIRGINIA**Peninsula Cage Bird Society**

Marian "Bea" Rogers

(757) 484-6001

WISCONSIN**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Patrice (Ripple) Brusk (414) 785-8988

Show October 12, 1996

Milwaukee, WI

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Changing Your Address?

Let NFSS be the first to greet
you at your new address!

Please send this form or this in-
formation to:

Lynda Bakula

NFSS Membership Director

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022

Club Delegates should also send
their change of address separately
to:

Jerry McCawley

NFSS Liason Manager

111 Barton Bnd

Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Membership # _____

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

BAND ORDER FORM

Orders processed weekly as received.
Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order.
Please, no mail requiring signatures.

NFSS offers to members only closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFSS color of the year, the bands are engraved with the initials *NFSS*, size code, year and number. No choice of numbers.

All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving membership number. Write "New" for membership # on order form.

1997 or 1998 (CIRCLE CORRECT YEAR PLEASE)

BAND SIZE	# OF STRINGS	PRICE/ STRING	TOTAL AMT
A		\$2.75	
B		\$2.75	
C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
G		\$2.75	
J		\$2.75	
K		\$2.75	
L		\$2.75	
M		\$2.75	
R		\$2.75	
S		\$2.75	
T		\$2.75	
U		\$2.75	

POSTAL INSURANCE:

Under \$50 - \$.75

From \$50 to \$100 - \$1.60

Over \$100 - \$2.50

If you choose not to include this sum NFSS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SUBTOTAL _____

INSURANCE _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail form and payment payable to **NFSS** to:

Ms. Eileen Laird
NFSS Band Secretary
1166 Village Forest Pl.
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 657-7989

The National Finch and Softbill Society

now on the

World Wide Web

Visit

The National Finch and Softbill Society Homepage

at

<http://www2.msstate.edu/~rbh2/NFSS.html>

An ever expanding amount of information about

• FINCHSAVE •

• shows •

• conservation efforts •

• publications •

• membership information •

and

• links to other Internet resources on birds •

If your society has a WWW page, we would be pleased to include a link to your site.

FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

ITEM	QTY	SIZE/ STYLE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL AMT
<i>NEW T-Shirt Design!</i> 10 Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass w/NFSS		M•L•XL•XXL (circle size) All 50/50 White	\$18.00	
Video " <i>The Wonderful World of Finches and Soft- bills: An Introduction</i> "		Members & Affiliates: Non-Members:	\$17.00 \$22.00	
Show Cage Plans (see sizes below)			\$4.00	
All 3 Show Cage Plans (set of all three)			\$10.00	
NFSS Plastic Water Bottle			\$6.00	
NFSS Zebra Pin			\$6.00	
NFSS Gouldian Pin			\$6.00	
Eric Peake Lithograph <i>The Diamond Firetails</i> Signed by the artist			\$35.00	
Name Badge (Members only) *Print name clearly *Includes one line of engraving		2 lines - add \$1.00 Magnetic back add - \$1.00	\$7.50	
Past <i>Bulletin</i> Issues-1994 and later issues			\$4.00	
-1993 and earlier issues			\$3.00	
1995 NFSS Handbook (Membership Yearbook)		<i>Includes Census, Index & much more (Jul/Aug '95 issue)</i>	\$4.00	
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards		<i>In handsome small 3-ring binder. Updated in 1995!</i>	\$15.00	

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS

- # 1 Cage Finches up to and including Zebras
- # 2 Cage Finches larger than Zebras
- # 3 Cage Softbills

SHIPPING & HANDLING \$ _____

under \$10 add \$2.00

over \$10 add \$3.00

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail form and payment
(check or money order
payable to **NFSS**) to
FINCHSHOP
c/o Julie Duimstra
4400 NW Walnut Blvd. #68
Corvallis, OR 97330

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide. Contact the home office.

size "A"

Small Waxbills
Gold-breasted Waxbill
Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Bicheno (Owl) Finch
Quail Finch
Red-eared Waxbill
Strawberry Finch

size "B"

Black-cheeked Waxbill
Cordon Bleu Waxbill
Cuban Melodious Finch
Fire Finch
Lavender Finch
Olive Finch
Rufous-backed Mannikin

size "C"

Black and White Mannikin
Blue-capped Waxbill
Bronze-winged Mannikin
Cherry Finch
Green Singing Finch
Grey Singing Finch
Heck's Shafftail
Painted Finch
Pileated Finch
Pytilias
Red-headed Parrot Finch
Shafttail Finch
Silverbills
Star Finch

size "D"

Blue-faced Parrot Finch
most other Parrot finches
Chestnut-breasted Finch
Gouldian Finch
Pictorella Finch
Pin-tailed Nonpareil
Yellow-rumped Finch
Zebra Finch

more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins
most Twinspots

size "E"

Black-crested Finch
Diamond Sparrow
Golden Song Sparrow
Nuns
Peter's Twinspot
Siskins
Society Finch
Spice Finch

size "G"

European Goldfinch
Maggie Mannikin
other large Mannikins
small Tanagers

size "J"

Pekin Robin
Silver-eared Mesia
other small softbills

size "K"

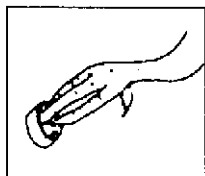
Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

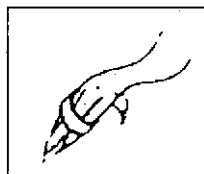
Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills

LEG BANDING PROCEDURE

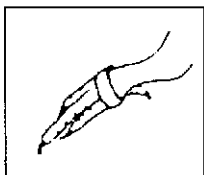
courtesy of
The National Finch and Softbill Society



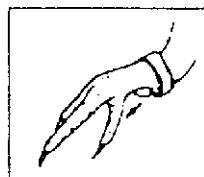
The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



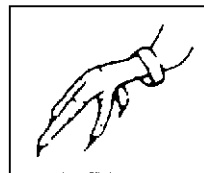
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



The band is generally placed on the bird's right leg. Banding just before the parents go to roost in the evening will prevent them from picking at the band. By the next morning they will have forgotten about it.



Hold the chick firmly but in such a way as to not cut off its breathing and so that you don't harm it. Remember, their bodies cannot tolerate compression. Put a little bit of lubricant on the chick's foot and slide the band over the three front toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be gently pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band now should be in the proper location between the ankle and the elbow joints.



Check on the chick the next few days to be sure that the band has not slipped off and that there are no scrapes or irritations on the foot or leg.

NFSS
Classified Ads

Classified ads (except *FINCHSAVE* ads) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

FOR SALE

GOULDIANS-

Parent-raised only! '95- '96 Blues, Yellows, Dilutes, Normals, on good varied diet. Will consider trading bloodlines. Richmond, VA.

KRIS PETERS,
(804) 784-3975

jf97

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Normals, White-breasted, Dilute/ Yellow. Shafttails- Normal, Fawn & Cream. Stars- Normal, Yellow-faced & Pied. Owls. Plumheads (Cherries)- Normal & Fawn. Strawberries. Most NFSS Banded. Societies.

Send SASE to:

KEN'S EXOTIC FINCHES

P.O. Box 23241 (NFSS)

Cincinnati, OH. 45223

ma97

or (513) 541-6411 early evenings

FINCHES-

Africans, Australians & others, too many to list. Gouldians all mutations & normals. We ship. **SENSATIONAL BIRDS, INC.**

Call (305) 828-1166, or write

P.O. Box 110425

Miami, FL., 33111

FAX (305)-372-0380

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FOR SALE

SENEGAL FIRE FINCHES, NFSS
'96 banded. Cuban Melodius, Society Finches self color.

GENE MILLER

(405) 382-7066 (OK)

ma97

WANTED

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Trade parent-raised, close-banded Gold Breast Buntings for same.

STEVEN LACROIX

P.O. Box 42

Dolgeville, NY. 13329

(315) 429-7395

jf97

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GARY M. FINO

(717) 868-1057

jf97

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FINCHSAVE classifieds run *FREE* of charge to FINC
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FOR SALE:

1 pair of Pintailed Whydahs, 2 female Diamond Firetails, 1 male Cut-throat, Diamond Dove, European Goldfinch, Spice, Melba, & Pekin Robin. Will trade for Peter's Twin-spot or St. Helena Waxbills.

WANTED:

One pair of Peter's Twin Spots, plus one female.

CALL FAYE- PORTLAND, OR

(503) 788-3753

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**National Finch
and
Softbill
Society**

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders and Enthusiasts!

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 - Awards • NFSS traceable bands in 9 sizes •

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ Member? _____ NFSS # _____
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ANNUAL DUES: Single \$20 _____ Dual \$25* _____ (under 16 yrs) \$12.50 _____
Junior

* 2nd name for dual membership _____

U.S. (& Puerto Rico) 1st class mailing, add \$5.00.

Canadian & foreign subscriptions mailed 1st class. Please send US funds.

Canadian, add \$5.00 Foreign, add \$10.00



Mail application and check payable to NFSS
to Lynda Bakula - NFSS Membership Services

P. O. Box 3232
Ballwin, MO 63022

NFSS Panel of Judges 1997

Charles Anchor
630 Lake Park Drive
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 543-3757

Laura Bewley
3538 S 65 W Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74107
(918) 446-3999

Harold Bowles
230 College Circle
Cedartown, GA 30125
(770) 748-4627

Earl Courts
1807 N.E. Colburn
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-0921

Clarence Culwell
250 Horseshoe Dr.
Springtown, TX 76082
(817) 220-5568

Dr. Al E. Decoteau
Panel Chairman
P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
Phone (603) 672-4568
Fax (603) 672-3120

Daren Decoteau
89 Pleasantview Ave.
Stratford, CT 06497
(203) 377-2049

Stephen Hoppin
3836 Hidden Acres Circle
N. Fort Myers, FL 33903
Phone (941) 997-2237
Fax (941) 997- NFSS
E-mail-
n2finchs@peganet.com

Ray Johnson
175 Stoneridge Way
Fayetteville, GA 30214
(404) 461-8675

Clayton Jones
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