

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

Volume 19, No. 3

May/June, 2002



In this issue:

- 2002 NFSS Finch & Softbill Save Program
- A Visit to Paula Hansen's Aviary
- Breeding the Mali or Kulikoro Firefinch—Ian Hinze



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Contents

NFSS President's Message-Sally Huntington	4
From the Editor-Martie Lauster	5
NFSS Finch & Softbill Save Program Guidelines-Kerri McCoy	6
NFSS Finch & Softbill Save Application Form	13
Bird Fever or My Aviary-Paula Hansen	18
Breeding the Mali or Kulikoro Firefinch-Ian Hinze	20
News from the NFSS 4th Vice President-Martha Wigmore	27
4th Quarter, 2001 Board Meeting Minutes	30
NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers	34
NFSS Panel of Judges, 2002	36
NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events	37
Classifieds	41
Forms! Club Affiliation/Awards/Bands/Membership	42
 Finch Shop Catalog 	47

Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

Home Office: 4581 Lincoln Road, Macedon, NY 14502 mlauster@rochester.rr.com
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NFSS President's Message, May, 2002



Everyone always seems to want their children to have it better than they had it. Can this also apply to NFSS?

The current energetic and devoted Board of Directors seems determined that future NFSS members have it better than past members. Because of increased computer availability, this seems to be happening, and in a kinder, gentler, more immediate way.

NFSS members now have more readily available information from the expanded web site and newly titled NFSS Journal. They have more immediate access to expert resources on NFSS Yahoogroups.com, for day-to-day avian related problems. There is faster board-member-to-board-member communication via the NFSS Officer's group use. Pay-pal offers a quicker way to receive membership payments and FinchShop revenue, but has some lessons-to-learn.

I like that all officers seem to provide, via the NFSS Yahoo groups, on-going input on what they are aiming for, are accomplishing, where their problems are, and when they need advice from the board or others. I also like the creative energy that is re-thinking the roles of each officer, elected or appointed, and asking us to give voting rights to all of those individuals who shape and maintain the NFSS. Further, adversaries to bird/animal breeding force us to become more politically astute, active and "politically correct". In response, I particularly like that heretofore quiet members have stepped forward to lead us in 'protective' new goals and objectives. In that direction we will be defining a political activist officer's job this quarter.

As the weather changes to summer, we must shift our focus from cold/cool weather management to both the pleasure AND the perils summer heat brings to avian culture. Foods spoil sooner, insects and predators are on the prowl, nests are filled with chicks, fledglings are everywhere, banding becomes serious focus, and rivalries for mates teaches us that even the docile can cause injury when competition for the finest feather takes its primal course.

The summer opens us to easier travel to avian events, outdoor bird marts, and, increased caution regarding quarantine, and being on guard for pests and illnesses.

Keep the seed cups full!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sally Huntington". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sally Huntington, President

From the Editor...

Hello NFSS! I promise not to clutter up future issues with lengthy editorial comments, but thought it appropriate to say a few things for this first issue, anyway.

First, I hope you will all join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Steve Poe for his years of service as our NFSS Editor. Thank you, Steve, for a big job well done!

The first thing I'm sure you've already noticed is the high print quality, new paper, and, of course, the color cover! What new editor wouldn't be thrilled to begin with such great tools to work with! All the credit goes to the team who worked so hard to bring us this terrific package—our NFSS President, Sally Huntington, 2nd Vice President, Harry Bryant, and past NFSS Editor, Steve Poe. Thank you all!

Our new Printer has been delightful to work with and I assure you, is as excited about our new Journal look as we are!

The great photo of a baby Zebra Finch on the cover of this issue was taken by Sally Huntington's son, Roy Huntington. It is appropriately titled, "Tufts", and permission to share it with all of you is much appreciated.

Kerri McCoy and her hard-working team present you with all the details on the new 2002 NFSS Finch & Softbill Save Program in this issue. Please participate if you are able. Don't miss this tremendous opportunity to work with your fellow aviculturists toward a common goal—that of preserving the variety of available species for future aviculturists.

Ginny Allen, our FinchShop Manager (*pro-tem*) has done a tremendous amount of work in the past several months to provide us with a wide variety of items to choose from at very attractive prices. And what a job she's done! Be sure to check out the terrific new items now available.

Now that Ginny has done all this initial work for us, she is ready to turn the FinchShop responsibilities over to a permanent Manager. We sure could use your help! If you think you might have some time to offer and would like more information, please contact Ginny directly at (334) 749-7168 or gndallen@earthlink.net. I know she'll be happy to help!

I sincerely hope you will enjoy this issue of the NFSS Journal. My goal is to provide you with a publication that provides the kind of news and information that will be useful to all of us in our endeavors to continue to grow our avicultural knowledge and skills.

Your feedback will be most important in working toward this goal. I'd really like to hear your opinions and comments about our Journal—both positive *and* negative. I'd also like to share these in future issues (with your permission, of course). We have a widely diverse membership and this publication should appeal to all. So—don't hold back! Send in your comments and ideas! Let us know what you want to know about *and* what you don't care to know about. Together we can work to make this Journal into a publication that truly reflects *all* facets of aviculture.

Martie Lanster

The National Finch and Softbill Society

Finch and Softbill Save Program Guidelines



Definition and Purpose

2002 Program Guidelines & Requirements

Group Manager/Species Captain Roles

Application Form



As of January 1, 2002 a new NFSS Board of Directors took office. The position of 3rd Vice President and FinchSave Director assembled a FinchSave Committee to begin working on developing the 2002 FinchSave Program Guidelines. The committee consists of the following individuals: Ms. Ginny Allen, Mr. Harry Bryant, Mr. Roland Cristo, Ms. Carol Heesen, Mr. Vince Moase and the FSS Director Ms. Kerri McCoy. The committee has chosen to include softbills in the title of the organization. Therefore, the FinchSave Program is officially entitled the Finch and Softbill Save Program.

Definition and Purpose:

The National Finch and Softbill Society established the FinchSave program in 1988. Although, thru the years the program requirements have changed the definition and purpose of the program have not. The long-term goal of the Finch and Softbill Save program is to establish a consortium of breeders of finches and softbills dedicated to producing and maintaining a viable captive bred population of finches and softbills in the United States and Canada. With the recent NFSS incorporation of Region 8 - Canada, we have included Canada in the long-term goal of the program. The short-term goal of the program is to establish consistent breeding success with participating species in the United States and Canada.

2002 Program Requirements:

Participants **must** meet the following requirements in order to participate in the Finch and Softbill Save program:

- Participants must be NFSS members in good standing.
- Participants must pay a \$15 membership fee annually
- Tier One participants must agree to open band all offspring with appropriate sized open numbered bands.
- Tier Two participants must agree to close band all offspring with appropriate sized closed bands.
- Participants must complete **quarterly** reports
- There is no pair limit requirement at this time

Species Captain Roles:

The 2002 program will continue to incorporate the use of Species Captains. Species Captains are responsible for gathering information from participants, getting birds into participants' hands, monitoring bloodlines, communicating with participants and assisting participants with any problems that they may have. They will tie in with the Finch and Softbill Save newsletter. Individuals interested in being a Species Captain will be responsible (with the oversight by the Group Manager), in contributing information on their particular species for the newsletter. Species Captains will need to be proactive and work with participants registered with the finch or softbill species of which they are Captains. Each Species Captain will be responsible for providing information on their particular bird to put together a species pro-

file for the Finch and Softbill Save newsletter. The committee would like to see Species Captains have repeated success in breeding the bird they are applying for overseeing. If you have the time to devote we would like to encourage you to apply for a Species Captain position (see application form for more information)

Group Manager roles:

The 2002 program will continue to incorporate the use of Group Managers. The Group Managers are responsible for supervising all the Species Captains in their group of birds and, if no Species Captain is appointed for a particular species, responsible for acting as the Species Captain for that species. They will be directly responsible for providing species profiles for the Finch and Softbill Save newsletter to the FinchSave Director. Group Managers will need to work closely with their Species Captains to compile information on species they are overseeing. We would like to see Group Managers have repeated breeding success with several birds they are applying to oversee. (See application form for more information). The Group Managers will head the following groups:

- All Australian Finches
- All Waxbills
- All African Finches
- All Indo-Pacific Finches
- All European Finches
- All South American Finches
- All Softbill Birds

(Please note the groupings listed above are currently being re-evaluated by the Finch and Softbill Save Committee. Members will be notified of changes. Do not let our current evaluation of the groupings deter you from applying for a Group Manager position.)

2002 List of Finch and Softbill Save Excluded Birds:

The 2002 Finch and Softbill Save Committee has reviewed and changed the current list of excluded birds for the Finch and Softbill Save Program as follows:

- The Shafttail or Heck's Grassfinch will now be incorporated into the program. At the time when FinchSave was developed the Shafttail was very well established in U.S. aviculture and had been excluded. Upon reviewing its status today the Committee feels that the Shafttail is not as commonly available in U.S. aviculture and would benefit from being included in the program.
- Dove and quail will be excluded from the program at this time. The committee can review this again at a later date.
- The Timor Zebra Finch will be included in the program.

- The Lady Gouldian Finch, the Society Finch, the Java Rice Bird, and the Zebra Finch will be excluded from the program at this time. The committee will review these again at a later date.

2002 Program Guidelines (what's new):

The Finch and Softbill Save Committee has chosen to establish a multi-tier program for Finch and Softbill Save. One of, if not the biggest change that will be made to the 2002 Finch and Softbill Save program will be lifting the requirement for close banding to qualify for registering with the program. This will be achieved through establishing a multi-tier program. In the past, many have voiced an interest in participating in the program but did not close band their offspring. By establishing a multi-tier program we will hopefully reach those individuals who would like to join the program.

Tier One:

Tier One of the program will lift the requirement on close banding. The Finch and Softbill Save 2002 Program however requires that Tier One participants band all their offspring with open (split) numbered bands. You cannot register same species of bird in both Tier One and Tier Two of the program. You must choose either Tier One or Tier Two per bird specie. You may register a certain specie in Tier One and others in Tier Two and vice versa. The participant upon enrollment will make the decision which species will be registered in each tier of the program.

The following are sources to purchase open split numbered bands:

- Birds2Grow Aviaries, 209-869-5900, <http://www.birds2grow.com>
- AFA (602) 484-0931, <http://www.afa.birds.org/store/bands.htm>
- Red Bird Products (530) 620-7440, <http://www.redbirdproducts.com/>
- L&M Bird Leg Bands (909) 882- 4649, <http://home.earthlink.net/~lmbird/>
- Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada, <http://www.aacc.com>

If members know of other sources that can be listed please contact the FSS Director.

Tier Two:

Tier Two of the program will require close banding of all birds registered with the program. Participants registering with the program will choose either Tier One or Tier Two for each particular species they are registering with the program. All offspring produced by Tier Two registered birds **must** be close banded.

The following are sources to purchase closed, numbered leg bands:

- The National Finch and Softbill Society, <http://www.NFSS.org>. Band order forms are also available in each issue of the NFSS Bulletin along with band size guidelines and pictorial description of how to

close band your birds.

- AFA (602) 484-0931 <http://www.afa.birds.org/store/bands.htm>
- Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada <http://www.aacc.com>

If members know of other sources that can be listed please contact the FSS Director.

Tier Three and Beyond:

The Finch and Softbill Save Committee is currently working on incorporating a Tier Three for the Finch and Softbill Save Program. Tier Three will be geared towards those hobbyists who will adhere to strict record keeping, the required use of specific breeding management software and the required trading of bloodlines on a yearly basis. This level of the program is intended for individuals who may be looking to apply for a cooperative breeding program permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Canadian Wildlife Service and for those individuals who are very serious about establishing a genetically viable captive bred population of bird species. More information on Tier Three will be provided at a later date.

Breeder Recognition and Breeder of the Year Awards:

The 2002 Finch and Softbill Save program will incorporate recognition awards for its participants. Group Managers and the Finch and Softbill Save Committee will assist the FSS Director in choosing worthy participants to award Breeder Recognition awards on a yearly basis. The NFSS Board of Directors will choose a participant to award the Breeder of the Year award with input provided by the FSS committee. To be eligible for such an award you must be able to demonstrate breeding success with your registered specie(s) and have completed all FSS required quarterly reports. More details on eligibility will be forthcoming. Many have worked hard at establishing species in aviculture and, will be honored for doing so.

Membership Fee:

In order to incorporate a newsletter, and breeder recognition and breeder of the year awards we must have funds. Presently, the NFSS is not in a position financially to fund these program changes. Awhile back a survey was generated to test the waters and the vast majority of individuals had no problem with paying a membership fee to participate in the Finch and Softbill Save program provided the ideas presented were incorporated into the program and that the membership fee paid was used solely for the program. We have chosen through the help of the survey, to set the cost for participation in the program at \$15 yearly. All Finch and Softbill Save participants **must** pay a \$15 yearly membership fee and remain NFSS members in good standing. Failure to renew your NFSS membership will result in your expulsion from the Finch and Softbill Save Program. The membership fee will be mailed in with your FSS application to the FSS Director, made payable to NFSS.

Quarterly Reports:

Quarterly reports will be required of all Finch and Softbill Save participants regardless of which Tier(s) they are registered in. A form will be mailed to you via regular mail or sent electronically if so desired for you to complete. All forms must be completed and returned to the FSS Director within 45 days. Individuals who do not submit a quarterly report will receive one reminder to do so. A second missed quarterly report will result in your expulsion from the program.

The whole premise behind the Finch and Softbill Save Program is to establish captive bred populations of bird species in the US and Canada. It is through the information contained in the quarterly reports that we will be able to put together Species Profiles on the birds registered in the program, be able to track the population increase in registered species, and keep track of the diverse bloodlines. The information about how you successfully bred your birds will be very useful to others who are also trying to be successful.

The Finch and Softbill Save Newsletter:

The Finch and Softbill Save newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. Only FSS members will receive this newsletter. Occasionally, we may publish excerpts of the newsletter in the NFSS Bulletin, on our website or give out hard copies at functions in order to introduce fellow hobbyists to the program and solicit them to join. In the past, many have conveyed they have seen no "perk" associated with registering with FinchSave. We intend to change that. The quarterly newsletter focusing on Finch and Softbill Save species, our participants, and other information pertinent to the program and our hobby will be included. It will be mailed via regular mail or electronic copies can be sent for those who choose this option.

Security Feature:

All participants will be given a unique identification number upon registering with Finch and Softbill Save. **No** personal information will be published in any NFSS publication or on our website without permission of the participant. Many individuals have conveyed to me their concerns with publishing their personal information for security and/or other reasons. Participants will now have the option of publishing only their identification number. An example below:

Species: Goldbreasted waxbill

Participants:	Name	Location	Contact info
	MarySmith	DesMoines, IA	marysmith@aol.com
	3313FS452	(contact FinchSave Director)	
	4434-FS231	(contact FinchSave Director)	

We know everyone is already thinking, what if I am interested in contacting #3313FS452 about acquiring some Goldbreasted Waxbills? Here is how the procedure will work. Tom Black is interested in reaching FSS member

#3313FS452. Tom Black will contact the Finch and Softbill Save Director who in turn will contact #3313FS452. #3313FS452 will be given contact information for Tom Black. #3313FS452 then has the option of contacting Tom Black directly or authorizing the Finch and Softbill Save Director to release contact information to Tom Black to reach #3313FS452. Your personal information and who you allow access to it will always **BE IN YOUR HANDS**.

Those of you who have no problem with us publishing personal information are allowed to do so. We are incorporating this security feature into the program for those individuals who choose to refrain from publishing their personal information but would still like to participate in the program.

What's In the Works?

With so many changes to incorporate into the Finch and Softbill Save Program the FSS Committee has not yet completed all the new program enhancements. We will continue to work on enhancements to the program and notify all members as these enhancements are incorporated into the program. We are currently reviewing/working on:

- The groupings of birds listed under the Group Managers section.
- The incorporation of a breeding management software
- The development of a yearly bloodline trade
- The best format for Species Profiles
- Tier Three

If you have any ideas that you would like to see incorporated into the program, please do not hesitate to contact the FSS Director via email at: kerrimccoy@charter.net, phone: 678-546-3353, fax: 678-546-3352.

What YOU can do to make the program more successful:

All Finch and Softbill Save members are entitled to free classified advertising in the NFSS Bulletin, on our society website (<http://www.NFSS.org>) and in the FSS newsletter. We highly recommend that FSS members advertise their available stock so that fellow FSS members can have access to any available bloodlines. Presently, the program does not require FSS participants to sell their offspring to FSS members. We would like however to see FSS members work together by using our free advertising and offering their stock to fellow FSS members whenever feasible. Those who would like to advertise but remain anonymous may contact the FSS Director for more information.

We encourage all FSS participants to recruit fellow hobbyists to join the program. If anyone needs extra program materials to give to an interested party, please do not hesitate to contact the FSS Director.

Contribute. Contribute. Contribute. If you have time on your hands and experience with any of the birds included in the program apply for a Species Captain or Group Manager position.

Complete your quarterly reports on time and work closely with your Species Manager to provide him/her with as much detail as possible on the birds you are working with. Taking the time to be actively involved in the program is of benefit to us all.

We will end by giving you all something to ponder. When I began my term as Finch and Softbill Save Director I combed over all the documents collected to date on the Finch and Softbill Save Program. I came across a very old list created by former FinchSave Directors and committee members of low priority birds. These birds at the time of that writing were determined to be well established in US aviculture, and thus deemed low priority. It has been ten years since that list was created and almost all of the birds listed on it are extremely difficult to locate today. In another ten years, will there be any at all?



The National Finch and Softbill Society Finch and Softbill Save Application 2002 Program

This application needs to be filled out for *each* species you are entering into the program. The \$15 annual membership fee covers *all* species you are registering.

General Information:

Applicant Name: _____ NFSS # _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

What contact information can we publish on the NFSS website, in the NFSS Journal and in the Finch and Softbill Save newsletter?

_____ I do not want to publish any personal contact information. Please list me only by my FSS identification number. The FSS Director will get in touch with me should someone like to contact me.

_____ I want to publish my name, city and state, e-mail address and telephone number.

_____ I want to publish only my name and email address.

_____ Other (please specify): _____

I have read through all of the Finch and Softbill Save Program requirements and agree to abide by these requirements.

Signature: _____

Bird Species Information:

Species Common Name: _____ Species Latin Name: _____

Please fill out the below table for each bird of the species you are registering into the program. (You may make additional copies if needed.)

#	Bird ID Number (Specify open or closed band) Example: (NFSS#C121-99, closed band)	Date Hatched or Acquired Example: (Bought 1/2/00)		Sex M F ?		Source Domestic Import unknown	Bloodline/Relation Information If birds are related to one another please list below Example: (father of #11 and #12)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							

Tier Entry:

_____ Tier One (open banding) _____ Tier Two (close banding)

_____ I am interested in learning more about Tier 3 and may be interested in moving some of my species into Tier 3. Please send me details when available.

Breeding Experience:

Did you foster? Yes _____ No _____ Sometimes _____

What species did you use as the foster parents?

Please provide details on when the eggs or hatchlings were placed with the foster parents and why you chose to foster?

When fostered, please provide details on fostering methods used (ie: diet fed to foster parents, number of times per day rearing diet was provided, details on whether foster parents were raising young of their own when you added the fostered birds, etc.)

If parent raised, please provide details on how you accomplished this (ie: did both parents brood, did both parents feed, diet fed to parents and number of times per day rearing food was provided, etc.)

If handfed, please provide details on how you accomplished this (ie: what type of hand feeding formula did you use, what type of feeding instrument did you use, how often did you hand feed etc.)

Size of enclosure used for breeding purposes:

Example: (Breeding Cage measuring 3'x2'x2')

Breeding Cage measuring _____

Aviary or mixed community flight _____

If mixed community flight, list other species included in the mixed flight:

Environment Housed:

Indoor _____ Temperature high _____ Temperature low _____

Outdoor _____ Temperature high _____ Temperature low _____

Planted: (x all that apply)

Real Plants or greenery _____ Artificial greenery _____ Not applicable _____

Lighting (if indoors): (x all that apply)

Full Spectrum _____ Regular fluorescent _____

Other _____ Black Light _____ Hours of light provided daily: _____

Diet:

(Please provide details on the type of diet you feed. If you feed live food, please list what types. How many times per day are your birds fed? Include both breeding and resting diets.)

Please provide any additional information that you feel would be of benefit to fellow FSS members working with this species.

Species Captains and Group Managers:

_____ I am interested in being a Species Captain for this particular species. Please contact me to discuss this further.

_____ I am interested in being a Group Manager. Please contact me to discuss this further.

Please mail your completed application including your \$15 annual membership fee (*made out to NFSS*) to:

**Kerri McCoy - Finch and Softbill Save Director
4780 Settles Point Road
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
Telephone: (678) 546-3353, Fax: (678) 546-3352
Email: kerrimccoy@charter.net**

Bird Fever or My Aviary

by Paula Hansen, NFSS member

On Valentine's Day in 1991 my husband bought me a male canary from a local pet shop. Six months after that my youngest daughter, Kim, took my husband to a restaurant which had a aviary on the outside, built against the building. She told her dad, "that's what mom wants". As they ate their burgers and gazed out the windows, the proprietor, Lee Reynolds, gave my husband advice. "What ever you build - don't build it cheap!"

Construction started in November of 1991. The aviary took about 2 1/2 months to build. During this wait my daughter and I found a bird club. We visited club members' homes, read bird magazines, and frequented the public library. I read every finch type book I could find. I learned which birds go with which, and the different types of seed and greens to feed. We also learned what were the good weeds in the garden and gathered recipes, ideas and notes.

In this picture there are 3 large glass windows originally built with the house. No scenery as our back yard faced the High School loading dock. Zoning for the area wouldn't work for a separate structure and a slab would



add to our property taxes. We wanted to have the birds out of the house but be able to see and hear them, lastly enhance the investment to the home. We drafted plans, then had bids given to have this built. We had the slab poured by professionals against the house to match the level of the living room. The intent 11 years ago was should I not have birds it would convert to a solarium or extended living room.

Remember, we started with 1 male canary (soft feather). We then bought 2 male societies, 1 female red factor canary (hard feather), a male normal zebra and female fawn. When the aviary was finished our 6 birds were now 11. Zebra finches kept occupied in their cage. We hung paper strips on the

inside windows with tape (we had read that this would prevent the birds from smacking into the windows). We placed their cages in the room for a week, then opened up the cage doors (using clothes pins to keep them open). We placed the food dishes outside the cages and waited. Slowly each bird left their cage. It took weeks for the societies to build some muscle tone to fly to the highest perch. They never had this type of space. By February the Canaries had built a nest and laid 8 eggs, 6 of which hatched. Now we had 17 birds and guess who had the next clutch? Yup, the zebras. The third year we counted 80 birds in the aviary. Cleaning time each week-end had grown to 4 hours when keeping 80 birds, 2 hours with 40. Cleaning includes squeegeeing the windows, water is freshened 3 times a day, and seed kept in a 5 lb feeder which hangs in the center of the aviary.

Since then we have kept mixed pairs in the flight, no more than a 40 birds at one time, one pair per species. Species kept included Hecks Shaft-tails, chocolate, fawn, and white Societies, normal Button Quail, Coturnix Quail, Blue Capped waxbills, Gold Breasted waxbills, AFA Siskin project birds, red and black headed Gouldians, Java finches, Fire finches, Orange Weavers, Spice finches, Orange Cheeked waxbills, and Diamond doves.

We found that the best floor covering to use is pine shavings changed every 2 months or more depending on the population. Our aviary contains 2 florescent fixtures with special UV bulbs. There is a built-in wall heater with it's own thermostat and hardwired into a separate circuit breaker. Also, there is a circulating fan (usually used for bathrooms) on a timer for hot weather and when it's too dry inside during winter. The light switch is on the wall behind the curtain and and there is one in the aviary by the exit door. An outside thermometer for monitoring the aviary temperature hangs on the aviary wall.

We also have a mini microphone (RadioShack) mounted to the ceiling of the aviary. You can imagine the noise. In the house is a amplified speaker so we can listen to the birds. Also, outlets are around the aviary room (as code required) and are used for plug in night lights. This comes in handy at night with night fright. Both the speaker and night lights really help with this problem. The small inside window to the far left opens to an outside double wired flight, the flight is off the ground on legs. The door to access the room is on the far right hand side. Also, past that door is a safe caged walkway about 8 ft long and 4 ft wide for preventing loss of birds going out when servicing the room.

Only one mistake was made in this structure. When pouring the foundation we didn't place any termite plates, which was a problem, but is resolved now. Note the sink on the left back end. You can hardly see it in this picture. No more running back and forth for fresh water. Of course it's only cold water. Four skylights are in the ceiling Velux which also came with pull shades. Special expanded metal screens were custom made for the windows (the neighborhood cats here weigh in at about 30 lbs. and were perforating the regular screens we had.)

Did you notice my daughter's cat bed is on the chair? Yes, Max sits there most of the day and watches the birds.

Breeding the Mali or Kulikoro Firefinch

By Ian Hinze

(All Rights Reserved)

On 16 July 2000 I received an e-mail message which said "Clive Barlow has found some Mali Firefinches *Lagonosticta virata* in the UK and suggests you would like to breed them. Clive plans to return to Gambia next month and has no way to keep birds in the UK on a long term basis.

A dealer has them, Clive has examined them; we are working on the vocabulary and Clive has an edited tape of their songs and calls which he can let you have. We have tapes of an Indigobird that mimics the calls and songs and would like to get begging calls of the Firefinch chick to compare with those of the male Indigobird."

The message had come from Professor Robert Payne of the University of Michigan, and the 'Clive Barlow' in question was none other than the co-author of *Birds of The Gambia and Senegal*. At the time, I was making sound recordings of nestling Dybowski's Twinspots *Euschistospiza dybowskii* for Prof. Payne, undoubtedly the world's leading authority on Indigobirds and their parasitisation and mimicry of estrildid finches, and we'd become good cyber friends.

Clive Barlow was over in England for a month to visit his mother in Preston, Lancashire, and to take advantage of the numerous species of birds found in dealers' establishments up and down the country by recording

their songs and calls. While visiting one such dealer down in Swindon he happened upon a cageful of African or Blue-billed Firefinches (*Lagonosticta rubricata*) - and was more than a little interested to spot a number of Mali Firefinches amongst them. The male African Firefinch of the race *L. r. polionota* is almost identical to the Mali Firefinch, but the two can be separated beyond any doubt by comparing the outer primaries of the wing. The outermost (second) primary in *L. r. polionota* is emarginated or blade-like while that in *L. virata* is broad. After notifying the proprietor, Mr. Neil Eatwell, Clive was allowed to separate the Mali Firefinches and these were placed in a cage of their own. Altogether, seven individuals were caught up.

Clive related to Neil how rare the species was in captivity and, knowing of my success with a number of waxbill species and the work I'd been doing for Prof. Payne, suggested that I be contacted to prevent them from "disappearing" and in order for serious research to be carried out. Fortunately, I have known the Eatwell family for around 15 years and so Neil needed little persuasion.

So it was that I drove down to Swindon from Manchester and arrived back home with seven of the "rarest" firefinches to be made available to aviculturists, albeit by accident, and a sack full

of tropical finch seed, consisting of very small millet and on which the birds had been feeding. At the time of my acquiring the species there were less than ten skins in the whole of the world's museums - and five of these are at Tring. I knew I couldn't afford to waste such a golden opportunity - an opportunity that may never occur again!

The Mali Firefinch, known also as the Kulikoro Firefinch, is endemic to Mali. Prof. Payne informed me that it is found in the west of the country, 15° N in Mts Mandingues (Kita, Boucle de Baoulé), Bamako, Kulikoro and Fiko near the Bandiagara escarpment. Reports of the African Firefinch (*Lagonosticta rubricata*) in southern Mali may, in fact, be this species and it is also thought it may occur in SE Senegal and N Guinea. In September 2000, when the Mali Firefinch is breeding, Professor Payne did field work in Mali and recorded the day-time temperature at 32°C (90°F) and the night-time temperature at 26°C (80°F). However, the temperature is much hotter in December. The temperature in my birdroom, which is heated by electric tubular heaters, during the day averaged 23°C (74°F) and at night 15°C (60°F).

Description

The Mali Firefinch is monotypic and derives its generic name from the Greek *lagon*, *lagonos*, meaning the flanks; and its specific name from the Latin *virata*,

meaning manly or spirited. It is around 10 cm (4 in) in length and the sexes differ slightly: the crown is brownish grey, the back and wings are grey brown, the outer primaries are broad and not emarginated, the rump is deep



(Editor's Note) At the deadline for this Journal issue, Mr. Hinze' pictures were at another magazine and could not be retrieved in time for publication here. We wanted to illustrate the markings of the Mali for you, but it looked like we might be unable to do so. NFSS Member Bruce Shillinglaw to the rescue!! Bruce drew this lovely picture of the Mali so you all could have a visual to go along with Mr. Hinze' description. My only regret is that this will appear in Black & White so you will not be able to see the beautiful colors! Please join me in thanking Bruce for this outstanding effort on our behalf!

scarlet and the tail is black with the outer margins of the feathers red. The lores are scarlet, the cheeks and underparts from the throat to the belly are (in the male) deep strawberry red and

(in the female) pinkish red, the sides of the breast and upper flanks have some very small dull white spots, the centre of the belly is grey, the lower belly and under tail coverts are black, and the thighs are dark grey. The upper mandible is blackish and most of the lower mandible is light blue. The eyes are dark brown and the eye-ring is pink, but at times the eye-ring may also appear yellow (pers. obs). The legs and feet are bluish grey.

The juvenile is grey with, compared to the adults, duller red on the rump and tail. Nestlings of 1-2 days old have dark grey to black skin, a little whitish down on the crown of the head, a black bill and greyish-white gape flanges. The mouth markings consist of 5 black lines on a slightly pink and greyish palate.

In the field the Mali Firefinch appears as a very small red and dark greyish bird. It can be distinguished from the Red-billed Firefinch *L. senegala*, the only sympatric firefinch, through both *senegala* sexes having red bills and the *senegala* female and juveniles having predominantly light brown plumage.

Status

Prof. Payne found *L. virata* to be the most common species in the area in which he was conducting studies, which was a scrubby patch of about 40 square miles. Because of the difficulty in getting around in other places one cannot say for sure how many other sites were as good or what the global population size is. In the study area it is estimated there were around 40 pairs per

square mile, and because comparable habitat is widespread Prof. Payne believes there could be at least 100,000 individuals of this species in Mali. It is also suspected that, based on satellite photographs that show habitat and topography, a comparably large number may also be found in eastern Senegal.

The species is not considered to be endangered or threatened, due to its occurring over a wide area and being common within that area. Around 100 individuals were also spotted at two bird dealers in Africa, and Clive Barlow had managed to acquire about 50 from another dealer in Senegal only 12 months earlier and took them back to his home in The Gambia. Both sites apparently export a lot, but the birds are mislabeled "*L. rubricata*". To compound matters, Senegal actually exports the real *L. rubricata*.

Voice

Derek Goodwin, in his monumental work *Estrildid finches of the world*, published in 1982, reports that the alarm call is a rattling trill, like that of the Jameson's Firefinch *L. rhodopareia*, but louder, deeper-pitched and harsher, and sometimes with a suggestion of a 'ch' sound 'welling up' in the middle of a trill, i.e. *chrrrrrrrr*, *choorrrrrr*, *choorrrr*, (ch)rrrrrr(ch)rrrr-rrrr and variants. Harrison (in Goodwin 1982) noted that the pitch in his males became higher with the intensity of the calling. Burkard (in Goodwin 1982) described the alarm call of his pair as a sparrow-like *tshek* repeated at short intervals.

The contact calls of both sexes are subject to much minor variation, such as *kyew*, *kyah*, *kew*, *ztew* (personal observations) and can be low-pitched, nasal, slightly harsh and harsh. One of Goodwin's captive females uttered a long, plaintive *feeeeeeeeeeeeeee* and, less frequently, a two-syllabled *feeee-eeeee* as distance contact calls, both of which I have heard uttered from my own females, as well as just a short *feeee* in reply to the call of a solitary male, and which were very similar to the homologous calls of the female Dark Firefinch *L. rubricata*. Harrison described the nest call of the male as a faint, persistent, clucking note. Goodwin also heard a soft *chew* or *teu* that resembled that of a male Jameson's Firefinch he had observed and which was uttered in similar threat or defiance contexts.

Harrison reports two differing songs from two different males - one 'a long drawn toneless trill' and the other a melodious, high-pitched song of short, loud phrases that were frequently repeated. A transliteration of the song of my own males given on occasion would be a fast *pertipper-tipper-tipper-tip-teeu-teeu-teeu-teeu* or similar. The song appears only to be given with any regularity when the male is on its own. Paired-up males very rarely sing.

A male in the company of a female gave a long *tchrrrrrrr* call, which was answered with a short *tchrrr* from a solitary male. On other occasions a solitary male emitted more melodious *pseup-*

pseup-pseup calls.

Habitat, general behaviour and feeding

It is found in rocky sandstone areas with bushes, scrub and grass, and in most habits it is reported to be very similar to other firefinches, particularly Jameson's and the African Firefinch to which it is closely related. Clive Barlow informed me that it feeds on grass seeds and most likely small insects, especially termites. My captive birds also love to chew growing grass and the leaves of plants.

Courtship display

The majority of times I observed the courtship display it started with the male flying up to a perch with a piece of dried grass or coconut fibre in his bill, carried by one end. The male would then stretch his body almost upright and begin to bob up and down. I never once heard him sing during this display, after which he would jump to the ground and repeat the process there under cover. The female, if receptive, would squat down and vibrate her tail. Copulation would then take place. Less frequently, I have also observed copulation, which I have timed at taking 16-20 seconds, take place on a perch and, more recently, once on the edge of a water dish. In the main, however, no display at all is given prior to copulation. The male merely follows the female around uttering a regular soft *tu-tu-tu-tu-tu* call. The female, after allowing a short "chase", generally squats down and copulation immediately follows.

On one occasion a female performed the courtship display to the male, complete with nesting symbol in bill, but without copulation following.

Nesting and captive observations

There is no information on the wild nest. My successful breeding pair used an old nest which had been constructed by a male Black-faced or Vinaceous Firefinch (*L. larvata vinacea*) out of hay and coconut fibres. It was a small globular affair with a side entrance, which I placed on top of the base of an old Dybowski's twinspace (*Euschistospiza dybowski*) nest that had been built in a Boston fern. I placed the Boston fern, complete with Dybowski's nest, in the Mali firefinches' cage before adding the old Vinaceous firefinch nest. The male Mali firefinch merely lined this with short pieces of torn newspaper, which it had obtained by tearing off strips from that lining the cage floor, and any odd feathers it could find.

The female laid one egg on consecutive days until the clutch, which numbered 3, was complete (it is believed clutches usually number 3-4 in the wild). The female didn't start to incubate until the last egg was laid, whereupon male and female shared the responsibility for 10-11 days (it is believed incubation averages 11-13 days in the wild), whereafter two nestlings hatched. These were brooded by both parents but, sadly, six days after hatching one of the nestlings was found

dead on the cage floor.

During the brooding of the remaining nestling the parents copulated daily and the female proceeded to lay a further four eggs, her second clutch, alongside the nestling. After fearing for the health of the nestling, offering up regular prayers to Jehovah and with more than a week of sleepless nights, on entering my birdroom for the second time on



Fledgling Mali or Kulikoro Firefinch (Hen).
This is the first Mali bred in Great Britain and was accomplished in Mr. Hinze's birdroom.

the morning of Tuesday, 14 November, I was overjoyed to find a tiny grey-looking fledgling sitting contentedly on the cage floor. It was 19-20 days old.

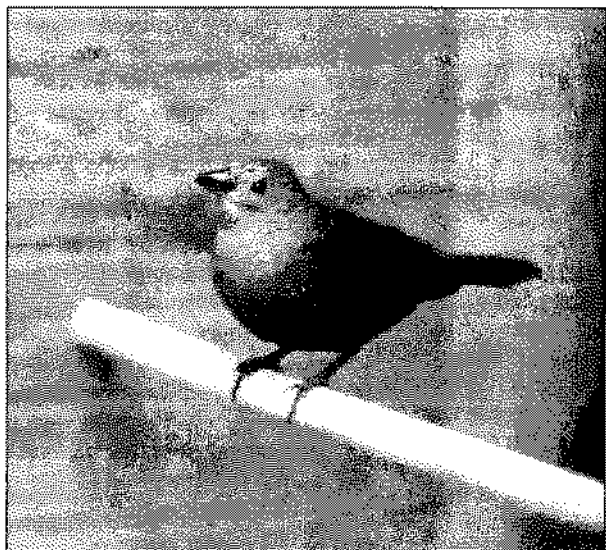
All my own-designed wooden cages are approximately 4 feet long x 2 feet square. Instead of a solid roof, however, I use an all-wire one. The reason for this is to enable me to place 3 feet long bird lamps, which are specially designed full spectrum fluorescent, over each cage to guarantee a minimum of 15 hours

natural" sunlight per day. Under this lighting the natural colours of birds are enhanced, and in the case of the fledgling Mali Firefinch its all grey plumage actually contained a very slight suffusion of earth brown or rusty red. The base of the stubby tail was a

middle. In the corner of the mouth there was also a small rusty brown tubercle.

At 25-26 days of age the youngster was getting about the cage with ease and starting to pick up seeds primarily from the cage-floor, although its father

also continued to feed it. Since the day of its fledging I never once saw the female feed her youngster (though she did feed further young), rather she was more concerned over laying a second clutch. Indeed, on one occasion the fledgling accidentally landed on her back while she was perching and was promptly, but gently, scolded.



Juvenile Mali or Kulikoro Firefinch (Hen)

This is the same bird pictured as a fledgling on the previous page.

clearly noticeable rusty red, with the remainder being grey. The legs and feet were grey, the bill black and there was a tuft of greyish-white down still remaining on the crown, which was otherwise covered in tiny pin feathers.

The gape marks were creamy white with four papillae, two on each side with one on the top and one on the bottom. They are not directly in line, i.e. one on top of the other, but at more of a 45° angle to each other, the bottom one being more forward than the top. The papillae looked strobe blue with a tiny white dot in the

This brought about an immediate response from the male who appeared to pacify his mate with some gentle calls and short bill-fencing. He also tightened his feathers, went into a crouched posture and fanned his tail. The following day it became obvious by his occasional stern reluctance to feed the youngster that he was encouraging it to start to fend more for itself.

The Mali Firefinch is extremely rare in UK aviculture, although it has probably been imported occasionally in mixed consignments

of West African firefinches, particularly those containing the African Firefinch as mine were, and gone unrecognized. Unwittingly, a number of keepers have likely had no success in breeding their "African Firefinches" because they've paired a female *L. virata* with a female *L. rubricata*, or a male *L. virata* with a female *L. rubricata*.

My birds fed their youngster on whiteworm, defrosted bloodworm offered in shallow water and soaked seed, which consisted of the tropical seed mentioned earlier and larger mixed millets and canary seed. I have never known any other waxbill to take so much soaked seed. I also provided crushed oystershell, limestone and crushed baked poultry eggshells to assist digestion. This "grit" mixture was avidly taken by the female, especially, no doubt for the calcium it contains for her own egg-shell production.

To further enhance the health and condition of the birds, and particularly for the benefit of the laying female, I added multivitamins to the drinking water every day, as well as a calcium supplement and a probiotic. Nesting birds are particularly prone to mites and to combat this I sprayed the entire cage and nest prior to the birds breeding with an anti mite and flea spray. As well as eradicating fleas and mites, the preparation destroys their eggs as well and offers protection for up to seven months! I have to say I am completely satisfied with all the products used and feel they made a definite contribution

to my success.

It is too early to say whether or not the Mali Firefinch has tremendous domestication possibilities, but I certainly found it eager to start breeding. Housing more than one pair or putting two males together is definitely not recommended. Males will viciously attack and undoubtedly kill other males (I rescued one, who was left almost scalped and motionless, in the nick of time) and I observed a paired-up female attack a single male. From these experiences I would also strongly advise against housing this species with other small red coloured birds, and in particular other species of firefinch, especially at breeding time.

Since the success of my first breeding of the Mali Firefinch (*Lagonosticta virata*) both pairs have produced more young making a total of seven in 2000 and five in 2001.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank first and foremost my wife, Claire, and our four children, Jody, Stephanie, Karl and Dominic, for their priceless patience and understanding while I virtually lived with the Mali Firefinches throughout their breeding; also, Derek Goodwin and Robin Restall for their wonderful friendship, support and encouragement; and Prof. Robert Payne and Clive Barlow for not only their friendship, but also their having the faith in my abilities as an aviculturist to present me with this wonderfully unique opportunity.

News from NFSS 4th Vice President

NFSS Judges Panel Director Martha Wigmore

Resignations of Two NFSS Panel Judges

Sadly, NFSS has accepted the resignations since the last issue of The NFSS Journal of two of our NFSS Panel Judges - **Mr. Clayton Jones** of Soquel, California, and **Mr. Tom Rood** of Shelbyville, Illinois.

Clayton Jones was voted to the NFSS Judges Panel in March 1988 and in the 14 years since has judged finches and softbills at NFSS shows across the country. Clayton writes, "With regret, due to a family illness I must resign my position as an NFSS Panel Judge. It has been a great privilege and experience. I wish all my friends and fellow panel members the best of luck." We thank Clayton for his many years of service to NFSS!

Tom Rood was admitted to the NFSS Judges Panel in November 1992 and enjoyed busy judging seasons across the country every year since. Tom was invited to judge the Great American Bird Show in Wisconsin in 2000 and was our judge at the National Cage Bird Show in Denver, Colorado in 1997 where Tom had the dubious distinction of setting the record for most gag cages presented for judging at a National!!! Ah, pay-backs.... But recently Tom made the decision to part with all of his personal bird stock. And per Tom, "Not being actively involved with

the breeding and exhibiting of the birds. I do not feel I should remain on the judges' panel. Martha, you know I've always thought a judge should be actively involved and keep abreast of the birds and the hobby. I know we've had those discussions in the past. So, I must keep to my principles and feel I must remove myself from the panel. I must say, being an NFSS judge has been one of the best highlights of my involvement in the finch hobby. It's given me the opportunity to travel places I normally wouldn't get to go and meet people I wouldn't have been able to meet. I did enjoy the judging more than the breeding and showing. I know I will miss it." And how we will miss Tom!

On behalf of NFSS, thank you, Clayton and Tom, for all you have done for NFSS and our hobby! We'll stay in touch!!!

Our Sorrow at a Member's Passing...

Those of us who have had the privilege on the show circuit to meet Rose and **Rich Dickman** are saddened to hear of Rich's passing in April after a difficult struggle with illness this past year. For years and years the quality of the Dickman's birds graced many show benches and raised our standards through their exhibits of excellence. Among other birds, we recall the most exquisite and typey

Gouldians and Society Finches from the Dickmans. Recently Rich was awarded recognition for the Best Society Finch in Show at the All Zebra and Society Finch Show in Kansas City in 2000. a triumph Rich accomplished with his customary quiet grace. A very special hobbyist we had the pleasure to share too little time with. NFSS sends our love to Rich's lovely family and friends in the St. Louis area. Thank you, Rich.

Something For Everyone - Join Us at This Year's Shows!

Show and club affiliation information is always being updated, but as of one point in time in early April you have over 35 opportunities this year to gather with fellow finch and soffbill fanciers at bird shows. There are shows scheduled in every NFSS region and more being planned even as we write! In Region 1(Northeast) there are 6 scheduled shows, in Region 2 (Southeast) there are 11 shows, in Region 3 (Mid-Central) there are 8 shows, in Region 4 (Mid-West) there are 4 shows, in Region 5 (Mountain) there is one show scheduled, in Region 6 (Pacific Coast) there are 2 shows at present, in Region 7 (Caribbean) there are 2 shows, and in Region 8 (Canada) there is already one show planned with an NFSS-qualified judge evaluating your finches and soft-bills! There are 3 shows in the first half of the year, 9 more through September, 13 planned for October, 9 in November and 1 so far for December. There is something for

everyone!! And stay tuned - word is still coming in from clubs across the country about more NFSS shows being planned. We'll see you - and your birds - there!!

Pairs Standard Recognition

In this issue, the minutes of the of the 4th Quarter 2001 NFSS Board of Directors meeting are published. Some very important exhibition changes were approved by the Board at that meeting, including the adoption of a first-time ever NFSS Pairs Standard. The Pairs Standard is a very special accomplishment and worthy of a few remarks. Since NFSS' inception, NFSS judges and members have held various opinions on how Pairs exhibits should best be judged. Long-time readers of The NFSS Journal will recall numerous articles in the mid-1990's on the subject. Because there was strong support for several different approaches to judging Pairs, the preparation of an NFSS Pairs Standard was perceived as somewhat of a challenge and had not been tackled. But consistency of judging is vital to providing objective and educational evaluations of our birds - and the time arrived for an NFSS Pairs Standard!

Because of the varying opinions on Pairs Exhibition, the way in which our Standard was developed is perhaps as significant as the Standard itself. Throughout the summer of 2001 Pairs Standard Committee members **Steve Hoppin**, **Sally Huntington**, **Dale Laird**,

Armando Lee, Bill Parlee, Tom Rood, and myself as chairman, along with four other contributing judges. **Charles Anchor, Clarence Culwell, Conrad Meinert** and **Patrick Vance,** shared their thoughts on exhibiting pairs with the entire Judges Panel. The opinions expressed were well-considered and valuable, providing the Judges Panel an overview of differing approaches to exhibiting pairs. Among our contributors there was a blend of experience on the NFSS Panel - from just a few years all the way up to NFSS' inception (and beyond), a good mix geographically, and a range of viewpoints.

In September 2001 the 29 members of the NFSS Judges Panel were asked to select from 2 Pairs Standard choices which reflected the major viewpoints presented - one in which the pairs would be required to be matched in all ways (the final approved standard), or one in which the pairs would be matched but with one exception - no matched erected pairs would be exhibited. A third approach to pairs exhibiting was considered - the "breeding pairs" point of view. As presented by 3 judges in our discussions this past summer, "breeding pairs" were defined as (1) cock and hen, and (2) combinations of birds which are "safe" to breed. But after considering the idea of exhibiting "breeding pairs".

we agreed that the list of "unsafe breeding combinations" that we would have to disqualify from the judging bench would, as Sally said simply, be too long and flawed.

The response from our Judges Panel was strong indeed with 20 members of our Judges Panel submitting votes, of which slightly over a majority, 12 votes, were for completely matched pairs. The voting results reflected remarkably well the balance of opinions we've heard over the years. The results of the Committee's work and Judges Panel vote was submitted to and approved by the NFSS Board last fall, and the NFSS Pairs Standard became official.

From our work this summer, NFSS can feel confident that the resulting proposed NFSS Pairs Standard will be a powerful tool in the critical evaluation of our finches and soft-bills - in our birdrooms, in the marketplace, or at the show. I am grateful for the tremendous participation of our Panel Judges in this discussion this past summer and for the opportunity to work with them. They are outstanding!

Regards.

Martha Wigmore

4th Quarter, 2001 NFSS Board Meeting

The following are the results of the 4th Quarter Board Meeting:

Tabled

The following two items were either a motion or a discussion item during the 4th quarter Board meeting and were tabled for future review:

- a. The inclusion of an internet membership.
- b. The elimination of the bulk mailing of bulletins and the raise of membership fees to cover the cost. (More information at the end of this report.)

Vote Results

The following items are presented for vote:

1. Shall NFSS create a class for the Timor Zebra within Section Four, the Indo-Pacific Finches Section under the group heading, "Finches of India"?
Passed (Yes 10; No 1; Abstain 1; Did Not vote 4)
2. Shall the group heading be changed from "Finches of India" to "Finches of India and Indonesia"?
Passed (Yes 10; No 2; Abstain 0; Did Not Vote 4)
3. Compromised Bird during NFSS Exhibition
 - a. If/when a judge decides a bird's health is compromised, the correct procedure is to direct the steward to remove the cage from the show area, contact the owner or owner's representative, or other responsible person to address the bird's compromise.
 - b. At no time is the presiding judge to open a show cage during his/her judging.
 - c. At this time, it is the judges' discretion to either wait for the problem to be resolved, return the bird to either class, section, or top bench, and continue judging or to eliminate the bird from the day's competition.

Shall the "Compromised Bird During NFSS Exhibition" become standard procedure for NFSS Panel Judges and Show Officials? Passed (Yes 10; No 1; Abstain 1; Did Not Vote 4)

4. Shall the 2002 calendar year budget be accepted for the National Finch & Softbill Society?
Passed (Yes 11; No 0; Abstain 1; Did Not Vote 4)

Reports4th Vice President

Office of the NFSS Fourth Vice President, Fourth Quarter 2001 Report
Judges Panel Chairman, Standards, Points Manager, and Research, Steve Hoppin

Timor Zebra Finch Classification Committee

The Timor Zebra Finch Classification Committee including NFSS Panel Judges Julie Duimstra-Chair, Paul Williams and Cecil Gunby, have been working on a proposal for proper entry of the Timor Zebra within the NFSS Classifications. The committee's final proposal was received by this office and submitted to the NFSS Board for review, consideration, and vote.

The Bird Safety Committee

In February, 2001, NFSS Judges Panel Director, Steve Hoppin, formed the Bird Safety Committee to review and recommend procedure for show officials encountering a compromised finch or softbill entered in the NFSS Division. The initial committee consisted of Sally Huntington-Chair, and Dale Laird. Ms. Julie Duimstra was invited to participate by committee chair. The committee recommendation was received by this office and submitted to the NFSS Board for review, consideration, and vote.

NFSS Pairs Standard Committee

The NFSS Pairs Standard Committee concluded its work this summer with the submission to the NFSS Board of Directors the proposed NFSS Pairs Standard. The NFSS Pairs Standard met the Board's approval and is now considered official. NFSS can feel confident that the resulting Official NFSS Pairs Standard will be a powerful tool in the critical evaluation of our finches and softbills-in our birdrooms, in the marketplace, or at the show. Many thanks to Martha Wigmore, NFSS Panel Judge, for a fine job as Committee Chair and to the NFSS Panel Judges that participated in

this important project. May I present you...

"The NFSS Official Pairs Standard"

An ideal exhibition pair is a true pair and as closely matched as possible. A true pair will be a cock and a hen of the same species or sub-species, although it is recognized that in species that are not dimorphic, the distinction between the sexes may not be readily evident while the pair is being judged. It will be the Judge's discretion as to the assigning pair status, but pair status will not be withheld with prejudice. Each bird of the exhibition pair will be judged according to the NFSS Standard, and ideally the pair will be closely matched except for gender differences, in conformation, condition, color, and markings. Both birds will be of the same mutation, ie same color mutation, both crested, or both non-crested, etc. In terms of deportment, the ideal pair will show similar and complementary demeanor in the show cage, both birds confident, alert, and displaying characteristic pair behavior.

NFSS Panel Judge Recommendations for 2002

National Cage bird Show, Santa Clara, CA: The NFSS Board has selected Mr. Cecil Gunby of Georgia, Mr. Dale Laird of Florida, and Mr. Armando Lee for judging consideration for the 2002 NCBS in Santa Clara, CA. These NFSS Panel Judges will be the Official NFSS Panel Judge Nominations presented to the NCBS Board at the General Meeting in Manchester, NH, 11/17/01.

NFSS apprentice Judge Program

This office is pleased to announce NFSS Apprentice Judge, Mrs. Jerri Wiesenfeld of Jacksonville, FL has passed the NFSS Apprentice Test and successfully completed her first apprenticeship under NFSS Panel Judge, Mr. Dale Laird. Jerri is a breeder and exhibitor of fine quality Java Rice Finches, English Zebras, Society Finches and other exotic finches. She brings to the NFSS Apprentice program much enthusiasm and looks forward to sharing her experience and knowledge with other interested parties.

NFSS Panel Judge Retiring

On a sad note, Mr. William Parlee, NFSS Panel Judge and founder of NFSS, will be retiring his judgeship with both NFSS and SPBE effective 12/31/01. "during my career, I have judged over 100 shows, traveled extensively, met many people, and made many friends. I've judged the US and Canadian Nationals. Thinking back, I've even judged cockatiel and canary divisions. I don't take this decision lightly and make it with great anguish. I will miss my many friends and the camaraderie of all the other judges. I still love birds and finches in particular. I raise dozens of parrots every year in my store, but I just don't think it is appropriate for a judge to judge birds who has become so detached from exhibiting and breeding the birds he is judging.

Bill will be dearly missed by his many friends in the hobby, including myself. His resignation was very hard for this office to accept, however, we must respect his desire and wish him only the very best in his future endeavors.

NFSS Judges Panel Director/NFSS Board Member Retiring

After having served ten years on the NFSS Board of Directors, my last term of office on the NFSS Board comes to a close 12/31/01. During my tenure, I served the NFSS membership as SE Regional Vice President, President, and Judges Panel Chairman. I have had the opportunity to develop many good friendships with NFSS members through my elected offices held with NFSS. Due to personal reasons, I have drastically reduced my breeding stock consisting of multi-generation, parent reared, and closed banded domestic finches. Regardless of the numbers of birds being kept and bred, I plan to continue an active role as an NFSS Panel Judge. Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm in the hobby.

Respectfully Submitted - Steve Hoppin

Band Secretary

To date, we have filled 285 band orders. We have ordered the 2002 bands and have already received the plastic open bands the board approved. Harry is working on adding the plastic bands to the website and the info has been sent to Steve to add to the bulletin. We may want to place an announcement in the bulletin that we now offer open plastic bands.

Carol Heesen

Treasurer's Report - NFSS 2001 Budget (by Dept.) Projected Actual to Projected 2001-10/14/01

	2001 Budget	Actual 10/14/01	Projected 2002
<u>Judges Panel-4th VP</u>			
Income	\$270.00	\$260.00	\$270.00
Expenses	\$150.00	None	\$50.00
<u>Membership</u>			
Income	\$11,000.00	\$11,350.00	\$11,500.00
Expenses	\$650.00	\$556.00	\$700.00
<u>Bulletin</u>			
Ad Income	\$143.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
Printing Exp.	\$10,400.00	\$7,220.00	\$10,000.00
Postage Exp.	\$1,600.00	\$1,160.00	\$1,400.00
Editor's Fee	\$1200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
Supplies Exp.		\$59.00	\$75.00
<u>Treasurer</u>			
Interest Income	\$100.00	\$109.00	\$120.00
CA Sales Tax		\$61.00	\$100.00
Bank Fees	\$20.00		\$20.00
Tax Prep			?
Treasurer Exp.	\$75.00		\$75.00
Paypal Fees		\$68.00	\$150.00
<u>Band Sales</u>			
Band Sales Inc.	\$7,085.00	\$5,835.00	\$6,500.00
Band Purchase	\$4,650.00		\$4,000.00
Band Supplies	\$220.00	\$348.00	\$450.00
<u>Affiliation/Awards</u>			
Affil. Income	\$1,275.00	\$1,189.00	\$1,900.00
Awards Income	\$2,400.00	\$1,331.00	\$1,500.00
Awards Purch.	\$2,200.00	\$1,404.00	\$1,500.00
Regional Exp.	\$400.00	\$89.00	\$200.00
<u>FinchShop</u>			
Sales Income	\$1,000.00	\$75.00	\$1,000.00
Purchase Prods.	\$500.00	\$261.00	\$500.00
Regular Exp.	\$200.00	\$107.00	\$200.00
<u>Website</u>			
Expenses			
<u>1st V.P.</u>			
Income/Raffle	\$700.00	\$430.00	\$500.00
Expenses			
<u>Executive Secretary</u>			
Expenses	\$100.00		\$100.00
<u>President</u>			
AFA Affiliation	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
AFA Travel	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Nat'l Travel	\$400.00		\$400.00
Expenses	\$100.00		\$100.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
NCBS Income	\$1,500.00		
NCBS Donat.		\$70.00	
Adv. Expense	\$350.00	\$75.00	\$350.00
Champ. Bird	\$50.00		\$50.00
Show Ads	\$125.00		\$125.00
Judges Fees	\$800.00		\$800.00
<u>Total Income</u>	\$25,730.00	\$22,168.00	\$23,490.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$24,915.00	\$12,933.00	\$23,270.00
<u>Net Gain</u>	\$815.00		\$220.00

Please find listed below a final Treasurer's report for 2001. This report was overlooked in all of the craziness of transition from last year's board to this year's. Although quarterly reports are filed and published, they do not match the actual calendar quarters, so that they may be reviewed, approved, and forwarded in time to include in the Bulletin. The following report will allow all of us to know where we stood at the actual end of the year and give us a fresh starting point for all Treasurer's reports to follow. The numbers in parentheses are the corresponding budget numbers for comparison.

FINAL ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF 12/31/01

Bank Accounts

Savings	\$10,295.22
Checking	\$1,484.62
New Ckg.	\$500.00 (for new Treas.)
Total:	\$12,279.84
Advances:	\$448.32
<u>Total Cash:</u>	\$12,728.16

Income

Membership	\$13,391.00 (11,000.00)
Affil/Awards	\$3,680.00 (3,675.00)
Bands	\$7,428.28 (7,085.00)
FinchShop	\$821.30 (1,000.00)
Advertising	\$153.50 (400.00)
Judges Fees	\$260.00 (270.00)
Raffle/Auct	\$1,657.00 (2,200.00)
Donations	\$70.00
Interest	\$212.98 (\$100.00)
<u>Total:</u>	\$27,674.06 (\$25,730.00)

Expenses

Bands	\$4,269.85 (4,870.00)
FinchShop	\$508.64 (700.00)
Affil/Awds	\$1,893.74 (2,600.00)
Fixed Chgs	\$1,200.00 (1,200.00)
Purch Svcs	\$8,720.04 (10,400.00)
Travel	\$1,500.00 (800.00)
Supplies	\$427.42
Bulletin Pstg	\$1,278.38 (1,600.00)
Gen Exp	\$1,372.16 (2,745.00)
Bad Debt	0
CA Sales Tx	\$61.00
<u>Total:</u>	\$21,231.23 (24,915.00)

Net Gain: \$ 6,442.83

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Phelps
NFSS Treasurer

Memberships

Single Memberships 524; Dual Memberships 65; Total Memberships 589

Eileen Laird

Item (B) - Tabled for further review

Bulk Mail from Steve Poe - The elimination of the bulk mailing of bulletins and the raise of membership fees to cover the cost. (Please include Steve Poe in all discussion concerning the Bulk Mail issue.)

I am wondering what you think about this idea. No more bulk mail. Start phasing it out and when it gets low enough, bite the bullet and dump it. (Not sure what "low enough" is, but I could check with the Post Office.) The difference in cost to members is only \$5 a year. The difference in our cost is \$.60 an issue, or \$3.60 a year. We would actually make about \$1.40 extra per member per year. These are negligible costs in anyone's eyes and would eliminate a whole lot of headaches and possibly membership cancellations due to not getting their bulletin.

Current Membership Cost=\$25 Basic Club Affiliation cost=\$25 First class Mailing on either=\$30.

Using July 2001 figures as a typical mailing, we mailed 435 bulk and 136 1st class. This is roughly average, at least good enough as a ballpark figure. Cost to NFSS was \$73.95 for bulk and \$108.80 for first class, a total of \$182.75. Multiply that times the six mailings a year, the total cost for mailing would be \$1096.50. Had we mailed everything first class, the total cost would have been \$456.80 per issue or \$2,740.80 for the year. Annual cost would be higher by (\$2,740.80-\$1,096.50) \$1,644.30.

Currently the 435 members receiving bulk mail generated \$10,874 for the year. By eliminating the bulk mail option, those same members would now generate \$13,050, an increase of \$2,175, which will cover the previously mentioned cost increase of \$1,644.30 with a remainder of \$530.70, annually. Of course, the more members, the larger that number would be, since it is equivalent to \$1.22 per member per year. Add in the annual cost of the bulk mail permit (\$125) and the annual benefit climbs further.

The 136 members that are already first class, would generate the same amount of money that they do now, so there would be no change in revenues or expenditures for that segment.

Expected Benefits to NFSS:

\$530+ a year in increased revenues after increased expenditures.

\$125 annual cost of bulk mail permit converted to revenue.

\$100 cost every time bulk mail permit is moved (change of editors).

Additional savings due to not having to re-send bulletins first class that were lost in bulk mail.

Estimated cost of this is <\$5 per issue currently.

Fewer complaints about late or not received bulletins.

Fewer members fail to renew membership because of not receiving their bulletin.

Downside: Possible some members would not renew if prices raised.

The **ESTRILDIAN**

The **ESTRILDIAN** is produced for the purpose of relating the most up to date information on all species belonging to the family Estrildidae both in the wild and in captivity. Within its 124 species are all of the *Waxbills*, *Parrot Finches*, *Mammikins* and *Australian finches*. The aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the **ESTRILDIAN** brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world. The magazine is sent to 13 different countries ranging from Australia to Puerto Rico and has many leading Zoo's, Aviculturists and Researchers as both members and contributors. With well over 100 members in the USA, we have now been able to reduce our overseas subscription rates.

12 months subscription is £15 Sterling; USA \$30 personal check accepted

ESTRILDID FORUM

10, Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, County Durham, DH6 3JT

ENGLAND

NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers 2002/2003

President— Ms. Sally Huntington
5634 Carnegie Street, San Diego, CA 92122
(858) 452-9423 sallych@san.rr.com

1st Vice President

Regional V.P.'s

Mr. Armando J. Lee
P.O. Box 123883
Miami, FL 33283
(305) 270-1000
Ajee@bellsouth.net

2nd Vice President

Publications

Mr. Harry Bryant
Elyria, OH 44035
Utuweb@aol.com

3rd Vice President

NFSS Finch Softbill Save program: Census Mgr.

Ms. Kerri McCoy
4780 Settles Point Road
Suwanee, GA 30024
Phone: (678) 546-3353
Fax: (678) 546-3352
Kerrimccoy@charter.net

4th Vice President

Judges Panel Standards Research

Ms. Martha Wigmore
18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(763) 241-0071
Newdwwig@mindspring.com

Membership Director

Ms. Martie Lauster
4581 Lincoln Road
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 524-7768
Mlauster@rochester.rr.com

Executive Secretary

Pro-Tem

Mr. Patrick Vance
18175 Arvilla
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
(248) 443-0643
Spartanfinchman@cs.com

Treasurer

Mr. Mark Phelps
P.O. Box 1231
Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: (815) 729-9789
Softbilboy@aol.com

Liaison Officer

Club Delegates Show Dates

Ms. Ginny Allen
307 Brookwood Court
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-7168
Gndallen@earthlink.net

Band Secretary

Ms. Carol Heesen
Carol@birds2grow.com

President Emeritus

Mr. William Parlee
631 Talcottville Rd. Apt. 4N
Vernon, CT 06066
(860) 569-0200
Billhtfdct@aol.com

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NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers

2002/2003

Regional Vice Presidents

Region 1 *Northeast*

CT, DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ,
NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

Mr. James Felix

1616 McElhinny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
(412) 462-0969
Justuff@worldnet.att.net

Region 2 *Southeast*

AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN

Mr. Ron Castaner

13396 58th Court North
Royal Palm Beach, FL
33411
(561) 792-6794
Finches@bellsouth.net

Region 3 *Abil-Central*

AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MO, OH,
WI, Australia, Bermuda, England

Ms. Darla Dandre

P.O. Box 1231
Lisle, IL 60532
(630) 671-1143
Dbirdbranch@aol.com

Region 4 *Abilwest*

IA, KS, MN, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX

Mr. Harold McBrayer

P.O. Box 1051
League City, TX 77573
(281) 338-2814
Ulmspatz@hotmail.com

Region 5 *Mountain*

AZ, CO, ID, ME, NY, NM, UT, WY

Ms. Anna Sinclair

2430 San Marcos
Colorado Spgs, CO 80910
(719) 634-6404
Bill&annasinclair@citystar.com

Region 6 *Pacific Coast*

AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

Mr. Vince Huntington

5634 Carnegie Street
San Diego, CA 92122
(858) 452-9423
Vhunting@san.rr.com

Region 7 *Caribbean - Puerto*

Rico Caribbean Basin

Mr. Julio Mateo Soto

RR5, Box 8418, Suite 72
Bayamon, PR 00946

Region 8 *Canada*

Pro-Tem

Mr. Vince Moase

1078 Roundelay Court
Oshawa, Ontario L1J 7R7
CANADA
(905) 723-1978
Vmoase@rogers.com

Appointed Officers

FinchShop Manager

Pro-Tem

Ms. Ginny Allen

307 Brookwood Court
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-7168
Gndallen@earthlink.net

NFSS Editor

Ms. Martie Lauster

4581 Lincoln Road
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 524-7768
Mlauster@rochester.rr.com

NFSS Website Mgr.

Mr. Harry Bryant

Elyria, OH 44035-8544
Utuweb@aol.com
Web Site Address:
www.nfss.org

Awards Manager

Ms. Darla Dandre

P.O. Box 1231
Lisle, IL 60532
(815) 729-9789
Dbirdbranch@aol.com

Advertising & Promo.

Pro-Tem

Ms. Martie Lauster

4581 Lincoln Road
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 524-7768
Mlauster@rochester.rr.com

Moderator, NFSS

Finch/Softbill Forum

Mr. John Wilson

San Francisco, CA 94110
Jwilson153@aol.com
Forum Address:
http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/NFSS

NFSS Panel of Judges 2002

Nizam Ali

135-11 114th Street
South Ozone Park, NY 11420
VF1135@aol.com

Charles Anchor

12384 Laurel Lane
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-1090

Laura Bewley

3538 S. 65 W. Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74107
918-446-3999
lbewley@yahoo.com

Harold Bowles

230 College Circle
Cedartown, GA 30125
Phone: 770-748-4627
Fax: 770-748-3969

Jacky Civitarese

1930 Church Road
Baltimore, MD 21222
410-282-4754
Lix4me@aol.com

Clarence Culwell

250 Horseshoe Drive
Springtown, TX 76082
817-220-5568
culwell5@flash.net

Dr. Al Decoteau

P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
Phone: 603-672-4568
Fax: 603-672-3120
spbx1@aol.com

Daren Decoteau

89 Pleasantview Avenue
Stratford, CT 06497
203-377-2049
CDD13CO@aol.com

Julie Duimstra

4201 NE 125th Pl #163
Portland, OR 97230
503-261-8788
julie.duimstra@gte.net

Cecil Gunby

8121 Route 1, Hwy. 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
Phone/Fax: 770-254-1261

Stephen Hoppin

3836 Hidden Acres Circle
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903
Phone: 941-997-2237
Fax: 941-997-NFSS
n2finchs@peganet.com

Annette Howard

P.O. Box 404
Salem, OH 44460
330-337-7654
sale_ah@ACCFSS-k12.org

Sally Huntington

8950 Villa La Jolla Drive
Suite 1241
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-452-9423
sallych@san.rr.com

Hal M. Koontz

2604 Auburn Ct.
Bakersfield, CA 93306
Phone: 805-872-1063
Fax: 805-634-1147

Joseph Krader

2910 Alps Road
Corona, CA 92881
909-272-6525

Dale Laird

P.O. Box 2459
Goldenrod, FL 32733
407-657-7989
dalel2@prodigy.net

Armando Lee

P.O. Box 831238
Miami, FL 33283
305-270-1000
ajlee@bellsouth.net

Dennis J. Lewis

7446 Glasgow Road
Brooksville, FL 34613
352-596-3376
dennis_14519@msn.com

Brian Mandarich

4743 E. Hedges Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703
209-255-6508

Teri McAuliffe

269 Thames Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Phone/Fax: 719-576-9009
jngfprds@aol.com

Conrad Meinert

1212 E. 300 South
Warsaw, IN 46580
Phone: 219-269-2873
Fax: 219-269-3142
BirdmanofWarsaw@kconline.com

Marion (Miki) Sparak

517 Old North Point Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-282-9233
spbx2@aol.com

Patrick Vance

18175 Avilla
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
248-443-0643
spartanfinchman@cs.com

Christine Voronovitch

38 Liberty Street
Manchester, CT 06040
860-649-8220
lbrybeagle@aol.com

Martha Newman Wigmore

NFSS Panel Director
18913 Boston Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330
763-241-0071
newellwig@mindspring.com

Paul S. Williams

703 Donegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
402-592-5488
Roffide@ix.netcom.com

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

Regional Shows

Each year, NFSS selects from applicants, one club from each of the eight regions to host a Regional Show. The Regional Vice President is to help the host club with any special exhibits/displays depicting NFSS in Action.

Past issues of our publications, applications for Finch/Softbill Save, NFSS Membership Applications, FinchShop Catalogs and order forms, plus copies of information about the care of finches/softbills are made available to the host club. The Regional Vice President usually conducts a short, informal meeting following the awarding of Top Bench. Plaques for these shows are engraved "Regional Show".

The 2002 Regional Shows are:

Region 1 Baltimore Bird Fanciers (Oct. 19—Parkville, MD)

Region 2 Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida
(Dec. 14-15—Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Region 3 National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries and other Cage Birds
(Nov. 30—Elk Grove Village, IL)

Region 4 Fort Worth Bird Club (Sept. 28—Grapevine, TX)

Region 5 Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (Nov. 2 Denver, CO)

Region 6 (Pending)

Region 7 Asociacion De Criadores De Finches del Este
(July 13—Caguas, PR)

Region 8 Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
(Oct. 18-20—Windsor, Ontario, CANADA)

More information about these shows is included in the Affiliated Club Listings below.

REGIONAL CLUBS

Footbills/Eastern Atlantic Bird Club

(VA, DC, MD, WV, PA, OH, NC, NY, NJ)

Valerie Schuster (703) 481-9725

vschuster@comcast.net

Club E-Mail: moderatorsfeabc@

yahogroups.com

Club Website: <http://www.babyfeathers.com/feabc/misstate.htm>

Southeast Bird Fanciers

(AL, AR, GA, FL, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168

gndallen@earthlink.net

Club Website: <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebfg.htm>

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society

(Prattville, AL)

Margie Lanier (334) 567-4073

margielanier@yahoo.com

Club E-Mail: reaves36271@aol.com

Show: Aug. 31-Sept. 1 Governor's House
Hotel, Montgomery, AL

Judges: Aug. 31 Paul Williams

Sept. 1 Dale Laird

Contact: Charles Reaves (256) 892-2204

reaves36271@aol.com

CALIFORNIA

Central California Cage Bird Club

John Astorino (209) 823-0200

Club E-Mail: rgomes@bigvalley.net

Show: Oct. 26

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
 Ginger Wolnik (408) 739-3995
Club E-Mail: scvcebc@yahoo.com
Club Website: www.geocities.com/scvcebc/
Show: **NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW**
 Nov. 14-16 Santa Clara Convention Ctr.
 Special Show Discount on American Airlines
Judge: Cecil Gunby, NFSS Panel Judge

CANADA

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
 (Windsor, Ontario, CANADA)
 Allred Mion (519) 948-6398
 julianne@mnsi.net
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 8**
 Oct. 18-20 Fogolar Furlan Sports
 Complex Windsor, Ontario, CANADA
Judge: Charles Anchor

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture
 Anna Sinclair (719) 634-6404
Club E-Mail: conurecare@prodigy.net
 (Lisa McManus)
Club Website: www.rmsa-birds.org
Event: June 22-23 Annual Bird Mart
 Lakeside Center Denver, CO
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 5**
 Nov. 2-3 Lakeside Center Denver
Judges: Nov. 2 Dr. Al Decoteau
 Nov. 3 Miki Sparzak
Show Manager: arwennightstar@attbi.com

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Canary and Finch Club
 Felix Felix (860) 951-9438
 canariomio@aol.com
Show: Sept. 28 Hartford, CT.
Judge: Non-Panel
Contact: (860) 953-1362

FLORIDA

Aviary and Cage Bird Society
 (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
 Carrie Efstathion (954) 432-3349
 carrie3@aol.com
Club Website: www.feathers.org
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 2**
 Dec. 14-15 War Memorial Auditorium
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Melbourne)
 Giny Heptig (321) 952-9780
 yngathert@aol.com
Club Website: www.homestead.com/exotic
 birdclubofflorida.com
Events: Jun. 9 Bird Fair - Oct. 13 Auction
Location: Greater Palm Bay Senior Center
 Palm Bay, FL
Event Contact: (321) 952-9780

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show
 Dale Laird (407) 657-7989
 dale12@prodigy.net
Show: Feb. 17 Florida State Fairgrounds
 Tampa, FL
Judges: Dale Laird Teri McAuliffe

Great American Bird Show
 Marion Spartzak (410) 663-2652
 spbe2@aol.com
Show: Sept. 22 Charlotte County Municipal
 Auditorium—Punta Gorda, FL
Judge: Conrad Meinert
Contact: Dave Dolar (727) 937-5447
 sandhillxotics@aol.com

SunCoast Avian Society (Pinellas County)
 Joseph Ventuniglia (727) 392-9391
Club E-Mail: acs651@aol.com
Club Website: www.suncoastaviansociety.org
Show: Aug. 3 The Coliseum
 St. Petersburg, FL
Judge: Miki Sparzak
Contact: (727) 892-5202

Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee, FL)
 Barry Laster (850) 847-1975
 barryl@polaris.net
Club Website: www.tristateaviansociety.org
Event: May 18-19 Annual Spring Bird Fair
 North Florida Fairgrounds Tallahassee, FL
Contact: Grace Crouch (850) 539-3935

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society (Marietta, GA)
 Pat Miller (770) 425-9455
 jandpmiller@mindspring.com
Show: Nov. 3 Jim Miller Park Marietta, GA
Judge: Conrad Meinert

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary & Finch Club
Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269
ala1884@aol.com

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Darla Dandre (630) 671-1143
dbirdranch@aol.com
Club E-Mail: www.board@gcCBC.org
Club Website: www.gcCBC.org
Show: Nov. 2 Radisson Arlington Hgts. IL.
Judge: Armando Lee
Event: Sept. 21 Bird Fair
Hattendorf Ctr. Elk Grove, IL.
Contact: Jeanne (847) 358-2470

Illini Bird Fanciers
(Central Illinois)
Patricia A. Montgomery (217) 787-0840
ibf-birdsongs@insightbb.com
Show: June 1 4-H Bldg. Shelbyville, IL.
Judge: Conrad Meinert

**National Institute of Red Orange Canaries
and Other Cage Birds**
Stephan Hopman (815) 469-8455
Birdhop@aol.com
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 3**
Nov. 30 Holiday Inn
Elk Grove Village, IL.
Judge: Martha Wigmore

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society
Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-1511
Club E-Mail: rlgibson@netins.net
Club Website: http://www.geocities.com/
heartland/flats/3777/macbs.html
Show: Oct. 5 Des Moines Botanical Center
Des Moines, IA
Judge: Martha Wigmore

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc. (New Orleans)
Danny Chauvitt (985) 876-7966
cajunpride@mobiletel.com

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers (Baltimore)
Barbara Shannon (410) 356-5850
Club E-Mail: raymondreter@aol.com
Club Website: www.geocities.com/
heartland/3575/bbf.html
Event: May 18 Bird Mart
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 1**
Oct. 19
Location: Tall Cedars of Lebanon Hall
Parkville, MD

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society
Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163 huga@iserv.net
Club Website: www.angefire.com/mi4/glas
Show: Oct 19 Rockford North Middle School
Rockford, MI
Judge: Clarence Culwell

Motor City Bird Breeders
Pat Piekarz (586) 296-2957
dpiekarz1@comcast.com
Show: Oct 26 Italian Cultural Center
Warren, MI
Judge: Harold Bowles
Show Mgr: Bob Zaleski (313) 365-5942

MISSOURI

Missouri Cage Bird Association
Paddy Lambert (314) 962-8186
Club E-Mail: thou@usmo.com
Club Website: www.birdclubs/mo/mcba
Show: Nov. 2 Days Inn at Six Flags
Eureka, MO
Judge: Paul Williams

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society
(Manchester, NH)
Ray Schwartz (603) 362-6106
prismsdad@aol.com
Club Website: www.boaf.com
Event: Mar. 24 BOAF Spring Bird Mart
May 11 The New England Aviat
Symposium
Show: Oct. 26 *Judge:* Dr. Al Decoteau
Location for all the above:
Center of NH Holiday Inn
Manchester, NH

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club

Dan Griffin (718) 994-1614
dgriff1@ix.netcom.com

Show: Nov. 2 St. Jude's School
Brooklyn, NY

Greater Rochester Avian Society (Rochester)

Patrick F. Goonan (585) 288-5653
patrick_goonan@hotmail.com

Club Website: www.angelfire.com/zine/gras
Show: Oct. 26 (NFSS Division of the Int'l
Canary & Finch Society Show)
Best Western Hotel Lockport, NY
Judge: Patrick Vance

International Canary and Finch Society (Buffalo)

Mary Ellen Sacca (716) 825-8271
snowflake@adelphia.net

Show: Oct. 26 Best Western Hotel
Lockport, NY

Judge: Patrick Vance
Information/Reservations: (716) 434-6151

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Stan Kulak (718) 967-6899
barstand@aaahawk.com

Club Website: www.newyorkfinch.com
Show: Oct. 19 St. Jude's Church
Brooklyn, NY

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

April Blazich (919) 851-8079
aprilb@bellsouth.net

Club Website: www.rdcbs.org
Event: May 25 Holshouser Bldg.
NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC

OREGON

Finch Connection

Paula Hansen (503) 581-8208
phansen@earthlink.net
Club Website: http://home.earthlink.net/
phansen
Show: Oct. 26-27 Clackamas Community Ctr.
Clackamas, OR
Judges: Oct. 26 Julie Duimstra
Oct. 27 Sally Huntington
Contact: (503) 266-7606 or (503) 581-8208

PENNSYLVANIA

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA)

Margie Jonnet (412) 795-1904
mjonnet@katz.pitt.edu
Club E-Mail: babegonia@libcom.com
Show: Nov. 2 Palace Inn Monroeville, PA

Chester County Bird Club, Inc.

Maria Rosenberger (610) 469-6402
duckybathtime@aol.com

Delco Bird Club, Inc.

Linda Martin (610) 789-8633
lookwhos.hatching@verizon.net

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion De Criadores De Finches del Este

Jose Diaz (787) 747-7947
joserafaele@hotmail.com
Club E-Mail: criadores-finches-este
@hotmail.com

Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 7**
July 13-14 Nacional de Verano ACFE

Nov. 1-3 Nacional del Invierno ACFE
Judge for Both: Armando Lee
Location for Both:
Universidad del Turabo
Caguas, PR

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville, TN)

Lisa Mellies (615) 789-0002
yui02@bellsouth.net
Club E-Mail: tnmra2@comcast.net
Show: Oct. 5 Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Nashville, TN 37203
Judge: Annette Howard

Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society Janet Burrell (423) 472-1306

jbje2202@aol.com
Event: March 9-10 Spring Fair (9:00-5:00)
Show: Oct. 26
Location for both: Niota Elementary School
Niota, TN

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

<p>Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club Sondra Ott (865) 573-2381 <i>Club Website:</i> www.komnet.org/tvebc</p>	<p><u>VIRGINIA</u></p>
<p><u>TEXAS</u></p>	<p>Peninsula Caged Bird Society (Hampton, VA) Marian "Bea" Rogers (757) 484-6001 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> dickivy@two-rivers.com <i>Club Website:</i> www.freeyellow.com/members9/clubpage/index.html</p>
<p>Alamo Exhibition Bird Club, Inc. Nathan Durbin (830) 609-2799 birds@compuvision.net <i>Club Website:</i> www.aebc.org <i>Events:</i> Apr. 20 Sept. 28 <i>Location:</i> Live Oak Civic Center Live Oak, TX</p>	<p><u>WISCONSIN</u></p>
<p>Texas Bird Breeders Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 culwell5@flash.net <i>Show:</i> Nov. 2 Maybar Convention Center Temple, TX <i>Judge:</i> Julie Duinstra</p>	<p>Badger Canary and Finch Club (State-wide) Susan Feldstein (262) 965-5362 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> devanomum@aol.com <i>Event:</i> May 19 Bird Fair South Hills Country Club Racine, WI <i>Contact:</i> Sheila Jester (404) 425-2632 <i>Show:</i> Oct. 20 Oshkosh Convention Center Oshkosh, WI</p>
<p>Canary and Finch Harold McBrayer (281) 338-2814 haroldmcbrayer@hotmail.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 26 League City Civic Center League City, TX <i>Judge:</i> Paul Williams</p>	<p>W.I.N.G.S. Daria Dandrc (630) 671-1143 dbirdbranch@aol.com <i>Event:</i> Apr. 6 Spring Bird and Craft Fair 10:00-4:00 Expo Grounds Manitowoc, WI <i>Contact:</i> Donna Schulz (920) 894-7828 snoball@dotnet.com <i>Show:</i> Sept. 14-15 Villager Lodge FonDulac, WI <i>Judges:</i> Sept. 14 Dr. Al Decoteau Sept. 15 Conrad Meinert</p>
<p>Fort Worth Bird Club Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 culwell5@flash.net <i>Club Website:</i> www.fwbc.org <i>Show:</i> REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 4 Sept. 28 Grapevine Convention Ctr. Grapevine, TX <i>Judge:</i> Cecil Gunby</p>	

The Classifieds

WANTED: New bloodline—To trade pairs of domestically raised Violet Eared Waxbills. I have 2 pair to trade. Raised by Society Finches—NO live food. Randy Taylor, (806) 655-4398.
E-Mail: TWFishes@aol.com "Finch and Softbill Save" member.

Superb Starlings: For Sale or trade for Gouldian Finches.
John Kilmner (509) 443-2505. E-Mail: kilmjoh@qwest.net

Display Ad Rates: Inside Cover \$30.00 Issue or \$150.00 Year; Full Page \$20.00 Issue or \$90.00 Year; Half-Page \$10.00 Issue or \$50.00 Year; Quarter-Page \$5.00 Issue or \$25.00 Year.
Classifieds: \$3.00 (Up to three lines of text). Free Classifieds to Finch-Softbill Save Program Members. Classifieds are posted on the website at no extra charge.

2002 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00. Make check payable to NFSS.

Mail to: Ginny Allen, Liaison Officer
 307 Brookwood Court
 Opelika, AL 36801
 e-mail: gndallen@earthlink.net
 Phone/Fax: (334) 749-7168

Club Name: _____

Club City/State: _____

Club Meeting Dates/Location: _____

Club Delegate: _____

Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *E-Mail: _____

*NFSS may use this information in the NFSS Journal and on the web site.

Delegate's Signature: _____

Club Officer: _____

Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *E-Mail: _____

Club E-Mail Contact (Important): _____

Club Web Site: _____

Show/Event Date: _____ Panel Judge: _____

Show Location: _____

Send NFSS Journal to: _____

Please list other fairs or events hosted by your club for listing in the NFSS Journal. Please include dates, locations, and a contact member with phone number and/or e-mail address: _____

2002 NFSS Awards Order Form

Please use a separate form
For each individual show!

Mail with payment to:
Darla Dandre, P.O. Box 231, Lisle, IL 60532
815-729-9789 or e-mail a copy to:
Dbirdranch@aol.com

This information must reach the Awards Manager as soon as possible but no later than two months BEFORE show date. Awards are sent Priority Mail to the designated person.

PLAQUES: All plaques are \$25.00 each. They are walnut finish with the engraved NFSS logo on brass over black plate on the left and the club information on brass over black plate on the right. All are 6" x 8".

*Please circle how you wish your plaques to read: Best in *DIVISION* or *SHOW**

If you do not make a selection, plaques will be engraved "Best in Division".

Club Name to be Engraved: _____

_____ 1st Place Plaque _____ 2nd Place Plaque _____ 3rd Place Plaque

_____ Best Finch in Show _____ Best Softbill in Show

_____ Service Award/Breeder Award (please provide engraving information).

Sub Total _____ Plaques @ \$25.00 per Plaque = \$ _____

ROSETTES: The basic set of rosettes for finches and softbills consists of eleven rosettes with the NFSS logo on the button. This includes 1st thru 10th place and Best Unflighted. Unflighted birds are those banded with current year (2002) bands.

_____ Basic Rosette Package (1-10 + Best Unflighted) \$45.00

_____ Unflighted ribbon add-on (2nd & 3rd Place) \$10.00

_____ Novice Ribbon \$ 7.00

Rosette and Ribbon Sub-Total = \$ _____

Affiliation Fee (if you haven't already issued a separate check) = \$ 25.00

Total Amount of Check PAYABLE TO NFSS: \$ _____

SHIP AWARDS TO: Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SHOW INFORMATION: Date: _____ Judge: _____
Location: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
NFSS Club Delegate: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Show Manager: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Can this information be published in the NFSS Journal? Yes No

The National Finch and Softbill Society

Band Order Form

Mail form and payment
payable to NFSS to:

Carol Heesen
NFSS Band Secretary
P.O. Box 752
Riverbank, CA 95367

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 NFS, size code, year, and number. There is 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 their membership number. Write "NEW" for membership number on the order form.

Orders processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures. **\$1.00 handling fee effective 3/1/99.**

Band Size	# of Strings	Price per String	Total Amount
A		\$3.25	
B		\$3.25	
C		\$3.25	
D		\$3.25	
E		\$3.25	
G		\$3.25	
J		\$3.25	
K		\$3.25	
L		\$3.25	
M		\$3.25	
R		\$3.25	
S		\$3.25	
T		\$3.25	

Postal Insurance: Under \$50 = \$1.10
From \$50-\$100 = \$2.00 Over \$100 = \$3.00
If you choose NOT to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.
CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD 7.25% SALES

Subtotal: _____
Insurance: _____
Handling: **\$1.00**
Total: _____

Name: _____ NFSS #: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please enter the year of the band you are ordering if other than 2002 _____

The National Finch and Softbill Society Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands

- Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl Finch (Bicheno), Quail Finch, Red-eared Waxbill, Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.
- Size B: Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufous-backed Mannikin.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin, Blue-capped Waxbill, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed Parrot Finch, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot finch, Chestnut-breasted Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, most smaller mannikins, most other parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch, Zebra finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Society Finch (Bengalese), Spice Finch.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: European Goldfinch, Pekin robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, other small Doves, Quail, Softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large sunbirds.
- Size R: Green/Purple Starlings, Superb Starlings.
- Size S: Indian Hill Mynah, Java Mynah, Ring-necked Dove, Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.
- Size T: Small Hornbills, Plush-capped Jay, small Toucans, small Touracos.

Banding instructions included with each order.



NFSS

*the National Finch
and Softbill Society*

Membership Application

Name:	
Dual Membership 2 nd Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Country:
Zip:	
Phone #:	
E-Mail:	
New Member?	Renewal (List NFSS #)
How did you hear about us?	
Annual Dues:	Select One:
	Single: \$30.00
	Qual: \$35.00
	Junior (under 16): \$22.50
	Foreign: \$35.00
<p>Bulk Mail Option: U.S. and Puerto Rico members may save \$5.00 on their membership dues by electing to receive the NFSS Journal via Bulk Mail. Please be aware that if you select this option, your Journals may take several weeks to arrive at your home. We have seen this delivery time increase since 9/11, which has necessitated tighter security and subsequent delays. Bulk Mail is not available to Foreign or Canadian members.</p>	
Bulk Mail Option: (Subtract \$5.00)	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	

Mail Application and Check Payable to **NFSS:**

Ms. Martie Lauster
4581 Lincoln Road
Macedon, NY 14502



NFSS FINCH SHOP



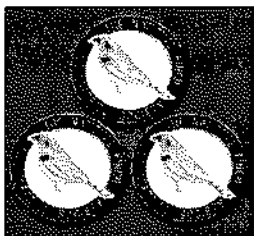
NFSS TOTE BAG

The NFSS Tote bag is available now with a pressure applied NFSS logo in color on one side. Great for bird events or just shopping. The bag is 100% cotton washable denim in a neutral color...very sturdy. It is 14" high X 16" wide and 4" deep with two 22" heavy web handles. **\$8.00**



NFSS GOULDIAN FINCH PIN

A multicolored, enameled lapel pin featuring a red-headed Gouldian Finch design. The pin measures 1 inch (25mm) in diameter and is imprinted with the words: "The National Finch and Softbill Society" in gold colored lettering around the perimeter of the pin. A perfect gift for any Gouldian Finch fancier! **\$5.00**



NFSS ZEBRA FINCH PIN

A multicolored, enameled lapel pin featuring a stylized design of a Zebra Finch. The pin measures 1 inch (25mm) in diameter and is imprinted with the words: "The National Finch and Softbill Society" in gold colored lettering around the perimeter of the pin. A perfect gift for any Zebra Finch fancier! **\$5.00**



NFSS NAME BADGE

White plastic name badge with finely detailed black engraving. Each name badge is imprinted with the NFSS logo created by Rose Gianaferra. The standard name badge includes one line of engraving and a standard pin type fastener. **\$8.00** (Add \$1.00 for second line of engraving; Add \$1.50 for Magnetic Fastener.)



NFSS BULLETIN (PAST ISSUES)

NFSS Bulletins published from the inception of NFSS in 1984 through the present. **Be sure to specify the year and volume when placing your order.** An index of all published articles (1984 to present) is available on the website. **\$4.00** each.

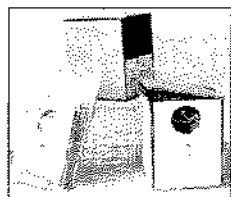


NFSS FINCH SHOP



NATURE'S JEWELS—GOULDIAN POSTER

This beautiful poster (24" x 36") depicting the many mutations of the Gouldian finch is now available thru NFSS FinchShop. The colors are intense and the 3-D look of the birds make this a most unusual addition to any room. **\$20.00**



NEST BOX KITS

Nest boxes in kit form, 5" X 5" X 6" high. Choose from the five styles: Half-open front available in side or rear mount; Hinged-top lid with hole in front available in side, front, or rear mount. **\$4.99**



VIDEO—WONDERFUL WORLD OF FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS

The "Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction," is an informative video slide show narrated by Mr. Jon Hoffman and is available in VHS format. The video depicts and describes dozens of finches and softbilled birds. A companion booklet produced by the NFSS Educational Committee is included with each videotape. **\$20.00**



VIDEO—FINCH HUSBANDRY

This video (VHS Format) by Vince Moase, formerly of the Metro Toronto Zoo, spans time and aviaries built in two different residences. It was originally produced to help budding aviculturalists in Vince's local bird club. **\$25.00**



BIRD NETS

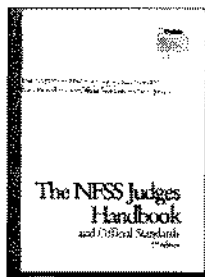
5 1/4" spring steel hoop with vinyl binding to prevent trauma. 100% dark nylon netting with secure seams. 5" hardwood handle. Perfect for use in catching finches in cages. **\$8.00**



NFSS FINCH SHOP

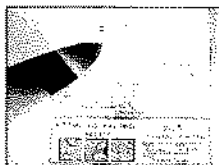


JUDGES HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANDARDS, 2ND EDITION



This handy reference contains the official show standards that have been adopted by The National Finch and Softbill Society. Included are the standards of conduct for an NFSS Panel Judge, the current show classification schedule, points/awards schedules, banding information, Judge's report forms, the NFSS Bylaws, the Apprentice application and evaluation forms and information and procedures for those aspiring to become an NFSS Panel Judge. **\$13.00**

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS



The NFSS Show Cage Plans are offered for sale either individually or as a set of all 3 sizes. These are the specifications and blueprint for the box type show cages that are recommended for use by NFSS for exhibiting various species of finches and softbills.

\$4.00 ea. \$10.00 for set of all three.

NFSS #1 - For smaller finches & softbills up to and including the Zebra Finch in size.

NFSS #2 - For finches & softbills larger than the Zebra Finch and up to the size of the Java Rice Bird.

NFSS #3 - For larger finches and softbills.

FINCH NOTE CARDS

5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)

These beautiful water colors by Sally Huntington have been viewed at the National Cage Bird Shows, Great American Bird Show, AFA, and numerous bird shows and marts across the USA. Her art has been a favorite of many collectors and bird fanciers. These cards are reduced representations of the original water colors. All prints are copywritten. No reproductions.

Each Card is \$1.50 (includes shipping) or **10 Cards for \$13.50** (\$3.50 shipping).

Actual cards do not contain the Copyright Line as depicted here.



Orange-breasted Mule Zebra Finch



Pekin Robin



Blue Cap Waxbill

Continued on next page...



NFSS FINCH SHOP



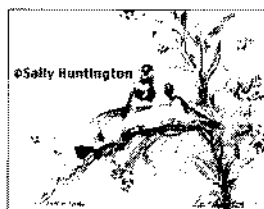
FINCH NOTE CARDS, Continued from Previous Page 5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)



Gouldian Finch Pair



Diamond Sparrow



Gouldian Finch Trio



Fire Finch



"Mother's Day"



Gold Breasted Waxbill



Orange-Cheek Waxbill



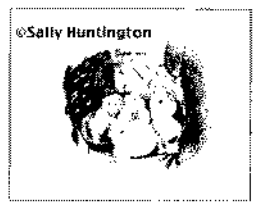
Owl Finch



Redheaded Finch



Pearl Headed Silverbill



White Society Finches



Red-Check Cordon Bleu



Red-Headed Parrot Finch



CFW Zebra Finch Pair



CFW Male in Show Cage



NFSS

*the National Finch
and Softball Society*

FinchShop Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Item	Price
_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____
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Shipping/Handling: Orders \$ 0.01 to \$9.99 - add \$3.50
 Orders \$10.00 to \$49.99 - add \$5.80
 Orders \$50.01 to \$99.99 - add \$7.70
 Orders \$100.00 and over add \$9.90

Total Enclosed: _____

Please be sure to include all information needed to complete your order. Don't forget sizes, styles, etc!

Mail completed form with your check payable to NFSS to:

Ginny Allen

NFSS Finch Shop Manager
 307 Brookwood Court
 Opelika, AL 36801