

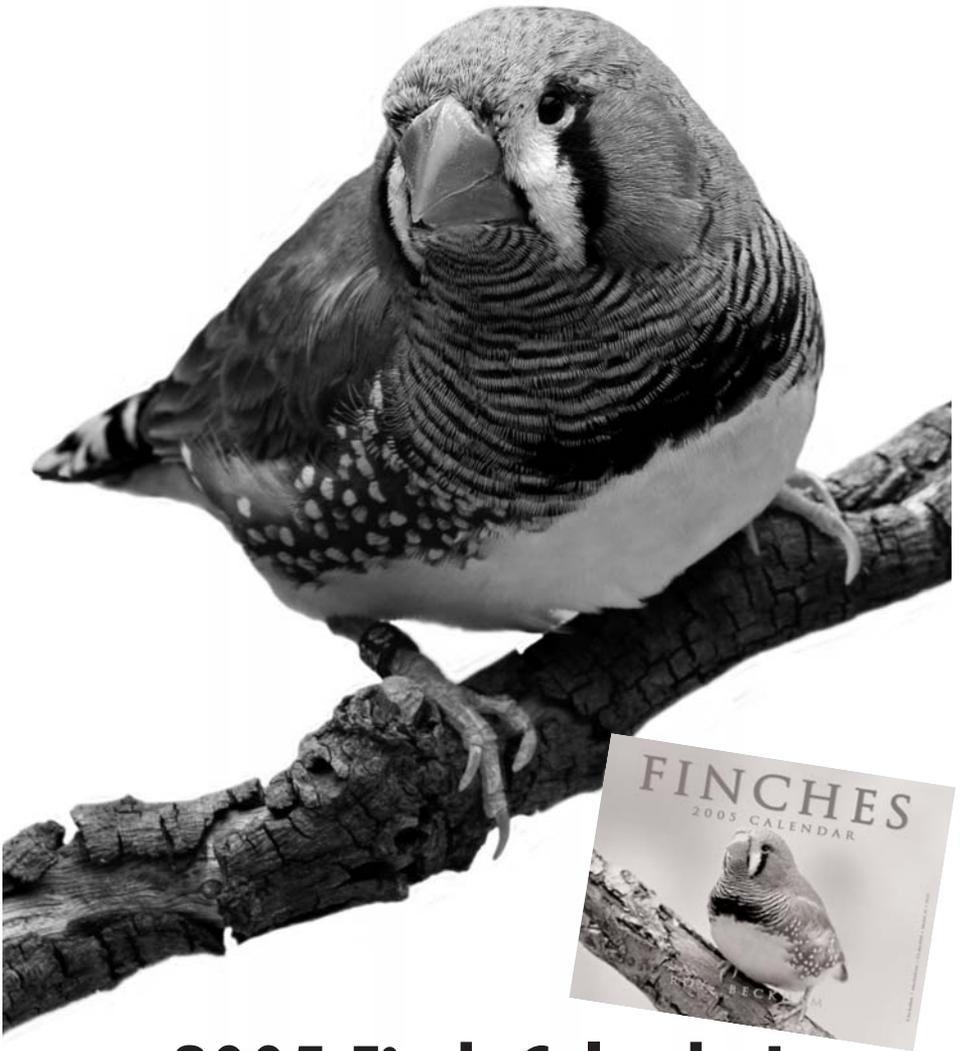
Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

Volume 21, No. 6

November/December, 2004





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Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

Home Office: 4581 Lincoln Road, Macedon, NY 14502 mlauster@rochester.rr.com
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The National Finch & Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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On the

This issue's cover is a spectacular Zebra finch photo by Roy Beckham. You will find a very informative article about Zebra Finches in Australia on page 15 of this issue. Our thanks to Roy Beckham and Ellis Thornley for these contributions to our Journal.

NFSS President's Message December, 2004



Two great world experiences for the price of one: Birds AND travel.

The posters for the U.S. Navy used to yell out, "Travel, Adventure and Excitement!". The travel was on a ship; the adventure was seeing new places; and the excitement was wondering where you'd go next.

Aviculture and birding also offers the travel (by car or plane), the adventure (seeing the great cities and clubs) and the excitement (meeting new people and learning fresh and original ways to care for our birds) - but without having to sign up for years of sea duty, as Vince (*aka* Sally's husband) did.

Associating in local and national bird club events has led Vince and I to extraordinary places and impressive people throughout America. Originally just out to see what birds are up to, we became well traveled. Since 1995 we've visited Sea World's Discovery Cove in Orlando, Fort Lauderdale's waterways, Bakersfield California and 'the great Bakersfield Christmas craft fair', to Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley (move over Shenandoah). There were the Modesto shows, Santa Clara, the fairgrounds in Roseville, Sacramento, Pomona, Buffalo (NY), Niagara Falls, Detroit and the Henry Ford Museum, Chicago and Pheasant Run resort, Dallas and the 'grassy knoll', San Antonio offers the Alamo, State Fairs in Puyallup (WA) and Tampa, Montgomery, Massachusetts; Boston, Salem's witches, Portland and the coast of Oregon; then Tucson, Reno, Kansas City, Wichita et al.

The National Cage Bird Show (NCBS), Great American Bird Show (GABS) and the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) move to different major cities each year and function out of (usually) spectacular hotels and gigantic convention centers. The 'local club shows' in their smaller towns use the whimsical motels, the local fair ground rooms, or churches or Rotary halls, etc. Delightfully, many (Birmingham, Santa Rosa, Bakersfield) often have their own club members provide home-made food from caring hands of feather-friendly people.

These trips are about sharing information and getting as involved as we care to let happen. It's "talking birds", often over a glass of wine, great food, late into the night in new and safe places. It gives back a piece of good ol' America.

Have you treated yourself to birds AND travel this year? There's another year coming soon.

Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society

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Orange Cheek Waxbill	\$60	Sorry, no Gouldians at this time.	
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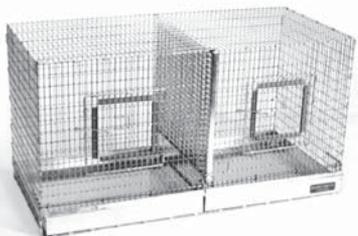
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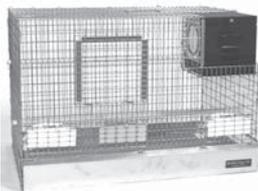


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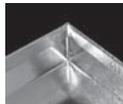
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Breeding for Quality: The Problems with Linkage

by Michael Marcotrigiano,
NFSS Science Editor

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You may have acquired some birds of a given species carrying different mutations. You've probably tried to get combinations of your favorite single gene mutations into one bird? You may want to have a black cheek, yellow-beak Zebra finch, or perhaps something even more complex. Or perhaps someone gives you a bird that already has two mutations and you want to breed one of them out of your line. You may obtain a fawn penguin Zebra but you are really only interested in the gray penguin. You buy books or read web pages and they tell you how to combine or separate the mutations. They tell you what ratios to expect. They tell you things like, "One out of every sixteen babies will have both mutations". Unfortunately, they almost always disregard one important biological phenomenon - genetic linkage. Genetic linkage occurs, as will be explained in detail below, when the two genes of interest reside on the same chromosome. Genetic linkage can alter expected ratios, sometimes to the point that it makes it impractical to attempt your ultimate goal.

To understand linkage we need to go back to the famous monk, Mendel, and his pea breeding experiments. But before

doing so, I need to make sure you understand a few facts. One is that within a given species the chromosome number is, barring rare events, the same for all individuals. Each individual has two complete sets of chromosomes. When the individual makes sperm or eggs the number is halved so that when sperm and egg combine in fertilization the species number is restored. If this reduction did not happen the number of chromosomes would double with each generation.

After performing the experiment described below, Mendel concluded that units of inheritance (now termed genes and known to be located on chromosomes) sort themselves independently in offspring during the creation of sex cells. This makes it possible to predict what ratios one should recover when studying the inheritance of two or more genes.

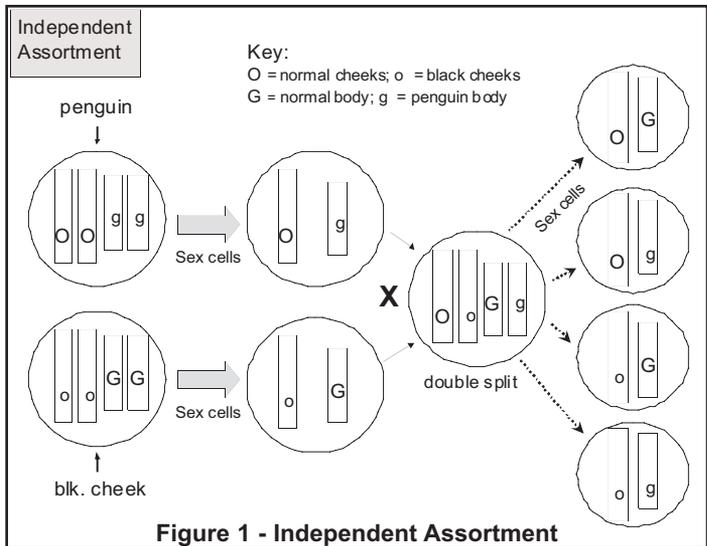
It is now known that Mendel, as brilliant as he was, was one of the luckiest investigators of inheritance. He happened to choose pea traits, most of which were later discovered to be on different chromosomes, so his ratios were nearly textbook perfect. Mendel proposed that traits sort independently and proved it by

crossing peas with two different single gene characteristics.

For the sake of this article and to make things clearer, we will pretend that Mendel used Zebra finches rather than peas. Remember that normal (wild type) Zebra finches have orange cheek patches and body color extending through the belly. Let's say Mendel obtained two new but uninvestigated Zebra finch mutations, which he called penguin and black cheek. The penguin mutation suppresses all gray and black pigments on the lower portion of the bird. The black cheek mutation turns the orange cheek patches to black. When he made hybrids between, let's say, a black cheek normal gray and a normal cheek (i.e. orange cheek) penguin all the offspring were normal because black cheek and penguin are recessive to the normal colors. The offspring were double split (i.e. heterozygous) for penguin and black cheek. Upon crossing two of the offspring to obtain multiple clutches, the expectation for the offspring were as follows - 9 normal zebras, 3 black cheeks, 3 penguins, and only 1 bird that was a penguin with black cheeks. In Figure 1 you see why this might be expected; the assumption being that the sex cells have, on average, the same possibility for possessing any one of the possible genetic makeups. This principle is called *independent assortment* (note: for simplicity's sake only the chromosomes with the relevant

mutation are depicted).

Figure 1 shows a penguin Zebra and black-cheek Zebra cross. The long rectangles are the chromosomes, two pairs in all cells but the sex cells which have only one of each type. There is only one possible genetic makeup for the sex cells of each. Therefore, when you pair penguin and black cheek you get the double split in the first generation - a bird that looks normal. The double splits make four possible genetic types of sex cells (sperm or eggs). These are depicted as the four smaller circles on the right. If the sibs are mated you expect to get four types of offspring. This is made clear on Table 1 (known as a Punnett square).



mutation are depicted).

The genotype of the possible sperm cells is along the top row and the genotype of the eggs is down the first column. All possible combinations of sperm and egg are given; O is normal orange cheek, o is black cheek; G is normal gray body; g is penguin body. In parentheses below each bird's genetic makeup is what one might expect for the appearance of each bird. Later in this article I will discuss Mendel's disappointment on the double mutation bird.

Table 1 - Punnett Square

O=Normal Orange Cheek o=Black Cheek
G=Normal Gray Body g=Penguin Body

	OG	Og	oG	og
OG	OOGG (normal)	OOGg (normal)	OoGG (normal)	OoGg (normal)
Og	OOGg (normal)	OOgg (penguin)	OoGg (normal)	Oogg (penguin)
oG	OoGG (normal)	OoGg (normal)	ooGG (black cheek)	ooGg (black cheek)
og	OoGg (normal)	Oogg (penguin)	ooGg (black cheek)	oogg (black cheek penguin)

(they are **not** but we will pretend they are for this lesson). If you obtain a bird with the penguin mutation and another bird with the black cheek mutation you will have a situation like that in Figure 2 below (note: for simplicity's sake only the chromosomes with the relevant mutation are depicted). Note that the penguin bird has a normal dominant copy of the black cheek

The above discussion, figure, and table show you what one can expect when you cross birds carrying different recessive mutations that happen to be on different chromosomes. Given that there are dozens of mutations in Zebra finches it is simplistic to think that each one is on a separate chromosome. While I could not find out if the number of chromosomes for a Zebra finch has yet to be determined, it is unlikely that all the mutations could reside on different chromosomes. That brings us to linkage. Let's suppose that black cheek and penguin were both on the same chromosome

gene, while the black cheek bird has a normal dominant copy of the penguin gene. Your goal is to get them in one bird.

From Figure 2 you see that the linked mutations do not sort independently and essentially the sex cells of the double split offspring are the same as the sex

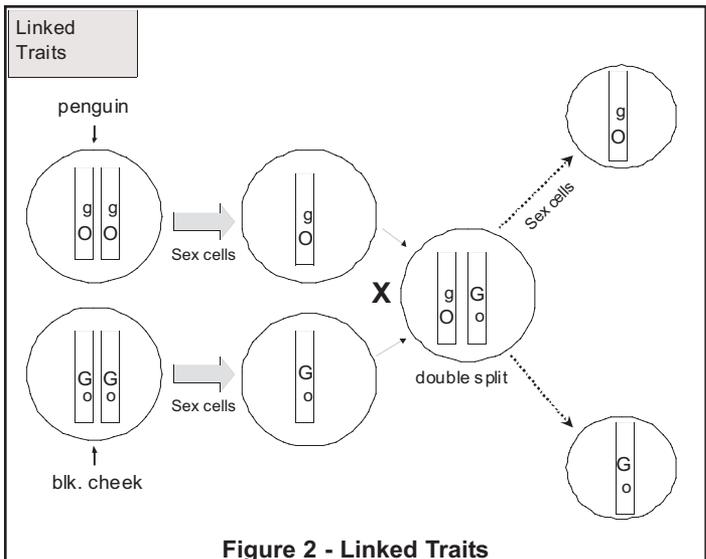


Figure 2 - Linked Traits

cells of the parents when it comes to these two genes. Is it ever possible to combine these two recessive traits in one bird? Well, the answer is yes. One of the nature's marvels is that in order to create diversity a system has evolved that causes the occasional breakage and "healing" of the chromosomes, and this can result in sections being switched. This happens prior to the separation of chromosomes during the formation of sex cells. It is called "crossing over" and the end result is that it unlinks the mutations. In Figure 3 we see how a crossing over event results in the production of a sex cell that has both mutations in the recessive form ("Mutations now linked" in Figure 3 below).

How often does crossing over help out? Well to make a long story short, genes become unlinked more frequently if they are very far apart on the same chromosome than if they are very close together. In addition, it happens more often if they are located near the tip of the chromosome instead of near the center. Since we don't know the position of finch genes on the chromosomes, (it would be expensive to find out so no one has both-

ered) I cannot tell you how often it will happen. What I can tell you is that you may need to get hundreds of offspring from the double splits before you get the double recessive bird. The good news is that once this is accomplished and you have the mutations linked it is just as hard to get them unlinked as it was to put them together. The message is that once the linkage has been done by someone else, buy a bird from them and forget about going through the entire procedure yourself.

One **very** important side topic worth mentioning here is this. Just because a bird finally has the genetic combination you want, with both mutations in one individual, it does not mean that the appearance of the bird must be the combination of traits. In my example, Mendel was disappointed in his black cheek penguin. It had white cheeks! Why? Normal Zebras have orange cheek patches so the penguin mutation does not affect the cheek patch and you might not anticipate that the penguin mutation affected anything above the neck. But the black cheek mutation causes the orange to become black. Pen-guin wipes out black so you

lose the black cheek patch even though the bird is genetically a black cheek Penguin.

While much is already known about the expected inheritance in Zebra finches, I used them as an example because they are familiar to many of the

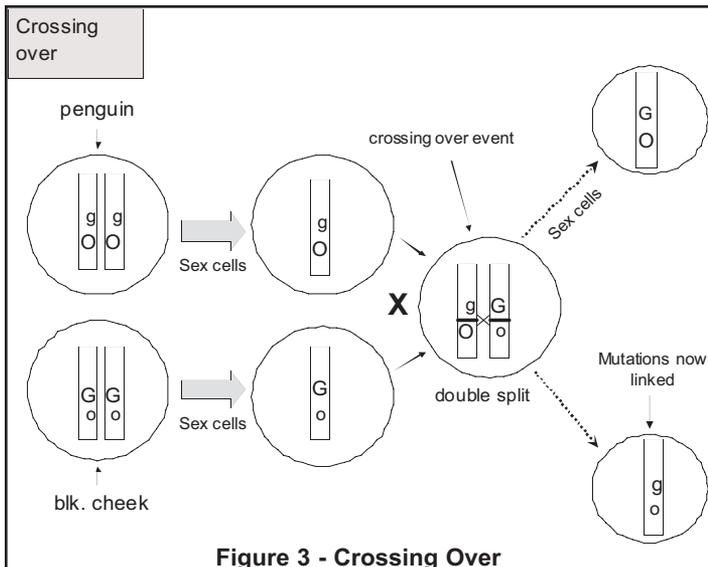


Figure 3 - Crossing Over

readers. As we discover new mutations in Gouldians, Owl finches, Parrot finches, etc. we will eventually come up with linked mutations and unexpected and disappointing results. It is my hope that his article helps with the "why".

If you had trouble with any of the terms in this article, check out my prior articles on Breeding for Quality. They are posted at:

<http://www.exoticfinches.com/mypubs/pubHOME.htm>

In my next installment of the series I will talk about sex-linkage and how to manage mutations on the sex chromosome.

Note: Special thanks to Garrie Landry, Roy Beckham, and Bob Merritt for discussing and/or reviewing the contents of this article.

NFSS member and Journal Science Editor, Michael Marcotrigiano (www.exoticfinches.com) breeds and exhibits show-quality Society finches and a limited number of Zebra finches. He is a faculty member in Biological Sciences and the Botanic Garden Director at Smith College in Massachusetts.

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Zebras in Australia

By Ellis Thornley

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Having read a number of the NFSS Magazines I thought some of the members would be interested in how we here in Australia, look at our Zebra Finches.

Most breeders are interested in control breeding and as a result, keep their Zebras in cabinets or small cages, with flock breeding retained for one mutation in aviaries or for programmed combinations. The reason being that the majority are interested in pure mutations although some Show classes have A.C. meaning Any Colour attached to the mutation such as "Black Face A.C. or Pied A.C." to allow for the combination birds.

Feeding is no different to what you supply, although some give various additives e.g Egg and Biscuit, which they feel gives them an edge in quality and health. Panicum is the main seed but a general Finch Mix is used by many. Zebras do not seem to mind 'White Ants' once other birds have shown them the way, but very few Breeders worry about Live food. The usual greens, cuttlefish and shell grit complete all they require, with water of course!

There are 22 recognised mutations and all are covered by show classes:

Grey

Fawn

Grey Series

Slate, Dilute Blue, Silver

Fawn Series

Beige, Dark Cream, Cream

Marked White Series

Marked White,
Chestnut Flanked White,
Cream Backed

Black Affected Series

Black Front A.C., Black Face A.C.,
Black Bodied A.C., Charcoal A.C.

White Affected Series

White, Grizzle A.C., Pied A.C.

A.O.V. Series

Queensland Isabel, Carabel, Alumina,
Yellow Bill A.C.

A.O.C. Series

For those birds that are of mixed origins and do not fit any Standard, they cannot come up for Champion at a Show.

There are many breeders working with various possible mutations but as yet, have not solved some of the riddles. These birds have various names George, Red, Orange Headed, a form of Black Cheek, possible Agate and Light Back to name a few.

We have a "Federation of Zebra Finch Societies" which consists of "5" Societies from around Australia which meet once a year in a different State to discuss improvements and Show the Zebra, it being a long way from the East to the West so once a year. Two States

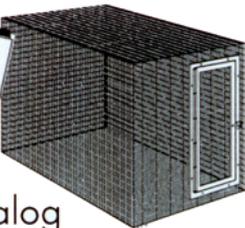
are not represented but over the coming years hopefully this will be solved. All Societies keep in contact via Email and with a 'Standard' drawn up and agreed too, have a common bond and thoughts. This also lends itself to interest in producing new mutations and passing them around the country for all. With a com-

mon Show the quality of the birds improve with a lot of hard work being done, naturally the aim is to win for your State.

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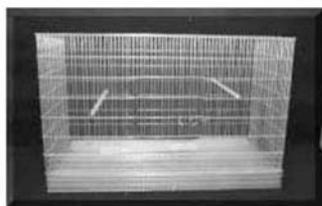
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Aviary Construction and Management

by Roland Cristo

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When the bird “bug” bites you and you decide to start raising birds, you will need a place to raise your birds other than the kitchen or living room

My suggestion is to start with a “bird room”. The reason for doing this is that one can start out on a small scale and see how much they “really enjoy” the avocation of aviculture. If you start in this way and decide you want an aviary (inside or out) you will always have the bird room for future use. If a bird in the aviary becomes sick or is incompatible you have a place to bring it to, to observe it and possibly treat it with heat and medications. You have a place to store feed, materials, and utensils and to prep and mix feeds for your birds.

The bird room can be as small as a laundry room, back porch, or a garage. In these instances the structures are already built and only need to be altered to accommodate the birds and make caring for them as simple as possible.

Aviary Construction

I will talk mostly about outside walk-in aviaries, for the purposes of breeding birds.

Things to Consider

What species of birds you wish to keep.

Most people in the last 20 years or so start out with a parrot type bird. Consider your lust for birds may lead you

in the direction of the other species, such as finches or softbills.

With this in mind, construct your aviary so it can be altered to accept other species. The alteration primarily concerns the size and gauge of wire used to accommodate the species safely.

Aviary location

Talking to different aviculturists, you will hear them say face your aviary North, South, or East and some say West. The most important thing to consider is to face the aviary away from the prevailing weather (storms, winds) and away from the hot afternoon sun. Even these situations can be remedied. For example, facing South, design the overhang on the roof so that when the sun is high in the Summer, it doesn't shine on the front under-cover section of the aviary. Yet when the sun lowers in the winter, it hits that area and helps heat the undercover section

For aviaries facing West and facing the prevailing weather, one can plant a hedge or other plant barrier out in front of the aviary 10-15 feet away to block the wind and shade the aviary. You could also build 8' to 10' high panels of shade cloth and put them up in front or over the aviary for the same purpose.

Size

The aviary should have flights at least 6' long and 2' wide by 6' high coming off a safety aisle way. The safety aisle

way should be a minimum of 4' wide so that you can get a wheelbarrow or garden cart in and out for cleaning, etc. The safety aisle way is where you will feed the birds from and maintain the flight areas. If a bird gets out of its flight, it is still in the safety aisle way and can be caught and returned to its flight. It can't be stressed enough how important the safety aisle way is for the protection of your charges.

The number of flights and size of the structure will be determined by the area where you want to place the aviary, although I'm still finding more space and adding on.

Building the Aviary

The Beginning

First you need to draw up a sketch of a floor plan of what you think you want. The best way to decide the location of your aviary is to go into your yard and measure out the floor plan from your drawing on to the ground. Put a wooden stake at each corner and lay out the flights and aisle way with builder's lime. By doing this you will get a visual of what it will look like. You can actually walk the aisle way and flights to get a vague idea of the room you will have. Always keep in mind you may want more flights, so make your plan so you can expand it.

Once the location has been determined, we need to make the decision as to whether to have a concrete slab with stem walls for the entire bottom of the aviary or a foundation with the aisle way alone being concrete and the flights being gravel or soil.

The concrete slab with stem walls is the most expensive and hardest to build. It is more difficult to build because it needs to be sloped to drain any rain or water from sprinklers and wash water away from the aisle way.

I prefer the foundation with only the aisle way being concrete (I will elaborate on this). Using this design, foundation walls should extend a minimum depth of 18" into the ground and preferably 24". This should keep vermin from digging under the wall and into the aviary.

These are the steps I recommend:

1. Draw up a final floor plan and section view of the aviary with dimensions (always thinking about expansion possibilities).
2. Make a list of materials needed for construction.
3. Lay out aviary on the ground. (again, verify dimensions)
4. Dig foundation trenches to proper depth and form the above ground portion at least 6" above what will be the final ground level.



Picture showing the water main line with the services coming up at each flight. This area gets covered with gravel to within 2 of the foundations.

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Picture showing the incoming water, a master shut off valve by the foundation and the battery operated timer for the mister system, which is stubbed up on the right side of the picture.

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5. Put any block outs in the foundation that are needed to bring in electrical and water for drinking water and misting the birds. The block outs are usually just pieces of styrofoam put in the foundation at the locations you will bring your water, electricity and drains through. Concrete flows around them.

6. Pour the concrete and let set.

7. After the forms are removed and before anything else is done, remove block outs and install sleeves made of PVC pipe, a size large enough to pass the working piping through. Mortar the voids around these sleeves with a sand/cement grout.

8. Install the conduits that are needed for electricity. Lay out the watering system in each flight for the birds' drinking water and assemble a stub out for the mister system.

9. Between the sleeve and working conduit, stuff stainless steel scrub pads on both sides, to prohibit places for vermin to hide.

10. Stub the electrical out to the aisle way and, if possible; install a drain for the flights to drain

excess water from the outside flight area when it rains hard.

When this is done, you can fill the outside and inside flight areas with whichever material you want. I chose a -



Picture showing underground drain line for outside flights. It is set in and covered with filter fabric. The fabric is used to keep the finer pieces of gravel from getting into the pipe.

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3/8' sand material for the undercover section and a +1/4" to -3/8" for the outside flight area.

Putting it Together

Measure length wise on the foundation and lay out the flight dividers on the concrete, marking where each divider wall is to be secured to the concrete foundations middle foundation and front of the aisle way.

In our case, we chose to use as little wood as possible due to deterioration problems.

This particular aviary is 37.5 feet long, has a 6' wide aisle way, with flights coming off it that are 30" wide and 10' long. (6' outside and 4' undercover)

We built the inside divider framework (undercover section) out of 1" X 1" galvanized steel square tubing welded together. The panels are 4' wide and 7 1/2' tall using 3 verticals and 2 horizontals.



Picture showing steel frame work supporting the ceiling of the flights and above that, the roof.

Photo Copyright ©Roland Cristo



Picture showing the steel frame work that supports the structure.

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These are bolted to the concrete aisle way and dividers wall at the outside flight. Sheets of plywood, 4' X 8' X 3/4", are used for the ceiling of the flight undercover area. It is screwed to the top of the steel dividers with self-tapping screws at the proper distances. We installed a 2" X 4" the length of the aviary, at the front and aisle on the top edge of the ceiling ply. The top front of the covered section and

back aisle way are 19.5" X 8' X 3/4" exterior plywood starting at one end of the aviary.

The divider panels are plumbed and the 3/4" ply for the front and aisle way is put flush with the top of 2" X 4" on top of the flight ceiling and screwed to the 2" X 4" and the metal divider panels. When the front and aisle way 19.5" ply are screwed into place they act as shear panels to keep the dividers from moving. The back wall of the aisle way (structure) is essentially



Picture taken in mid-summer showing how the overhang on the roof shades the front undercover section of the aviary so it doesn't heat up as much. In the winter, when the sun is lower in the sky, the sun shines into this area. The aviary is facing south.

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a 10' high wall with 2" X 4" studs at 16" centers. The roof is supported by the 2" X 4" along the front of the divider sections and the back wall.

This aviary is facing south so the roof overhangs the front of the undercover divider section in such a way that in mid-summer it shades the front of the undercover section, helping to keep it cool. Since the sun is lower in the sky in the winter, rays shine on this area helping to heat the undercover sections.

Along the front (lower part of the roof) and the back wall (high point of the roof) we installed 4" X 14" roof vents between the rafters in every third opening. This was done to keep the air circulat-

ing between the flight ceilings and roof, helping to cool the building in the summer time.

Next, the materials used between the flights on the undercover section are FRP(1) panels. These are the panels you see in commercial bathrooms. It is a PVC type material and can be washed with a power washer and never has to be painted. The panels are 4' X 8' and fit perfectly on the 1" X 1" metal framework that the dividers are made of. They were screwed into the metal framework using self-tapping screws and go into substrata of under-

cover sections of aviary.

Outside Flight Area

We used 1/2" X 3" 10 gauge galvanized after weld wire(3) from England. All the dividers were cut to size and attached



The FRP panels installed on the flight dividers.

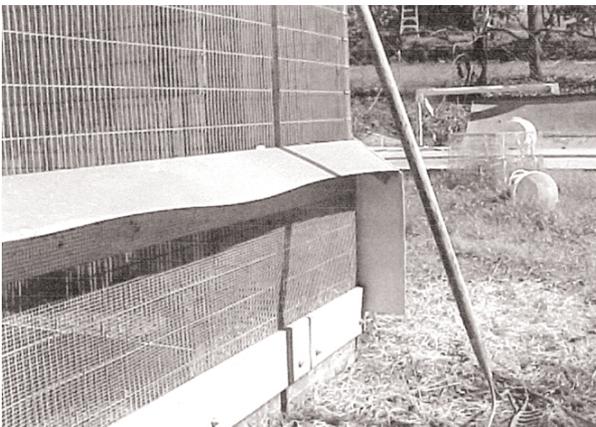
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to the metal uprights at the front of the undercover dividers. Heavy twine and 1" X 4" lumber were used to keep the fronts of these dividers from falling over. Once the dividers were in place, the front wire, in this case a 37.5' long piece was installed.

The roll of wire was set on supports and the end attached to the first wire divider. Then it was rolled out (it is standing vertical) to the next wire divider and attached. This was repeated for each section until the entire front was attached. Only enough clips were used to keep the wire from falling, two at the top, and one at the bottom.

We went back and made sure all the wire dividers were at the proper spacing and completed clipping the front on. We put a clip every 6".

Next the top wire was put on top of the wire dividers. It is attached with clips to the dividers and the front wire, and is secured to the front undercover 19.5" plywood with screws. When this was completed there wasn't any side-to-side movement of these outside flight sections. The best thing about this is there is no up keep of any wood supports, because there aren't any.



Picture showing 1/4" X 1/4" wire with flashing so rats or mice can't climb to the top of the aviary.

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We attached a wide strip of 1/4" X 1/4" wire to the bottom of the front of the wire part of the aviary. An angled piece of sheet metal was attached to the top of the 1/4" X 1/4" wire. Both act as a barrier to mice and rats that may climb the wire. The sheet metal and wire are attached with pop rivets and washers.

Management

Webster's definition of "management" is the act, or manner of managing, or handling, controlling, directing".

When "managing" or providing care, the easier it is to do, the better care the care is given.

Below are some time-saving management techniques we use to maintain our birds.

1. Have at minimum, 2 sets of feed and water dishes, preferably more. When feeding in the morning, fill a dish with fresh food, place it in the cage/flight and remove the dirty dish for washing and disinfecting later in the day when one comes home from work. This is a must for birds like lorries, softbills and any birds getting soaked or sprouted diet.
2. We purchase a lot of our dishes from "Good Will" or "Dollar" stores. We use glass or ceramic dishes and soak them in a Clorox solution sanitizing them before we use them again. The stainless steel metal bowls available, are not pure so the clorox solution corrodes the metal leaving small pin holes.
3. All the water dishes in the walk in flights

have faucets dripping into them.

All our entrance doors to aviaries are spring loaded to close on their own. They have handles, but no normal doorknob assembly. When going from one building to the next it is a simple matter of either pushing or pulling open a door and allowing it to close automatically. We do not have to grab a knob and turn it. This makes it easier when we are carrying anything.

The entrance doors to each building have a dead bolt lock. The dead bolt locks on all the buildings are keyed alike and on both sides. Only one key is needed for all the buildings.

The doors to the walk in flights have feed trays attached at the 5' level. These trays are serviced by



Picture taken from one end of the aisle way.

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opening a sliding piece of plexiglass on the door.

4. Most of the small cages have doors that hinge from the top and latch at the bottom. There is another door on the inside of the cage that is hinged at the top. When servicing

the cage, one opens the outer door, pushes the inner door in and up, sets the fresh dish in and removes the soiled one. If one forgets to latch the outer door, there is little chance the birds will get out. This has worked on all birds with the exception of a Caique. She watches and if the outer door isn't latched, she pulls up the inner door, pushes open the outer door and is out in a flash.

An aviculturist friend who raises finches uses a fishing weight at the bottom of the outside door to keep it closed. It works great for finches.

5. We keep covered buckets of seed and dry softbill mix in each aviary and feed during the week from this. We don't have to haul a bucket through each aviary unless we are refilling the empty bucket.

Misters

We have a mister system over the outside flights in the walk-in aviary. The plumbing to these misters is black PVC electrical conduit. Black PVC doesn't allow light to permeate the pipe and grow algae inside and clog the misters. We found algae will grow in white pipe.

The system on the main aviary is controlled by an Intermatic electric timer that has 96 settings in a 24-hour period. That lets us turn the water on or off every 15 minutes if we wish. A thermostat between the timer and valve turns the water on. We can set the thermostat to come on at say 70 degrees. When the temperature reaches 70 degrees and the timer is set to go on, the valve is opened. If the temperature is 70

degrees and the timer is off, the water valve will not open. One overrides the other. In the summer time, we are assured the misters will not come on in the middle of the night, with this system.

A "Y" filter with a 100 mesh is attached prior to the electric valve that opens the water. This keeps small particles from clogging up the mister orifices.

The water is piped up to the top of the outside flights with PVC pipe. We use a ½" tee with a screw in base for the mister. The misters(3) simply push into the base and will stay on, even at 50 psi.

Battery operated timer for misters

A battery operated garden timer can be installed instead of electricity, to turn the misters on and off. We use an older Rain Bird model WTD1900. They are powered with two (2) AA batteries and can be set to come on and off four (4) times in a 24 hour period. The battery will usually last about 6 months. The timers are made to screw onto an outside faucet and attach a hose to. By using double screw on adapters on both inlet and outlet, they can be installed to PVC piping a "Y" filter is used prior to the timer.

Vermin

We use wind up traps that automatically reset and can catch several mice at one setting. There are several different types being manufactured. We use three different plastic traps; the Catch-All, Tincat, and the Tomcat (sold at Lowes Building Materials). We put a dab of peanut butter in the box trap to attract the mice. We don't use poison bait within the aviary. We use commercial bait boxes on the outside of the aviary for rats. These need to be checked on a weekly basis and the bait used needs to be changed periodically.

It is recommended that the perimeter of the aviary have at minimum, a gravel walk way. The gravel walkway allows you to walk the perimeter and look for signs of rats or other vermin trying to dig in at the base of the aviary.

One must also check the upper parts of the structure itself, as rats will chew through aviary netting and wood that may be partially decayed or soft. Rats run the perimeter walls looking for weak places, places where wood pieces may butt together and have a slight amount of air movement. They will start chewing in these areas until they gain entrance or are stopped.

When we find what appears to be a rat hole in the ground anywhere around the perimeter of the aviary, we put a garden hose into it that is attached to the exhaust pipe of a small gasoline engine (lawn mower). Two-cycle oil is added to the gasoline, so we can visually see the exhaust fumes. We look for exit holes and cover it with a piece of wire. The exhaust either kills them in their burrow or they come out very slowly and can be hit on the head.

Night Lights

Every bird room and especially aviary should have a "night-light". If the birds get scared off their roost at night by lightening, thunder or vermin, they can see where they are flying and not kill themselves flying into a wall or wire.

Our system is wired to an electronic eye attached to the outside of the aviary. When the light of the day dims to sunset the night-lights come on. We use low watt fluorescent bulbs that put out a higher lumen than the wattage the bulb is rated for.

Hanging Cages

We hang our small cages from the building walls. We use an "L" hook to hang the cages. The cages are positioned away from the wall by using a PVC spacer. Parrot type birds will not be able to chew on the wall material. Also most of what is thrown out of the cage falls to the ground.

Hanging Nests

We also use smaller "L" hooks screwed unto the nest box. They are left

out about 1/4" and we hang our boxes on the outside or outside of the cages this way.

Alternative hanging method

We also use a strip of wood of varied lengths as needed, approximately 1' X 2" with the edge cut at an angle to hang multiple nest boxes. The strip is attached to the flight wall with the edge facing out. A similar shorter piece is attached to the backside of the nest box or basket. We can easily rest the nest box securely on the strip. A relative uses clean half-gallon milk cartons and discards them after they are used. This seems to work well for finches and smaller softbills.

First Aid

A First Aid Kit is a must. One should speak with their vet and ask what they should have on hand for fist aid. Our first

aid kit has:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Nail clippers | Kwik Stop |
| Saline solution | Antibiotic Ointment |
| Scissors | Gauze |
| Syringes | bandages |

Flagging

We attach flags to cages and flight doors for identification. The flags are colored plastic plant stakes and cow ear tags.

For example:

Red plant stake flag signifies the birds are on eggs

Yellow flag means the birds have babies and need special feed or feed more than once per day.

We use colored plastic cow ear tags attached to the flight and to feed buckets to make it easier to feed the birds the type of food they eat.



The completed aviary.

Photo Copyright ©Roland Cristo

Special Equipment

We purchased a commercial coffee grinder like you see in a grocery store. It is used to grind pellets to be fed to the smaller birds. You can even make hand-feeding formula by using the fine grind.

We purchased a food processor with a "pulse" button. This allows us to "chop" quantities of fruit quickly. The pulse button gives us more control over the size. This is also used for making egg food.

Quarantine

One should have an area away from all the other birds that the can be used to quarantine new arrivals. Birds should be quarantined for at least 60 days prior to introducing them into the aviary population. Proper sanitary procedures should be taken. For a more defined description of proper sanitary procedures, please

refer to the MAP (Model Aviculture Program) site at <http://www.modelaviculture.org/>.

In conclusion, while the initial preparation is time consuming, the final product will be easier and more efficient.

Addendum

(1) FRP panels can be found at most any building supply.

(2) Galvanized after welded wire is obtainable from West Coast Wire & Steel, LLC, 1027 Palmyrita Ave., Riverside, CA. 92507-7252, (909) 683-7252.

(3) The misters we use are from Point Source Irrigation, 2550 S. East Ave, Suite 120, Fresno, CA 93706, www.pointsourceirrigation.com. Sources for other types of misters are Agrifim, 337 W. Bedford, Fresno, CA 93711, www.agrifimusa.com.



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Youth and Aviculture

Youth Profile:

Alex and Jeff Benome



Alex and Jeff are two boys in the Mt. Tabor Community School Finch Club. They are pictured here with their grandmother, Mrs. Benome. Alex is in 7th grade. Jeff is in a freshman in high school. They are brothers. Alex's first birds were a pair of Societies. The male was a chocolate/Ino Society and the female was an Ino Society. Jeff's first birds were a pair of Zebra finches. The male was a light back/black cheek and the female was a light back black cheek.

Both boys have enjoyed all kinds of finches, but since their mother has restricted them to only one cage of birds each, they had to choose just these birds. Months later, both Alex

and Jeff quickly fell for a baby white Java finch, a bird I was bringing to school every day so that he could be fed every few hours. The boys got to feed the baby and Alex quickly showed that he was a caring, responsible pet-owner, so when "Javal", as Alex came to call him, was weaned, Alex got to take him home. A year later, Alex has lived up to his promise to be a responsible pet owner, and often brings Javal to school with him in a hand carrier made by veteran finch hobbyist, Hal Caples of Silverton, Oregon.

Alex has shown his high interest in finches, but Jeff has not been any less interested, only distracted by

Youth and Aviculture

events in teen-age life. So he is in line for a second hand-fed finch, this time a male Zebra. I have been reluctant to just pull any chick from the nest to be a hand-fed tame finch, but Jeff has been waiting a whole year for a young orphan to hand feed, so this December, I will be select a small clutch of Zebra chicks to hand-raise and Jeff will assist raising them himself. Hopefully, one will be the colorful male Zebra he wants to have. Jeff is excited and shows the interest and promise that his younger brother has already demonstrated.

While on vacation this summer, Jeff and Alex, with driving support of

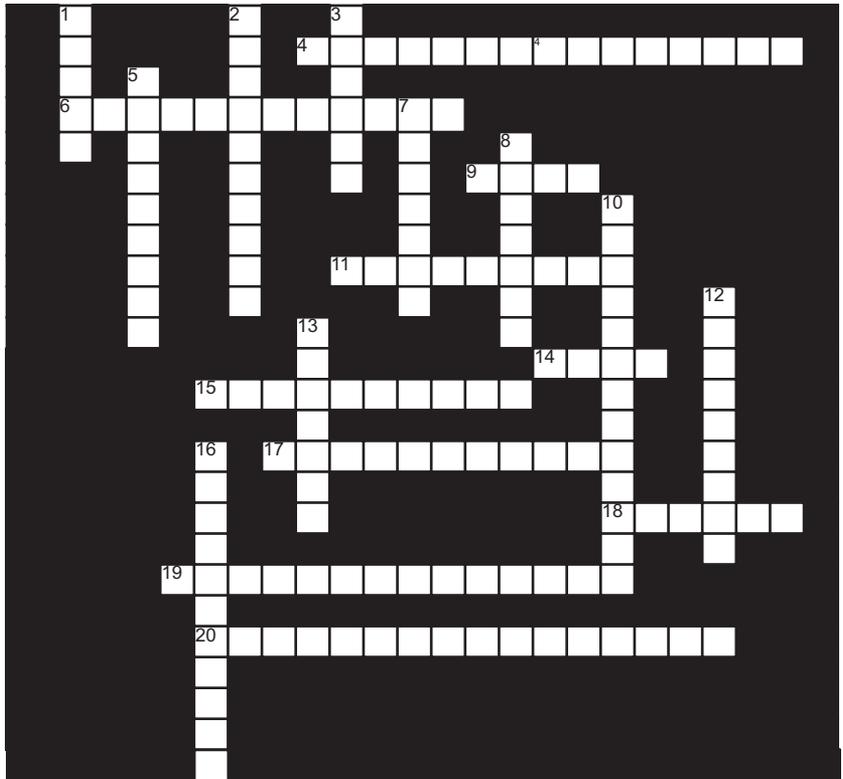
their grandmother, came to my house for two weeks to take care of over two hundred finches. They did a fine job! I will ask them back again. While they may only own two birds, time spent with the Mt. Tabor Bird Club and in my bird room, has given them the knowledge base they need to take care of a whole flock. It is through opportunities like this that I wish to build future life-long aviculturalists. Who knows? Maybe one will even become a bird Veterinarian, or maybe even a politician who advocates for the rights of aviculturalists. If anyone is interested in profiling a young person interested in finches, please contact the editor or myself.

Youth Contest!

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Youth and Aviculture



Society Finches

Across

- 4. The scientific name for the Society Finch.
- 6. This is a sure sign of dehydration (two words).
- 9. A common color mutation which causes many feathers to be white.
- 11. This is the natural color or wild color of the Society Finch.
- 14. The continent of origin of the Society Finch.
- 15. Another word for the highly social nature of Society Finches.
- 17. A term used to describe species of

- finches with similar feather color in both males and females.
- 18. A term used to reference several chicks in the nest.
- 19. A term used to describe the posture of a chick when it wants to be fed by its parent (two words).
- 20. Another name for the Society finch that references the tail.

Down

- 1. Something any finch should never go without.

Continued on Next Page

Youth and Aviculture

...Crossword Continued - Society Finches

Down

2. Another word for sitting on eggs (noun form of the word).
3. A term used for giving Societies another bird's eggs to hatch and raise.
5. This is what Societies are called in England.
7. A Society Finch's bedroom.
8. The name for the behavior of the male Society's song and dance.
10. A term used to reference the end of the feeding period (two words).
12. Another word for life expectancy.
13. A protein substitute for insects.
16. A food source readily eaten by Society chicks in the weaning stage.

Check the Jan/Feb issue for this puzzle's answers!

Answers to Last Issue's Crossword

Across	Down
1. Eyrie	1. Egg
4. Eggtooth	2. Ecology
5. Egret	3. Echolocation
7. Eyering	4. Endysis
8. Esphophagus	5. Embryo
9. Exotic	6. Ectoparasites
10. Endoparasites	8. Ecdysis
12. Eyelids	10. Eggmimicry
13. Eagle	11. Eclipseplumage
14. Excreta	13. Earpatch

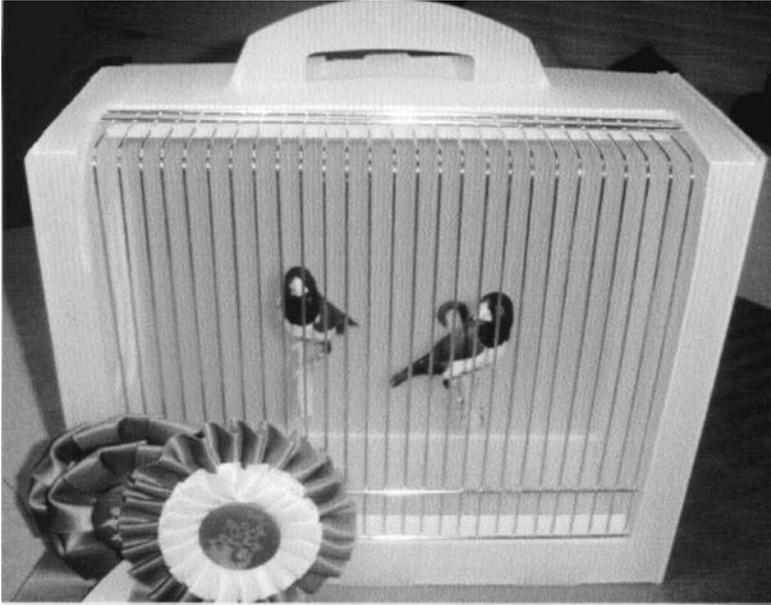
NFSS welcomes any and all submissions for the Youth and Aviculture page. Please send your artwork, photos, jokes, riddles and any ideas to the NFSS Journal Youth Editor:

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- Wetzel, Dave, "Bali Mynah Breeding", JF85.

PEKIN ROBINS

- "Proposed Pekin Robin Standard", MA93.
- "Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 2", MJ94.
- "Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 3", JF95.
- "The Pekin Nightingale", JA89.
- Blalock, Kara, "Don't Pass on the Pekins", JF99 (48-50)
- Geesey, Brenda, "The Pekin Robin", SO91.
- Huntington, Sally, "Pekin Robins (leiothrix leutea)", SO00.
- Moose, Vincent, "Our Success in Breeding the Pekin Robin", MA88.

SILVER-EARED MESIAS

- Rishman, Grant, "Silver-Eared Mesias", ND00.

STARLINGS

- Eckman, Jacky, "The Prize-winning Starling: Her Name is Benjamin...", ND94.
- Photograph, ND94.
- Kilmer, John, "The Joy of Superb Starlings", MA02.
- Sherlock, Ray, "Keeping & Breeding the Spreo Starling", JA-2004.
- Spreyer, Mark, "Backyard Mynahs: Starlings as Pets", ND90.
- Tudor, Bethany, "Tweedy: A Love Story", JA94.

THRUSHES

- Rishman, Grant & Cathy MacKay, "White-rumped Shama Thrushes", MA-2002.
- Schroeder, Dick, "Laughing Thrushes", JA-2003.

TANAGERS

- Weyer, Diane, "Two Tanagers (Scarlet-rumped and Crimson-collared Tanagers)", JA87.

- Woolham, J.F., "Tanagers", JA89.

TITS

- Sherlock, Ray, "Breeding Yellow Bellied Tits (*Parus venustus*)", JF-2003.

TOUCANS

- Petrie, Robert, "Aracarís", JA9.
- Worell, D.V.M., Amy, "Phlebotomy for Treatment of Hemochromatosis in Two Sulfur-breasted Toucans", MA92.

TOURACOS

- Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of Touracos at the Houston Zoological Gardens: Part 1", MA88.
- Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of Touracos at the Houston Zoological Gardens: Part 2", MJ88.
- Hole, Robert Jr., "Greens and Blues", JF95.
- Laird, Dale, "Hatching a Touraco", SO97.
- Laird, Dale, "The Persa Touraco", ND94.
- Petrie, Robert, "Touracos, Plantain-eaters and Go-away Birds", MA96.
- Photographs, MJ94, (3) ND94.

WHITE RUMPED SHAMAS

- Rishman, Grant and MacKay, Cathy, "White-rumped Shammas", MA02.

WHITE-EARED BULBUL

- Huntington, Sally, "Breeding the White-Eared Bulbul", JA02.

YELLOW BELLIED TIT

- Sherlock, Ray, "Breeding Yellow Bellied Tits (*Parus venustus*)", JF03

YUHINAS

- Wigmore, Martha, "The Yellow-collared Ixulus", JA94.

SPECIAL FOCUS SECTIONS

- "Bird Room Time-Saving Methods and Hints", SO95.
- "Converging on Conservation", MJ95.
- "Fostering", ND94.
- "Red-eared Waxbills", SO94.

STANDARDS

- Brissette, Jeff, "The Importance of Standards", ND89.
- Wigmore, Martha, "Barbecuing Finches", MJ90.

CHERRY FINCH

- "Proposed Cherry Finch Standard", SO93.
- "Official Cherry Finch Standard", MA94.

CORDON BLEU WAXBILL

- "Official Cordon Bleu Standard", MJ86.

CUT-THROAT FINCH

- “Official Cut-throat Finch Standard”, JA97.
- “Proposed Cut-throat Finch Standard”, ND96.

DIAMOND SPARROW

- “Proposed Diamond Sparrow Standard”, MJ90.
- “Official Diamond Sparrow Standard”, ND90.

FIRE FINCH

- “Proposed Red-billed Fire Finch Standard”, MJ91.
- “Proposed Red-billed Fire Finch Standard (Revision)”, MJ92.
- “Official Fire Finch Standard”, MA94.

GENERAL STANDARD

- Hoffman, Jon, “Proposed Basic Standard”, SO87.
- “Draft General Standard for Finches and Softbills”, MJ92.
- “Proposed General Standard for Finches & Softbills”, MJ03.

GOULDIAN FINCH

- “Official Lady Gouldian Standard”, MA86.

GREEN SINGING FINCH

- “Official Green Singing Finch Standard”, MJ86.

JAVA RICE BIRD

- “Official Java Rice Bird Standard”, JAS88.

LAVENDER FINCH

- “Proposed Lavender Finch Standard”, MA90.
- “Proposed Lavender Finch Standard (Revision)”, MJ90.
- “Official Lavender Finch Standard”, ND90.

PARSON FINCH

- “Official Parson Finch Standard”, JA97.
- “Proposed Parson Finch standard”, ND96.

PEKIN ROBIN

- “Proposed Pekin Robin Standard”, MA93.
- “Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 2”, MJ94.

- “Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 3”, JF95.
- “Official Pekin Robin Standard”, (approved by Board 2/95), as printed in JF95.

SHAFTTAIL

- “Official Shafttail Standard”, ND87.

SOCIETY FINCH

- “Proposed Society Finch Standard”, 7/84.
- “Official Society Finch Standard”, 10/84.
- “Proposed Revisions to the Society Finch Standard”, JF94.
- “Proposed Revisions to the Society Finch Standard - Revision 2”, SO94.
- “Official (Revised) Society Finch Standard”, (approved by Board 2/95), as printed in SO94.

STAR FINCH

- “Proposed Star Finch Standard”, JF91, reprinted JF95.

ZEBRA FINCH

- “Official Zebra Finch Standard”, 10/84.
- “Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Revision”, JA97.
- “Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Final”, J/A 98.

**TREASURER’S REPORT
see “FINANCIAL REPORT”**

1986, JF86; 1990, JF90; 1994, JF94; 1987, SO86; 1991, SO90; 1995, JA95; 1988, ND87; 1992, ND91; 1996, JF96, MA96; 1989, ND88; 1993, ND92; 1997, JF97, MA97; 1988, MJ88; 1990, JF90; 1993, JF93/4/89, MA89
3/90, MJ90; 2/93, JF93; 6/89, MJ89
7/90, JA907/89, JA89
7/91, JA91
7/13/84, 7/84.
10/31/88, OND88.
10/31/89, ND89.
5/28/91, MJ91.11/7/91, ND91.
1992, JF93. 1993, MJ94.

YOUTH

- Raspberry, “Youth and Aviculture”, JA-2004.

Back issues of the Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society are available through the NFSS FinchShop.

An order form is in the back section of this and each issue. FinchShop items may also be ordered online through the NFSS website at

www.nfss.org

Individual articles will be available through FinchShop in the near future.

NFSS 4th Quarter, 2004, Board Meeting Minutes

The NFSS 4th quarter 2004 board meeting was called to order on Monday, November 1, 2004.

2005 NCBS & GABS Judges: NFSS 4th Vice President, Martha Wigmore asked the board to consider naming the 2005 NCBS & GABS judges and voting on choices prior to the 2004 NCBS in Lansing. The vote was conducted and concluded on November 15. GABS Judge nominations: Dale Laird, Julie Duimstra, Cecil Gunby NCBS Judge Nominations: Julie Duimstra, Dale Laird, Martha Wigmore

2005 NFSS Budget: NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, informed the board that the figures submitted by each NFSS department showed that NFSS would realize a profit in 2004. As NFSS is a non-profit organization, the board began a discussion of budget revisions to reduce the amount of profit.

Motion 2004-9: NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, made a motion that the board accept the 2005 budget as listed below, with the stipulation that during the first quarter 2005 Board meeting it will be decided what to do with the excess profit of \$2373.00.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>INCOME</u></p> <p>Bands: Bands - 15,000.00 Handling - 1,000.00 Insurance - 150.00 Total - 16,150.00</p> <p>FinchShop: Sales - 3,250.00 Shipping - 750.00 Total - 4,000.00</p> <p>Membership: Dues - 23,770.00</p> <p>Journal: Advertising - 2,500.00</p> <p>Affiliations & Awards: Affiliations - 1,250.00 Awards - 3,000.00 Total - 4,250.00</p> <p>Finch/Softbill Save: Dues - 150.00</p> <p>4th VP/Judges Panel: Fees - 240.00</p> <p>1st VP/Regional VP's: (none)</p> <p>Advertising: (none)</p> <p>Misc: Savings Interest - 10.00</p>	<p>Afternoon of Aviculture - 1,200.00 Total - 1,210.00</p> <p><u>TOTAL INCOME</u> - 52,270.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>EXPENSES</u></p> <p>Bands: Bands - 11,000.00 Postage - 750.00 PayPal - 250.00 Misc. - 275.00 Total - 12,275.00</p> <p>FinchShop: Item purchases- 1,400.00 Postage - 500.00 PayPal - 75.00 Misc. - 100.00 Total - 2,075.00</p> <p>Membership: PayPal - 315.00 Materials - 235.00 Postage - 567.00 Total - 1,117.00</p> <p>Journal: Printing - 16,000.00 Editor's Fees - 1,200.00 Materials - 75.00 Postage - 7,425.00 Freight - 200.00</p>	<p>Mailing Service - 2,100.00 Total - 27,000.00</p> <p><u>Affiliations & Awards:</u> Awards - 2,500.00 Postage - 425.00 Misc. - 100.00 Total - 3,025.00</p> <p>Finch/Softbill Save: Materials - 150.00 Postage - 150.00 Total - 300.00</p> <p>4th VP/Judges Panel: Misc. - 200.00</p> <p>1st VP/Regional VP's: Misc. - 1,000.00</p> <p>Advertising: Ads - \$1,000.00</p> <p>Misc: Treasurer - 80.00 NCBS - 600.00 AFA - 525.00 Aft. of Aviculture - 300.00 GABS - 400.00 Total - 1,905.00</p> <p><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u> - 49,897.00</p> <p><u>NET GAIN</u> - 2,373.00</p>
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Motion Seconded by: Randy Taylor

Motion Passed: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Zebra Finch Show Classifications

Motion 2004-10: NFSS Regional Vice President, Region 1, Chris Fairchild made a motion that a committee be formed to look at the show classifications for the Zebra Finch. From the last show season there have been some concerns expressed with a few of the classifications for show entries. This will not include the standards - just the show classifications.

Motion Seconded by: Patrick Vance

Motion Passed: 8 Yes 4 No 0 Abstain

Black Cheeked Zebra Finch Show Classification

Motion 2004-11: NFSS Regional Vice President, Region 6, Raspberry made a motion that the Black-Cheeked Zebra be separated to a class of its own.

Motion Seconded by: Paula Hansen

Motion Failed: 3 Yes 9 No 0 Abstain

Limitation on Judges Handbook Updates

Motion 2004-12: NFSS 3rd Vice President, Randy Taylor, made a motion that the NFSS Board of Directors limit future revisions/changes to the Judges Handbook (Standards) to once every two years during the third quarter of 'odd' years after careful research, discussion and approval so that any and all revisions shall be made to the written standard of perfection at one time. This revision work to follow the current process of making revisions and shall remain consistent with Article 7, Paragraph Six of the NFSS By-Laws.

Motion Seconded by: Armando Lee

Motion Passed: 7 Yes 5 No 0 Abstain

Removal of Daren Decoteau from the NFSS Judges Panel

Motion 2004-13: NFSS 4th Vice President, Martha Wigmore made a motion: Shall NFSS Panel Judge Daren Decoteau be removed from NFSS Judges Panel?

Motion Seconded by: Darla Dandre

Motion Passed: 10 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain

Motion 2004-14: NFSS Liaison Officer, Darla Dandre, made a motion to close the

discussion on "Section Points" for this Quarter.

Motion Seconded by: Armando Lee

Motion Passed: 10 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Motion 2004-15: NFSS Liaison Officer, Darla Dandre, made a motion to close the discussion of "adding classes to the NFSS classifications" for this quarter.

Motion Seconded by: Armando Lee

Motion Passed: 10 Yes 1 No 0 Abstain

Motion 2004-16: NFSS Band Secretary, Paula Hansen, made motion that Martha Wigmore provide all the Board Members an electronic copy of the Judges Handbook as soon as possible.

Motion Seconded by: Raspberry

Motion Failed: 3 Yes 9 No 0 Abstain

4th Quarter 2004 Board Reports**Report of NFSS Fourth Vice President and NFSS Judges Panel Director****NFSS Judges Panel**

There are currently 25 members of the NFSS Judges Panel. At present there are no Apprentices, although we have had several promising inquiries this fall. NFSS members are encouraged to consider growing through the NFSS Apprentice program, working toward becoming a NFSS Panel Judge. It's the "best seat in the house"! At the 4th Qtr 2004 Board meeting, the NFSS Board will consider the removal of one NFSS judge who has not judged for NFSS for five years and has not indicated interest in continuing on the NFSS Judges Panel.

2004 Shows

NFSS judges have been invited to over 45 affiliated shows this year, and early results show large entries (over 120) at several shows. Most other shows remain strong, with many new exhibitors! NFSS shows remain a tremendous source of information and inspiration to our hobby. Thank you to all the work you are doing in putting on bird shows! You are the best!

Standards

The General Standard - The NFSS

Board made some last minute comments about the proposed General Standard, and these proposed changes will go back to the membership for comment. Watch for it in an upcoming issue of "The NFSS Journal."

The Society Finch Standard - Conversations about the newer European and Japanese Society Finches now seen in American bird rooms and on the show bench have been rich! The dedicated Society Finch Revision Committee, co-chaired by Julie Duimstra and Clarence Culwell, has accomplished the arduous task of describing the color and markings of the newer varieties, and their work continues! The Committee will also be reviewing and considering conformation issues as a part of their proposed revision. At this time, the place to address your input and questions is to either Co-chair of this talented committee. Julie and Clarence's contact information is published in "The NFSS Journal" and on the NFSS website in the listing for NFSS Panel of Judges.

Procedure for Establishing Standards

A Board member raised concerns about the method in which NFSS Standards are developed. The essence of NFSS Standard development and revision lies in the hands of experienced and knowledgeable NFSS members. No one individual, faction, or even Board of Directors controls the directions of our Standard development. Every proposal put forth, prepared by a devoted group of volunteers with input from the NFSS Fourth Vice President (who is also the NFSS Judges Panel Director), is set before the entire NFSS membership for review and comment. Every comment is considered in light of the experience and vision of each Standard Committee, which also includes several NFSS Panel Judges. Only after extensive and recurrent membership review, the NFSS Board signs off on a proposed Standard. It has been an outstanding process for NFSS, producing several educational and valuable Standards for our judges and fanciers. I urge that NFSS make no changes in this area.

NFSS Champion Bird Award

A Board member relayed concerns about whether NFSS' Champion Bird award

is too difficult to earn. By way of background, an NFSS Champion Bird is a banded bird that has accumulated 50 or more NFSS points in its lifetime.

NFSS has had 12 Champion Birds as follows:

1991:

Kris Kroner - 82 pts - Normal Java Rice Bird

Tom Rood - 56 pts - Dilute Society Finch

Tom Rood - 52 pts - Normal Zebra Finch

1994:

Gene & June Miller - 61 pts - Fawn Diamond Sparrow

1995:

Gene & June Miller - 67 pts - Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow

Ellen Buchanan - 52 pts - Normal Shafttail

1996:

Jacky Civitarese - 52 pts - European Starling

Dale & Eileen Laird - 57 pts - Persa Touraco

Dale & Eileen Laird - 57 pts - Normal Java Rice Bird

Patrick Vance - 56 pts - Cinnamon Java Rice Bird

1997:

Carolyn Belisle - 52 pts - Orange Headed Gouldian

1999:

Stephen Hoppin - 69 pts - Senegal Fire Finch

NFSS makes a \$50.00 cash donation to a worthy avicultural cause on behalf of each Champion Bird, as selected by the bird's owner.

It's a cool program, particularly the donation part, as NFSS has made some pretty special contributions over the year, including to a wildlife rehabilitation center and a university veterinary medicine program for a student focused on companion bird care. Does the existence of our Champion Bird program, or the Champion Exhibitor or Exhibitor of Excellence programs help draw new members? I don't believe it does, and I don't believe it ever will in the Finch and Softbill hobby as we know it. NFSS has been blessed with exhibitors and members who on-the-whole

view our shows as not so much competition, but rather as recognition, education, inspiration, challenge and growth. And friendship! We smile a lot, and do a lot of patting on the back, but big spotlights maybe ain't much our style! -smile-

NFSS has ALWAYS had a geographically-dispersed membership. Shows have not been and are not close together in ANY region of the country. This is nothing new! It has always been the case that travel to other than the "local" bird show requires an overnight or otherwise "challenging" trip. Distance is no justification to lower the goal to achieve Champion Bird from how it was established.

Birds are indeed fewer in many areas of the country, but many areas have shown a resurgent in finch and softbill support since 2000. Cherish the value of bird exhibiting and sharing, work to improve your stock and strengthen your bloodlines, and the rewards for your improvement and consistency will follow.

Revised NFSS Show Classifications available for 2005

NFSS has created a separate Section for Gouldians. Our revised Show Classifications, and corresponding Show Secretary Worksheets, are now available. Contact me for your copies for your 2005 shows!

NFSS Junior Award; NFSS Novice Award

Please bring your children and young friends to our shows - with their birds! NFSS has a beautiful Best Junior in Show rosette! Have your local club order one today!! And while you're at it, order those cherished Best Novice rosettes, too!

Submitted by
Martha Wigmore,

NFSS Fourth Vice President

4th Quarter Membership Report

Single Memberships = 727
Dual Memberships = 109
Affiliated Memberships = 64
Total Membership = 900

Respectfully Submitted by
Linda Hughes
NFSS Membership Director

NFSS Band Sales as of 11/24/2004

September 14 Pay Pal/14 Mail in's = 423.70
October 9 PayPal/15 Mail in's = 770.70
November 6 Pay Pal/ 27 Mail in's = 730.80

Paula Hansen
NFSS Band Secretary

FinchShop

Sales for the FinchShop are ahead of the projected amount but the expenses are slightly ahead as well.

This quarter we added the Gouldian Finch Beeswax candle. Sales have been light but there are no up front expenses so we are not losing anything from offering it. Sales of the Candler have been brisk and I am currently out of stock. I plan to hold off ordering them until the first of the year. The new judge Handbook has been printed in limited quantities and are available for shipping. We are down to half of the logo shirts and are almost sold out of the hats. I will be ordering shirts that are blue and tan hats for the next batch. Although XXL is not a listed size it is available on special order but there is an additional cost of \$4. I am currently investigating a way to offer the Huntington Cage although shipping cost are posing some problems. FinchShop will receive \$5 on each sale if we can figure a way to keep shipping reasonable.

The table at the National Cage Bird Show produced about \$175 worth of sales. Web sales remain intermittent but strong.

I continue to seek out members' opinions of items that would be good for the FinchShop. We are exploring additional educational materials, like a CD full of stand alone PowerPoint slideshows. Anyone wanting to donate a presentation that they have done please contact me directly.

In 2005, the FinchShop will continue to offer products that promote N.F.S.S. and/or provide education for the care of finches and softbills. Although we hope to generate some income for the association the above two goals are and will continue to be the focus of the FinchShop.

Respectfully Submitted
Robert Mehl
FinchShop Manager

2004/2005 NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers

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, Education
Mr. Armando J. Lee
2905 SW 38th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33990
(239) 242-7675
alee@swfla.rr.com

2nd Vice President

Publications
Mr. Harry Bryant
Elyria, OH 44035
utuweb@aol.com

3rd Vice President

*NFSS Finch/Softbill Save
Program/Census Mgr.*
Randy Taylor
17801 Robin Road
Canyon, Texas 79109
806-655-4398
taylor_finches1@
cox.net

4th Vice President

*Judges Panel/
Standards/Research*
Ms. Martha Wigmore
18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(763) 241-0071
newdlwig@
mindspring.com

Membership Director

Ms. Linda Hughes
P.O.Box 499
Rhomb, Tx 76078
(817) 638-9006
finchlady@
bracketrysystems.com

Executive Secretary

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

Treasurer

Mr. Mark Phelps
P.O. Box 4092
Joliet, IL 60434
(815) 729-9789
mphelps3221@sbc-
global.net

Liaison Officer

Club Delegates/Show Dates
Ms. Darla Dandre
P.O. Box 4092
Joliet, IL 60434
(815) 729-9789
dbirdbranch@aol.com

Band Secretary

Ms. Paula Hansen
2234 Juneau Court SO.
Salem, Oregon 97302
(503) 581-8208
pjhansen@
earthlink.net

President Emeritus

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

Regional Vice Presidents

Region 1 V.P.

(Northeast)
*CT,DE,MA,ME,MD,NH,NJ,NY,
PA,RI,VA,VT,WV*
Robert Fairchild
P.O. Box 4395
Virginia Beach, VA
23454

Region 2 V.P.

(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 V.P.

(Mid-Central)
*AR,IL,IN,KY,LA,MI,MO,OH,
WI,Australia,Bermuda,England*
Mr. Patrick Vance
18175 Avilla
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
(248) 443-0643
spartanfinchman@cs.com

Region 4 V.P.

(Midwest)
IA,KS,MN,NE,ND,OK,SD,TX
Mr. Clint Harris
Temple, TX
254-770-1986
charris@vvm.com

Region 5 V.P.

(Mountain)
AZ,CO,ID,MT,NV,NM,UT,WY
Ms. Anna Sinclair
2430 San Marcos
Colorado Spgs, CO
80910
(719) 634-6404
bill&annasinclair@
citystar.com

Region 6 V.P.

(Pacific Coast)
AK,CA,HI,OR,WA
Raspberry
Raspberry@europa.com
Portland, Oregon

Region 7 V.P.

(Caribbean)
Puerto Rico/Caribbean Basin
Mr. Julio Mateo Soto
RR5, Box 8418, Ste 72
Bayamon, PR 00956

Region 8 V.P.

(Canada)
Mr. Alfred Mion
1619 Pilette Road,
Windsor, Ontario,
Canada N8Y 3C4
(519) 948-6398
julianne@mnsi.net

Appointed Officers

FinchShop Manager

Robert Mehl
11108 Hollowbrook Rd
Owings Mills, Md
21117-1379
(410) 581-7955
Robert.Mehl@
verizon.net

NFSS Editor

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

NFSS Website Mgr.

Ms. Myra Markley
Cedar Rapids, IA
(319) 362-9390 (Eves)
seffera@seffera.net
Web Site Address:
www.nfss.org

Awards Manager

Ms. Darla Dandre
P.O. Box 4092
Joliet, IL 60434
(815) 729-9789
dbirdbranch@aol.com

Advertising & Promotions

Ms. Brenda Josselet
PMB 279
6705 Hwy 290 West,
Ste. 502
Austin, TX 78735
(512) 288-0891
bjosselet@austin.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 2004

Nizam Ali

135-11 114th Street
South Ozone Park, NY
11420

Charles Anchor

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

Laura Bewley

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

Harold Bowles

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

Clarence Culwell

250 Horseshoe Drive
Springtown, TX 76082
Phone: 817-220-5568
COculwell@myfam.com

Dr. Al Decoteau

P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
Phone: (603) 672-4568
spbe1@aol.com

Daren Decoteau

89 Pleasantview Avenue
Stratford, CT 06497
Phone: (203) 378-4777
greateagle@aol.com

Julie R. Duimstra

618 North Nesmith Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605-332-5424

Cecil Gunby

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

Annette Howard

P.O. Box 404
Salem, OH 44460
Phone: 330-337-7654
bluehaven@voyager.net

Sally Huntington

5634 Carnegie Street
San Diego, CA 92122
Phone: 858-452-9423
sallych@san.rr.com

Joseph Krader

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

Dale Laird

P.O. Box 2459
Goldenrod, FL 32733
Phone: 407-657-7989
Jlaird2@cfl.rr.com

Armando Lee

306 SE 22nd Street
Cape Coral, FL 33990
Phone: 239-242-7675
alee@swfla.rr.com

Dennis J. Lewis

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

Brian Mandarich

4743 E. Hedges Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703
Phone: 559-255-6508

Teri McAuliffe

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

Conrad Meinert

1212 E. 300 South
Warsaw, IN 46580
Phone: 574-269-2873
Fax: 574-269-3142
BirdmanofWarsaw@
kconline.com

Marion (Miki) Sparzak

945 Rosedale Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237
Phone: 410-687-8915
mjs5295@comcast.net

Laura Tinker

31 Grape Hollow Road
Holmes, NY 12531
845-855-2662
laura.tinker.b@bayer.com

Patrick Vance

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

Christine Voronovitch

38 Liberty Street
Manchester, CT 06040
Phone: 860-649-8220
lbybeagle@aol.com

Ms. Jerri Wiesenfeld

2379 Water Bluff Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32218
Phone: 904-714-2133
jerrisjavas@aol.com

Martha Newman Wigmore NFSS Panel Director

18913 Boston Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330
Phone: 763-241-0071
newdlwig@mindspring.com

Paul S. Williams

101 Linden Drive
Eufaula, AL 36027
Phone: 334-687-1713
pwilliams@eufaula.rr.com

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

REGIONAL CLUBS

Southeast Bird Fanciers (SE U.S.)

Contact: Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168
gndallen@earthlink.net
Meetings: 1st Sat. in Mar, Jun, Sep, and 2nd
Sat. in Dec. at the Atlanta Farmers Market
Website:
<http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm>

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society (Montgomery)

Contact: Margie Lanier (334) 567-4073
margielanier@yahoo.com
Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, 2:30 pm
Prattville Library, Prattville, AL
Club E-Mail: caasshow@aol.com
Website: www.caasociety.com

ARIZONA

Great American Cage Bird Show (Tucson)

Contact: Marion Spartzak (410) 687-8915
MJS5295@comcast.net
Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month except Dec.
7849 Tommy Dr, La Mesa, CA
Club E-Mail: Sandhillexotics@aol.com

CALIFORNIA

Finch Society of San Diego County

Contact: Sally Huntington (858) 452-9423
sallych@san.rr.com
Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month except Dec.
7849 Tommy Dr, La Mesa, CA
Club E-Mail: onedeergranny@aol.com

Capitol City Bird Society

Contact: Roland Cristo, PO Box 417700,
Sacramento, CA 95841
Meetings: 4th Fri. of ea. month - Foothill
Community Center
Website: www.capitolbird.org

Santa Clara Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Contact: Stephen Fairman, PO Box 3466,
Santa Clara, CA 95055
Meetings: 2nd Sun. of ea. month, Peninsula
Cons. Center, Palo Alto
Club E-Mail: scvcbcb@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com/
silicon valley/1570

CANADA

Durham Cage Bird Society

(Pickering, Ontario)

Contact: Jaquie Blackburn (416) 282-5997
secretary@birdclub.ca
Meetings: 2nd Tue (except July & Aug)
Rotary Park Pavilion, Lake Driveway W. Ajax
Website: www.birdclub.ca

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

(Ontario)

Contact: Julianne Mion (519) 948-6398
julianne@mnsi.net

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

(Denver)

Contact: Anna Sinclair (719) 634-6404
Meetings: 2nd Fri of each month, Lakeside
Mall, 44th & Harlan, Denver
Club E-Mail: birds@rmsa-birds.org
Website: www.rmsa-birds.org

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale)

Contact: Marcia David (954) 321-9229
marbilld@comcast.net
Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Flamingo Gardens Gallery, Davie, FL
Website: www.feathers.org

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Palm Bay)

Contact: Ginny Heptig (321) 952-9780
yngathrrt@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, Greater
Palm Bay Senior Ctr. 1275 Culver Dr.

Club E-Mail: ywweir@aol.com

Website: www.homestead.com/
exoticbirdclubofflorida

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club

(Stuart)

Contact: Jim Dunn (772) 344-8374
jdunn3@adelphia.net

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month,
Pt. Salerno Town Hall

Suncoast Avian Society (Pinellas Park)

Contact: Joe Ventimiglia (727) 392-9391
whoward7@tampabay.rr.com

Meetings: 1st Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Leisure World Mobile Home Park

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society (Atlanta)

Contact: Pat Miller (770) 425-9455
jandpmiller@mindspring.com

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, 2:30 pm
Smyrna Community Center

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

(Chicago)

Contact: Diana Federl (630) 325-4414
dianafederl@yahoo.com

Meetings: 3rd Fri. of ea. month, American
Legion Hall, 310 Butterfield Rd., Elmhurst

Club E-Mail: secretary@gccbc.org

Website: www.gccbc.org

Illini Bird Fanciers (Springfield)

Contact: Patte Montgomery (217) 787-0399
illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, Var. Locations

Club E-Mail: illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries

Contact: Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8425
birdhop@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Fri. of ea. month except Nov.

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society

(Des Moines)

Contact: John Thielking (515) 278-9159

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Des Moines Botanical Ctr.
909 E. River Drive, Des Moines

KANSAS

PEEP - Parrot Education & Entertainment People

(Wichita)

Contact: Jo Ann Faleo, 316-529-3374,
JFALEO1@sbcglobal.net

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.

Contact: Barbara Shannon (410) 356-5850
Meetings: 3rd Sun. of ea. mo. - Towson Library
Club E-Mail: drhaynesesq@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society

(Grand Rapids)

Contact: Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163
pdhugo@charter.net

Meetings: 2nd Mon. of each month - UAW
Hall, 4269 Alpine, Grand Rapids

Website: www.angelfire.com/mi4/glas

Motor City Bird Breeders

(Detroit)

Contact: Pat Piekarz (586) 296-2957
dpiekarz1@comcast.net

Meetings: 1st weekend of each month at
club members' homes.

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society (Kansas City)

Contact: Anthony Day (816) 356-9533
sterryday@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, Trail West Library - 11401 E 23rd St. - Independence

Mo-Kan Cage Bird Club (Columbus,KS)

Contact: Doug Willis (417) 358-7248
dwillis71@cox-internet.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester)

Contact: Ray Schwartz (603) 362-6106
prismsdad@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Mon. of each month
Villa Crest, Manchester, NH

Website: www.boaf.com

NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club (New York City)

Contact: Dan Griffin (718) 994-1614
dgriffi11@online.net

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month
23-18 29th St. Astoria, NY

Club E-Mail: AstoriaBirdClub@aol.com

New York Finch and Type Canary Club (New York City)

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

Meetings: 2nd Sun. of each month except
Jul. & Aug. 1:00 p.m.
Averill Blvd. Pk. Elmont

Website: www.newyorkfinch.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society (Raleigh)

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

Meetings: 3rd Sun of ea. month, Glen Eden Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh

Website: www.rdcbs.org

OREGON

Eastside Finch Connection (Portland)

Contact: Mary Smith (503) 634-2233
smithwm@open.org

Meetings: 1st Mon. of ea. month - 7 pm,
Clackamas Comm. Hall, Clackamas

PENNSYLVANIA

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society (Pittsburgh)

Contact: Jim Felix (412) 462-0969
justuff1@comcast.net

Club E-Mail: mjonnet@katz.pitt.edu

PUERTO RICO

Asociation De Criadores de Finches Del Este

Contact: Victor Cordero 893-7723

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville)

Contact: Lisa Mellies (615) 890-6906
tnma2@comcast.net

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month 1 pm
Donelson Senior Ctr.
108 Donelson Park - Donelson, TN

Southeast TN Avicultural Society (Niota)

Contact: Janet Burrell (423) 472-1306
jgb2202@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun. of each month 2 pm
Niota Elementary School



NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club

(Knoxville)

Contact: Terri Bartow (865) 548-1966

Meetings: 1st Tue. of each month - Church of the Good Samaritan

Club E-Mail: bggrass@hotmail.com

Club Website: tvebc@kornet.org

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club Inc.

(San Antonio)

Contact: Nathan Durbin (210) 433-1840
tak@stic.net

Website: www.aebc.org

Canary & Finch Society (Pasadena)

Contact: Helen Jones (281) 324-4100

Meetings: 2nd Sun of each month - Pasadena Town Square Mall

Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth)

Contact: Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
COculwell@myfam.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun of each month - Fort Worth Botanical Garden - Azalea Room

Club E-Mail: circlm@swbell.net

Club Website: www.fwbc.org

Texas Bird Breeders (Temple)

Contact: Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
COculwell@myfam.com

Meetings: Feb and Aug on 3rd Weekend

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Inc.

(Hampton)

Contact: Bea Rogers (757) 484-6001

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month at 2 pm

Website: www.vapeninsulacagedbirdclub.org

Events: Bird Marts - Spring & Fall, 2004
Annual Bird Clubs of Virginia Convention

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association

(Seattle)

Contact: Janel C. Johnson (425) 226-8899
katbird57@aol.com

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month at 2 pm,
Kepler's Feed - 16442 SE
Renton-Issaquah Rd. - Renton

WISCONSIN

Badger Canary & Finch Club

(Milwaukee)

Contact: Sue Feldstein (262) 965-5367

Meetings: 3rd Sat. of each month - No meetings in Dec. or Jan.

Club E-Mail: devanornum@aol.com

Club Website:
www.badgercanaryandfinchclub.org

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club (Oshkosh)

Contact: Dave Bluma (920) 428-4595

Davidbluma@aol.com

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month.



Did you know you can renew your membership for more than one year? We have added multiple year membership options to all forms available both in the Journal and at the website.

2004 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00.

Club Name: _____

Club City/St: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Club affiliation entitles your organization to receive all NFSS publications and to exercise the privileges of the Society. These include, but are not limited to:

- ***NFSS Journal***--- Our newly formatted bi-monthly publication connects you with other finch and softbill enthusiasts around the world. It includes articles on breeding, housing, diet, management, products, specific species, and experiences of other aviculturists.
- ***www.NFSS.org***--- Visit our ever-expanding website for the latest information on NFSS activities, officers, affiliated clubs and their websites, 2004 affiliated shows and events, archives, advertisements and Avicultural links.
- ***Finchshop***--- Looking for an unusual gift? Finchshop is our department store. Items and order forms are available in the NFSS Journal and on the website - www.NFSS.org
- ***Finch Save***--- The goal of this restructured member participation group is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture.
- ***Census***--- The annual NFSS Census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging breeding stock.
- ***Affiliated Shows and Events***--- are advertised in the NFSS Journal and on the website.
- ***NFSS Panel Judges***--- are available for shows.
- ***Awards with the NFSS Logo***--- (plaques and rosettes) are available at new reduced prices!
- ***Annual Achievement Awards***--- are presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

Once we receive your application and fee, we will list your organization among the affiliated clubs in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Please write, email or phone me for an Affiliation Application and Awards Catalog!

Send your check for \$25.00 made payable to NFSS to:

Darla Dandre
NFSS Affiliations & Awards Manager
PO Box 1231, Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: 815-729-9789
E-Mail: Dbirdranch@aol.com

2004 NFSS AWARDS ORDER FORM

You may request a color catalog featuring our awards being offered this year or use the order form below.

Your show information must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than two months before your show date.

Circle me!

YOU MUST BE AN AFFILIATED CLUB TO ORDER AWARDS
If you have not done so already, you may affiliate now.....\$25.00

Plaques -

- Best Finch or Softbill in Division \$25.00
- 2nd Place Finch or Softbill in Division . . \$25.00
- 3rd Place Finch or Softbill in Division . . \$25.00
- Best Finch in Show \$25.00
- Best Softbill in Show \$25.00
- Make your own Award! \$25.00

Engraving Information:

Rosettes -

- Basic Rosette Set (1-10 + Best Unflighted) . \$25.00
- Unflighted Rosette Add-on (2nd & 3rd Place) . \$6.00
- Novice Rosette \$3.00
- Youth Rosette \$3.00

Please make check payable to NFSS and mail to:

Darla Dandre
Awards Manager
PO Box 1231
Lisle, IL 60532
 815-729-9789
 Dbirdranch@aol.com

Please, no express mail or parcels! - Thanks!

Affiliation Fee \$ _____ + Awards Order \$ _____ = TOTAL \$ _____

SHIP AWARDS TO: NAME: _____

Please fill out ALL the information!

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ e-mail: _____

Club Name: _____

Show Date: _____ Judge: _____

Show Location: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail or web site: _____

Show Manager: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

NFSS Club Delegate: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Publish this information in the Journal? YES _____ NO _____

NFSS MEMBER and NON-MEMBER ORDER FORM

Split Plastic Band Choices: Red, Dk Green, Lt Green, White, Pink, Black, Purple, Yellow, Orange, Dk Blue, Lt Blue **MINIMUM ORDER \$5.00**

SPLIT PLASTIC BANDS - \$1.50 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW AND COLOR

XF	XCS	XCL	XB	X3	SUBTOTAL

NFSS MEMBERS ONLY *Closed traceable aluminum bands available in only the NFSS color of the year. Aluminum bands are engraved with initials NFS, Size Code, Year, and Number. There is no choice of number. All aluminum bands are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of 10, same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number. Write "New" for an NFSS Member #. Orders are processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures.*

The banding and marking of wild birds is very tightly regulated by the Federal government. It is illegal to use ANY band on a bird that is released to the wild except a Federal band issued by US Fish and Wildlife.

ALUMINUM BANDS - \$3.25 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW

A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	R	S	T	SUBTOTAL

If you choose not to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacements.

POSTAL INSURANCE

Under \$50.00 - \$1.30

\$50.00 to \$100.00 - \$2.20

Over \$100.00 - \$3.20 _____

HANDLING FEE \$2.00 _____

PLASTIC & ALUMINUM SUBTOTAL _____

TOTAL _____

BANDS FOR YEAR: _____ **NFSS MEMBER #:** _____
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
E-MAIL: _____

PAYMENT PAYABLE TO NFSS

MAIL TO: Paula Hansen, 2234 Juneau Ct. S., Salem, OR 97302

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

- Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl (Bicheno) Finch, 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, Timor Zebra, Peales Parrot Finch.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin, Violet Eared & Blue-capped Waxbills, Purple Grenadier, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing Finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-Breasted) Parrot Finches, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society (Bengalese) Finch, Standard Zebra.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted & most smaller mannikins, most other Parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, Siberian Goldfinch, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, Mousebirds, other small doves, quail, softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large Sunbirds, Superb Starlings.
- Size R: Green/Purple 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.

Guide to Ordering Open Plastic Leg Bands

- Size XF: Cordon Bleu, Fire, Orange-Cheeked, Red-Eared, Lavender, Blue Capped Waxbills, Owl, Cherry, Green & Grey Singers, Painted, Hecks & Masked Grassfinch, Gouldian, Most Parrot Finches, Zebra, Bengalese (Society), Stars.
- Size XCS: Nuns, Cutthroats, Diamond Firetails (Diamond Sparrows), most Twinspots, Siskins, (Canaries - Gloster, Fife, Miniature & Fancy).
- Size XCL: Red Faced Pytilia, Pekin Robin, (Canaries - Roller, Borders, Lizard, Norwich, Yorkshire, Red Factor).
- Size XB: Indian Shama, Diamond Dove, Chinese Painted (Button) Quail, Budgies, Grass Parakeets.
- Size X3: Lovebirds, Rosellas, Many Softbills.



Membership Application

Name: _____

Dual Membership 2nd Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

New Member? _____ Renewal (List NFSS #) _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership Dues (Select One)

	Single	Dual	Foreign	Junior
1 Year:	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$22.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
3 Years:	\$85 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	
5 Years:	\$140 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Life:	\$1500 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Mail Application
and Check
Payable to
NFSS:

Ms. Linda
Hughes
P.O. Box 499
Rhome, TX
76078



NFSS FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE Information/Application Request

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail Request to:

Mr. Randy Taylor

17801 Robin Road, Canyon, TX 79015

NFSS FinchShop



Gouland Finch Beeswax Candle

These adorable Gouland finch candles are handmade from honeycomb beeswax. The candle is approximately 5 inches high. Makes a great gift for your favorite finch lover. Available in two versions: red head and black head purple **Cost \$10.00 each**



NFSS Logo Cap

An adjustable (one size fits most) 100% cotton dark blue cap with the graphic in tan and green National Finch & Softbill Society lettering.

Cost \$16.00 each



NFSS Logo Polo Shirt

A short sleeve, tan, 100% pre-shrunk cotton Polo Shirt with embroidered logo over left chest. Bird graphic is blue with National Finch & Softbill Society in green. Available in men's sizes: M, L, and XL.

Cost \$28.00 each



NFSS Logo Pin

A multicolored, silk-screened lapel pin featuring the NFSS logo. The pin measures 1¼ inch (32mm). Show your pride in being a member!

Cost \$2.50 each



NFSS
*the National Finch
and Softbill Society*

FinchShop Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Item (specify size /color if applicable)	Price
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Shipping/Handling:

Orders \$ 0.01 to \$9.99 - add \$3.85

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: _____

Mail completed form with your check payable to NFSS to:

Robert Mehl

NFSS Finch Shop Manager

11108 Hollowbrook Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117-1379

The Classifieds

TRADE: One female little Green Singer (*Serinus mozambicus*) hatched 9/03 for one male little Green Singer. Email: tilesnancy@mighty.net

FINCH MADNESS Available consistently: Zebra Finches (Lightbacks & Black-cheek), Societies (pied, crested, and Euro-selfs), Owls, Rosy-rump Waxbills, Blue-caps Waxbill, Gouldians, Indian Silverbills, and Diamond Firetails (orange mutation). Available intermittently Orange-cheek Waxbills, White-headed Nuns, Black hooded Nuns, tri-colored Nuns, Stars, Parson's, and Shafttails. Working with Fire finches, Goldbreast Waxbills, Black-crowned Waxbills, Rufous-collared Sparrow. Call or visit our website for current available birds: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze3ft62/> Robert Mehl Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 (410) 581-7955 email: Robert.Mehl@verizon.net

ENTIRE GOULDIAN FINCH BREEDING COLONY FOR SALE.

All colours, including a blue male. Over 40 birds. Many normals with combinations of red, black, orange head, many white breasted, and some yellows. Colony comes with five-plus pairs of Society finch fosters included. Excellent breeders, young birds, parent-raising well in colony set-up. Good gene pool mix with unrelated stock. These are quality birds! \$3,000 firm. Will ship. Call John at (509) 443-2505 or e-mail: cellofellow_8@hotmail.com.

CUBAN MELODIOUS FINCHES: For sale. Unrelated pairs and singles. Kristine (206) 282-8513 or e-mail: hgholmberg@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Gouldian finches (most colors), Diamond Sparrows, Gold Breasted waxbills, Shaftails, Societies, Green Singers. Contact Seymour Lazerowitz in Virginia (703) 671-5588.

FOR SALE: Star Finches (yellow faced, normals and pided), Shafttails (normals and fawns), Diamond Firetails, Lady Gouldians, show Societies (chocolate, fawns and whites) all NFSS banded. taking orders for Spring hatch. Will ship. E-mail: studioone@cox-internet.com Darrin Hill, Species captain, Star and Shafttail finch, Finch and Softbill Save, NFSS.

WANTED: Cutthroat finches Interested in both red and yellow throat Bert Spear, Benton City, Washington (509)967-6706

WANTED: PEALES PARROT FINCH-ES I am in need of new blood lines. I have been trying to work with the Peales Parrot Finch and need a few more blood lines to establish enough to sustain a flock. I will trade blood lines (04 for 04), or pay cash, or trade for them. Contact William@ 516-770-2857 or, wwasseraman2@optonline.net

Advertising Rates: Inside Cover \$40.00/Issue or \$204.00/Year; Full Page \$30.00/Issue or \$153.00/Year; Half-Page \$20.00/Issue or \$102.00/Year; Quarter-Page \$10.00/Issue or \$51.00/Year. Classifieds: \$4.00 (Up to four lines of text). Free Classifieds to NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program Members. All ads are posted on the NFSS website (www.nfss.org) at no extra charge. Contact Brenda Josselet, PMB 279, 6705 Hwy 290 W, Suite 502, Austin, TX 78735. (512) 288-0891 bjosselet@austin.rr.com.

Oregon Feeder Insects Corp.

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New Product!

Introducing Bug'Mmms, a high-protein supplement to mix with seed blends. Great for your wild bird feeder too - it draws insectivores to your feeder.

NEW 3lb. bags!
Great savings for you!
Other sizes available, call for details.

Bug'MmmsTM Puffed millet, *M. domestica*, spirulina. Puffed grain, insect fortified to an amazing 18% protein. Mix with seed blend. Finches love it. **New Product!!**
12 oz. \$19.95

Soya MuscaTM Soy concentrate, *M. domestica*, spirulina, calcium. Sprinkle on fruits and vegetables, fortify pabulum, bake in egg breads, add to nectars or gels. Not a "stand-alone."
1 lb. \$15.95
3 lbs. \$30.95

Ova MuscaTM Dried whole egg, egg white, *M. domestica*, spirulina, calcium. Use in egg breads or to fortify pabulum. Not a "stand-alone" or for sprinkling on wet vegetables or fruit.
1 lb. \$20.95
3 lbs. \$40.95

Skipio'sTM **Egg Meal** Ground millet, canary seed, egg, soy, *Musca domestica*, spirulina, aniseed. Use moist or dry as breeding conditioner and baby food. High protein and high fiber content for intestinal motility.
1 lb. \$12.95
3 lbs. \$24.95

Skipio'sTM **Finch Breeder Mix** Ground millet, canary seed, egg, soy, *M. domestica*, flax, alfalfa, spirulina, aniseed. High protein, high fiber, high insect. Feed to world's finches through courtship and breeding.
1 lb. \$13.95
3 lbs. \$26.95

Skipio'sTM **Softbill Maintenance Mix** Ground millet, dried apple, suet, *M. domestica*, soy, whey, calcium, spirulina. Great for Starlings, Pekins, thrushes, bulbuls and many other softbills.
1 lb. \$14.95
3 lbs. \$28.95

Skipio'sTM **Fruit and Insect Mix** Dried apple, *M. domestica*, spirulina. Birds benefit from fruit sugars and fiber plus insect derived proteins and fats.
1 lb. \$13.95
3 lbs. \$28.95

Dried *Musca domestica* Larvae Whole or ground. 4 oz \$24.95, 1 lb \$49.95

Whole Dried *Musca domestica* Pupae 4 oz \$24.95, 1 lb \$59.95

Live *Musca domestica* Pupae Up to 1 lb.: \$6.50 per order PLUS \$2.50 per ounce; minimum order two ounces.

All prices include postage in USA. Major credit cards, checks, MO, PayPal accepted.

OFIC, PO Box 714 Tillamook, OR 97141-0714 USA
www.oregonfeederinsects.com

TOLL FREE: 866.641.8938
sales@oregonfeederinsects.com



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The EuroCage™ is based on a design used by many European bird breeders. The cages can be used singly or in stacks of three high, covering an entire wall or room. The cages are light, sturdy, have powder-coated fronts and durable white plastic sides. These opaque sides are an important part of successful breeding; they separate the pairs so they can hear each other without seeing each other. Each unit can be equipped with a fluorescent light to show the birds to their best advantage. Nestboxes can be placed on a platform inside the cages which assures that banks of cages can be neatly fitted together. The design of the cage allows for maximum hygiene with minimum effort, and the high quality aluminum tubing is designed for a lifetime investment. Any questions...

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