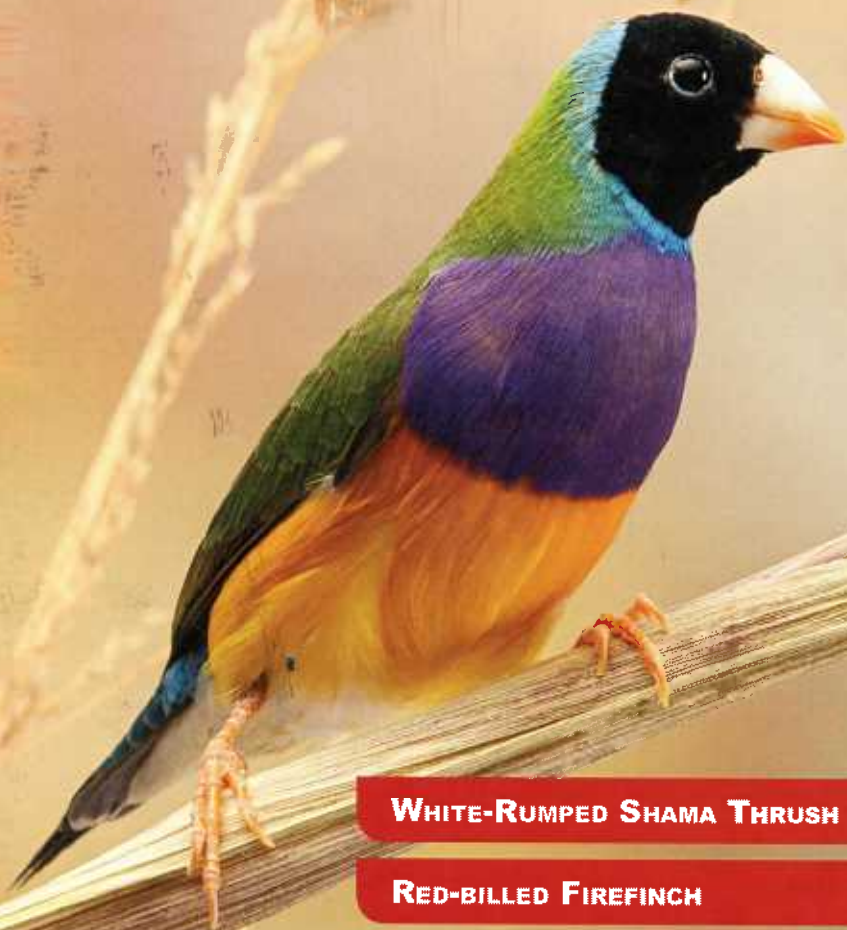




NATIONAL FINCH & SOFTBILL SOCIETY

Volume 30, No. 5
Sep - Oct 2013

THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA THRUSH

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH

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The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhancing our knowledge of the proper care of these birds, encouraging breeding programs, and working with other organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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EDITOR@NFSS.COM



President's Message

John Wilson

My wife has long accused me of reading manuals for pleasure and at risk of validating her point.

I like old books, particularly if they are about plants and animals their management and breeding. I recently picked up a copy of Practical Tomato Culture Frank C. Pellett 1930 for the grand sum of \$4.98 including shipping. Those of you who've kept bees or studied them might recognize Pellet as the author of American Honey Plants and The history of American Bee Keeping. Tomato Culture is an interesting read (wife was right) about the practical aspects of growing tomatoes for market in 1930. I brought this up here because something that Frank Pellett described discussing Tomatoes fits a pattern that I've seen in both plants and animals and that bears consideration in breeding small birds. In a chapter GROWING THE PLANTS the second paragraph begins, "Best results come from plants which continue to grow under favorable conditions with no set back before field setting." I have long experience to validate the point that many plants, tomatoes are a good example, can grow with surprising speed and that any negative change in growing conditions can dramatically slow growth and that recovery to the condition of rapid growth may unavoidably require significant time. This is the point. Small birds as Roland points out on the Finch/Softbill Forum are prey animals and early and repeated reproduction has significant survival value. Many are capable of very high reproductive rates. This carries some consequences. If we provide ideal conditions and experience multiple clutches we must understand that reproduction even under ideal conditions has costs for the parents and sustaining a breeding period overlong will require at best a sustained period of recovery and at worst loss of the breeder. Consequences to the progeny from adverse changes can be, increased time to sexual maturity, delayed juvenile moults and even loss of chicks or juveniles. Aviculture particularly when maintaining and breeding small birds is an intense exercise in management and can be terribly unforgiving of any inattention or omission in maintaining appropriate conditions. It's why the most valuable conversations are often those that explore failures. It's also why we need to read not only the most recent publications but also those written about early efforts to breed the same or similar species. If you are fostering any avian species and haven't read Robert Black's Society Finches as Foster Parents it's in my view almost a certainty that the short time required to read the book will pay off in the spades of a more complete understanding of the parameters and strategies of Fostering. If you are going to artificially incubate eggs...

I said in the last Journal that I'd update my consideration of again introducing Golden Pheasants to my aviaries. Three Golden Pheasants hatched on July 14 a rather poor showing from 15 Golden eggs incubated . There is some satisfaction in being able with a degree of accuracy to identify what went wrong and what can be can be altered to improve future hatches . If you want to improve hatch rates you can't avoid the unpleasant task of breaking and inspecting the eggs that don't hatch. I can with a degree of confidence identify a likely cause of the four late deaths, (high humidity) and adjust in future incubation efforts. I know this because the information is available in A.F. Anderson Brown's The Incubation Book If you want to understand the process and learn how to identify what went wrong in incubation this is my recommendation. It's another old book. Feel free to suggest books you've found useful and informative on the Forum. I'm always looking for another manual.

The NFSS General Election Ballot was in the July / Aug Journal put yours in the mail. Postmark on or before November 1.

John Wilson
President NFSS



HELP WANTED

NFSS is looking for a conscientious volunteers to fill the NFSS JOURNAL EDITOR and ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER positions . The Advertising position is presently up to date and it should be relatively easy for the person assuming this position to take over and not have to spend more than a few minutes weekly handling the job. The Editor position requires a great deal more time but the resources of a designer are available if the candidate requires the services. We have in the past when not paying a designer provided a \$200 stipend to editors choosing to not use a designer. I'm willing to bring any reasonable terms for compensating an editor to the BOD for consideration.

If you would like to be considered for either position, please contact John Wilson by email at jwilson153@aol.com

White-rumped Shama Thrush (*Copsychus malabaricus malabaricus*)

Kendra and Vince Moase, V&K Aviaries

Our experience with White Rumped Shama Thrushes began in 1988 when we purchased a pair of wild caught birds from Grant Rishman, in Victoria B.C. They were 1-2 years old when we got them. We managed only one offspring from this pair, and that was by hand raising the chick, a male. The rest of the babies had been pitched, and mutilated, and the pair never nested again. The adults lived with us well into their teens, with the male dying in 2005 and the female in January 2006.

Around 2000-2003 we managed to purchase a second pair of Shammas. These birds were not as large as the other pair and had a different temperament, leading us to believe they were probably a different sub-species or geographic race.

Both of our original Shammas were strong singers. The female had a shorter song, but was every bit as loud as her mate. When we got the second pair, they were



young birds. As the young male matured, he started to sing, but as long as the original pair was alive, the young male's song was very soft, like he was singing to himself, and the young female didn't sing at all.

Once the young male started to sing, we tried setting him up with his mate in a planted outside aviary.

They coexisted quite happily for the summer, but made no attempt at courtship or breeding. This was a change, as our original pair could only be kept together when ready to breed, due to the males' aggressive nature.

During the winter months, all Shammas were housed inside, in individual box cages. Shammas, unlike Pekin Robins, cannot take the cold temperatures of an outside aviary. The four birds were situated in the bird room so they could not see each other. A month after our old Shama hen died it was a bit of a surprise when we found the young female sitting on an egg in the shavings on the floor of her cage, and the young male started to sing out loud.

This confirmed what we had suspected for some time, that Shammas being very territorial birds, can dominate their range by song alone. As long as one of the original pair was alive and singing, the younger pair was inhibited from breeding, and the old Shama hen had continued to sing up until a month before her death.



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When the young female started laying eggs, we set the pair up in a planted inside aviary. They started breeding immediately and had two clutches of fertile eggs. For some reason they were not happy with the aviary as they ate eggs and the young that had hatched. By then it was early April, and we were able to set them up in an outside aviary that had more privacy. It turned out to be a successful breeding season, with the pair raising 15 babies over the summer of 2006.

Of course every success has its price. In this case, the price was the cost of supplemental food, and the multiple feedings throughout the day, which meant we could never be away from home for too long. During this time period we bought multiple shipments of crickets 1/2"-3/4" size, extra mealworms in lots of 10,000, and frozen pinkies (baby mice). The crickets were purchased live, and frozen by us to be fed as needed.



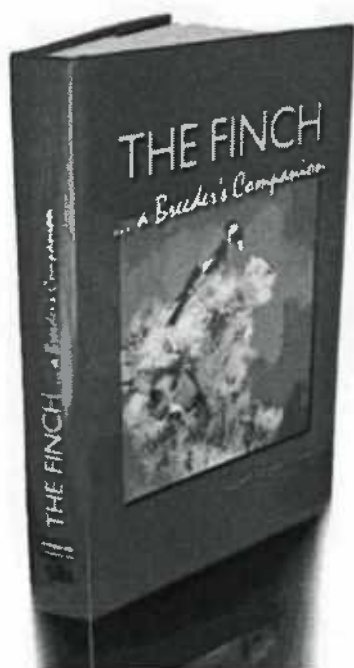
Freezing the crickets has several advantages, they don't have to be contained (an almost impossible task with live crickets), and when they're taken out of the freezer, the legs and wings fall off which helps guard against the birds becoming impacted with too much roughage. They're also easier to count, thereby keeping track of what was being fed/consumed. The pinkies, which were already frozen, were fed diced. This prevented the birds from eating the best parts, like the brain, and leaving the rest. Although a detailed count wasn't kept, we figure the cost of the extra mealworms, crickets, and pinkies, was probably about \$1,000.

The crickets, pinkies and mealworms were fed in addition to soaked dog and cat chow, eggfood, and a few greens like chickweed or chopped spinach. As already mentioned, there were 4-5 meals offered throughout the day.

The Shama parents preferred to feed the newly shed mealworms (white, soft bodied), and white pupae (recently metamorphosed mealworms), so this made food preparation time consuming, and mealworm selection was always the last thing done before feeding.

The Shama parents do not regurgitate food for the babies, but do pre-kill any live food. Our male ate and fed only insects and pinkies while rearing young, but his mate did eat and feed some eggfood and chow. This was fortunate, as it allowed the chicks a more varied well balanced diet.

The aviary the Shamas nested in is built against our house with dining room windows on one wall and a breakfast nook window on the other, the door to the aviary is from the outside on the third side, and the front has wire mesh and a set of salvaged patio doors that can be closed if necessary in case of unexpected cold



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weather. The wire on both outside walls is 1/2" X 1/2" and 1/2" X 1" mesh. The overall dimensions are 11'6" X 6', with a sloping roof, 11' to 9'7" at the front. The aviary is planted with white cedars, mulberry trees and perennial grasses, and all are allowed to grow thick, providing lots of cover. We also kept the blinds in the dining room closed, allowing the birds more security. The aviary was set up with 3 nest boxes. The dimensions are 7-3/4" X 6' X 8", with a 2-5/8" half open front. The pair alternated between two of them for their nests, the third box ended up serving as a perching platform.

The clutches ranged between 2-5 chicks, and the female shama was already sitting on the next clutch of eggs before the last babies were completely weaned. This made stopping the breeding season very difficult!

When the babies were on their own, we brought them inside and put them in individual box cages. This got them used to being in smaller confines without crashing around, and allows Vince to monitor how and what each baby is eating. One thing we found is they each developed their own personalities. Of course this made it harder for us to part with them too.

But once they were old enough, all young were sold with the exception of one pair. This was with the thought that we might get unrelated mates for them, place them as far apart as possible, and have multiple breeding pairs. In the end, we were worried we would permanently stunt the young male by keeping him so close to his singing father, and we sold him. A buyer for his sister didn't happen as quickly, so she was kept over winter within earshot of her parents. Before the spring, when we put the adult pair outside in the breeding aviary, the father and daughter were starting to call and answer each other. When the adult pair were set up outside, the young female stayed inside, but by then we figure a bond had already been established between father and daughter, because last summer saw no breeding activity at all.



We have since learned from a source in Singapore that the closest nest sites could be with no visual contact, and the range of a territorial song, is about 30 yards. So armed with this information, we knew our property would never support more than one breeding pair, and a buyer was found for the last female in November 2007.

This year has proven to be filled with new and different challenges. So far, our previously compatible breeding pair are not! It seems that Mister is hot to trot, but Missus is not. At best he only bothers her when she moves from one spot to another, and at worst he's actively chasing and abusing her. Either way, it couldn't go on, so after multiple trial separations and reintroductions, he is now living in the breeding aviary in a cage, and she is free flight. At this point all we can hope for is that she

has some change of heart, and begins to show some behavior that indicates she's interested in him. Is this a case where familiarity breeds contempt? Who knows? Time will tell. In the meantime, this year we're busy buying crickets and extra mealworms for baby Pekin Robins and Violet eared waxbills. Here we go again with the multiple feedings and the endless searching for white mealworms. However, they seem to do fine without the diced pinkies. [You know you're a bird spouse when you're willing to dice up frozen pinkies, and wash off the crusty remains when the dirty dishes return!]



At least this year staying home isn't so hard. With gas prices so high, it's a lot easier just to stay home, feed birds and weed the garden. Weed everything that is, except the chickweed!



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- 1:00 - Liz Koutsos, PhD, Director Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition
- 2:00 - History of Softbills as Zoo Animals.
Josef Harold Lindholm III, Curator of Birds at Tulsa Zoo
- 3:00 - Bird on the Brink: Saving the Critical Endangered Red Siskin
Brian Coyle, Dept of Vertebra Zoology, National Museum of History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC
- 4:00 - Judges Clinic

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW:

www.ncbs.org/annual_show.htm



The Red-Billed Firefinch A Diamond In The Rough

Rancel Borges, Paradise Avaries

The red-billed fire (*Lagonosticta senegala*) has 8-11 subspecies depending on your personal school of thought. So we can have a better understanding of the subspecies I will list each subspecies and the location where they are found. In this article I will focus on (*Lagonosticta senegala*) which is the species that I am currently working with.

- Lagonosticta senegala senegala* - Senegal
- Lagonosticta senegala brunneiceps* - Ethiopia, Sudan
- Lagonosticta senegala kikuyuensis* - Kenya
- Lagonosticta senegala abayensis* - Ethiopia
- Lagonosticta senegala flavodorsalis* - Nigeria
- Lagonosticta senegala pallidicrissa* - Angola
- Lagonosticta senegala rendalli* - Zambia, South Africa
- Lagonosticta senegala rhodopsis* - Cameroon, Mali



For years there has been one finch in particular that has caught the attention of both novice and expert breeders, the Fire finch. This beautiful little gem belongs to the Estrildidae family. Measuring a mere 3-4 in in length these dazzling red birds are a delight to keep in any aviary. Their average life span is estimated between 5-7 yrs depending on how they are kept.

Males are crimson red with some brown coloration in their wings and tail, females are predominantly brown with more white spots on the sides and flanks than males. Both males and females have a pink bills, and yellow eye rings which are very prominent, especially in older birds. Juveniles are similar to females but lack the yellow eye ring, and white dots along the sides and flank.

In the wild fire finches tend to live in large groups that are usually found in Savannah Woodlands. The grass cover here although sparse provides good reliable seeds. In the wet season it grows very fast reaching up to 3 meters high, flowering, and then spreading its seeds. Firefinches spend their day searching for small seeds of grasses and plants, along with insects and some herbs. These hardy little birds love to eat *Echinochloa colona* (Jungle rice), *Setaria* (bristle grasses),

Urochloa (signal grasses), Panicum (Guinea grasses), Chloris, Digitaria (finger grasses), Eleusine (goose grasses). As well as some insects like termites, flies, ants, mealworms, thrip nymphs, aphids, spiders, and fish moths.

In captivity it is crucial that we provide our birds with the necessary nutrients they would receive in the wild. A good seed mix diet is necessary, along with a valuable source of protein like egg food and insects. Although fire finches are known to successfully rear their young without the need of live food, it is still essential that we feed them insects. I feed my African finches a mix of freeze dried insects that consist of mealworms, bloodworms, and crickets. Other sources of nutrients that need to be provided to the birds at all time to thrive and maintain good health are as follow:



Charcoal (Although charcoal has no nutritional value it helps with the birds digestion, which can demilitarize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria in the gut.)

Calcium (Most of us have experienced first hand the loss of a hen due to calcium deficiency and now know how essential it is to give our birds calcium, specially during the breeding season. Good sources of calcium are cuttle bone, crushed oysters and egg shells)

Herb salad (Herb Salad is 100% Organic leaves, roots, bark and flowers of the plants. It contains nutrients, minerals, vitamins and healing capabilities. Herb Salad has 22 medicinal herbs that address common health issues safely and without the dangers that improper medicating and over supplementing can produce.)



Gravel, Grits (Although finches hull their seeds before consuming them, it is my belief that gravel and grits are still essential to their digestion, specially if the birds are breeding as this helps aid in breaking down the foods that will be fed to the chicks. Not only does it help with digestion but its also nutritious. Finches in the wild have been found to search for it on a regular basis)

Fire finches will readily breed in a mixed aviary, as long as their needs are satisfied. Their passive characteristics



allow them to get along great with the rest of the inhabitants. During the breeding season males and females become more active foraging around the floor of the aviary searching for insects and nesting material. I have found that all my fires are very secretive when it comes to mating. I have never been able to see their mating ritual. Most fire finches will accept a variety of nests like wicker, bamboo, half open, or in other cases they prefer to build their own free standing nest. Materials used to build the nest are alfalfa grass, coconut fibers, and white feathers to line the interior of the nest.

After the male finishes the nest copulation will begin. I have had some males build up to three nests, using one only and the other two as decoys. Each nest is divided into two sections, upper and lower. The upper segment of the nest is a bit more open, this branch is known as the decoy nest or cocks nest. Males will stand guard here and act as decoys flying away from the nest if a predator gets too close, this will usually distract the predator away from the nest site. The lower area is where the eggs are laid. This section is a bit bigger and has a different entrance, usually through the sides. The interior of this section is lined with feathers, and more often than not they will place a white feather covering the side entrance.

Females will lay on average 2-4 eggs. During the incubation period both sexes will share the duties. I have noticed with my pairs that the females will do all of the incubation during the night as she goes into the lower section of the nest and the male stays in the cocks nest. During the day they switch roles and the females leave the nest at daylight to go find some well deserved food. After a few minutes she will return and again they will switch. This routine will go on for most of the day for about 11-13 days.

When the chicks hatch the parents' anxiety for insects will become obvious, they will search desperately, scavenging the aviary floor for any aphids. The chicks are very quiet and hard to hear. This sometimes may concern the novice breeder, but



I strongly recommended that you restrain yourself from doing any nest checks as most pairs will abandon if the nesting site is disturbed. If you plan on close banding the chicks do so when they fledge. After about 20 days the chicks will fledge the nest. The parents will continue to feed them for an additional 2-3 weeks after which they will be weaned.

I tend to leave them with the parents one more week before separating them. The reason behind this is that during that full month out of the nest the parents will usually start a second clutch of eggs. I have noticed with my fires that their chicks are very attentive to what they do. And a week

or two after they fledge the female is already sitting on another clutch of eggs. They get a chance to experience first hand their parents mating ritual, building of the nest, and how they incubate.

The juveniles will begin to color at around 3-4 months of age. They are quick to become sexually mature usually between 6-9 months, but it is advisable to wait till they reach one year of age before breeding them.

Breeding the red-billed fire finch is an art not a science, but unfortunately some breeders are loosing this art ! It is up to us to help and continue domesticating these enticing little birds. We have lost too many species in the past and the numbers on some of our current species are declining! We must work harder with the fire finches we have available to us now as to insure that this does not happen to them, and hopefully others can in joy them in their aviaries for years to come !



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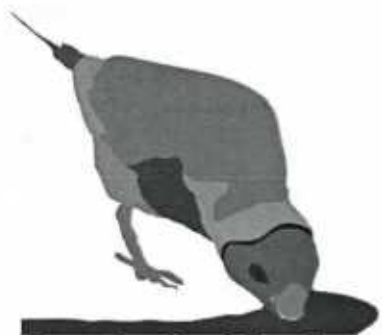
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The Gouldian Fund was established in 2005 to promote awareness and to fund valuable research into the decline of the Lady Gouldian Finch. Now considered *endangered* in the wild, recent estimates suggest there are fewer than 2,500 Gouldians remaining. A precious life is waiting and we ask you to please make your donation to **SAVE THE GOULDIAN FUND**, a non-profit charity. Dollar-for-dollar, NFSS will match your donation—up to \$10; however, you can donate without limit. All donations are used for research and conservation management, thus helping the Fund continue its important conservation efforts. For additional information, please go to

www.savethegouldian.org.

Soaked Seeds

Cheryl Burns

Soaked and sprouted seeds are a great way to provide variety and additional nutrition to your birds' diet. Birds of all sizes enjoy soaked seeds. Finches and small birds will need to be provided smaller seeds but even the larger birds often enjoy even the small seeds in their mix.

Many people worry about the soaked seeds going bad and making their birds sick. We have served soaked seeds to our parrots and finches for twenty years using the method described without having any troubles. We do not add anything but water to the seeds and rinse every 12 hours. The soaked seeds are served in all seasons as part of our rotational diet and are left in the cage all day. Our aviary can get into the 90-degree range in the summer.

Soaking Instructions

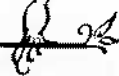
Rinse the seeds in a strainer or soaking container. Cover with water and let soak for eight to 12 hours. Rinse the seeds again and soak for another eight to 12 hours. At this point seeds may be served or soaked for another eight to 12 hours. The regular rinsing helps prevent the seeds from getting sour or molding. The routine at our house is to prepare the seeds for soaking in the morning at the same time we feed birds. Rinse the seeds that evening, soak again and then they are ready to be served the next morning at feeding time.

Soaking Containers

Containers can be made from quart canning jars. Use plastic canvas from the craft or fabric store to cut a strainer that will fit under the canning lid ring. Or you can purchase a couple of plastic bowls that will stack inside each other. Take one of the bowls and with a small metal rod (cake tester works well) melt holes in the bottom to create a colander with small holes. You can then put the seeds to be sprouted in your colander bowl, place this bowl in the unaltered bowl and soak the seeds. Regular plastic colanders may also be used by placing them in a large bowl of water to soak.

Seeds to soak

Following are some types of seeds you can soak. These can be purchased at a health food store or online. Also, several ready-made mixes are available. Experiment with which things your birds like best and create your own mix. Our homemade finch mix contains: Wheat kernels (berries), yellow split peas, green lentils, red lentils, hulled millet and barley.



Seeds to soak (cont.)

- Adzuki Beans
- Alfalfa
- Amaranth
- Anise
- Buckwheat
- Corn
- Dill
- Fennel
- Fenugreek
- Flax
- Garbanzo Beans
- Green Pea
- Lentils
- Millet
- Mung Beans
- Mustard
- Sunflower
- Pumpkin Seed
- Quinoa
- Radish
- Red Clover
- Rye Berries
- Sesame
- Spelt
- Triticale
- Wheat
- Whole Oat

**Ready-made mixes and seeds
are available at:**

www.millerfeed.net

www.chinaprairie.com

<http://www.sproutpeople.com/>

www.bulkfoods.com



JUST FINCHES *and Softbills* MAGAZINE



While focusing primarily on Australasia, this magazine incorporates what's happening with finches and Softbills from many overseas locations as well, including, South Africa, America, Europe and the U.K.

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Often the first bird that finch breeders start with, Society Finches remain a favorite with many aviculturists.





**NFSS Region 2 Regional Show
Suncoast Canary and Finch Club
Punta Gaorda, Florida
October 12, 2013**

Location: Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center,
75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Judge: Bob Peers

Show Manager: Alexander Villarreal

Email: Vetagator@yahoo.com

Phone: 941-661-1115

Hotels: Sheraton Four Points - *Approx 100yds. from Event Center*
33 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
941-637-6770

\$89.00 + tax per night

Mention Suncoast Canary & Finch Show for rate. Birds allowed.

Microtel - *3 miles away from Event Center*

4056 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

941-624-6339

Single Queen Bed \$43.20 + tax per night

Two Queen Beds \$51.20 + tax per night

Mention Suncoast Canary & Finch Show for rate. Birds allowed.

- * Bird Registration on Friday from 1pm to 5pm and Saturday from 7 - 8:30 am. Judging at 9am
- * Bird Registration is \$3.00 per bird.
- * Dinner Buffet Friday Night at the Event Center \$25.00/person, buy tickets in advance.

Fort Worth Bird Club



September 28, 2013

Annual Bird Show

Azle Community Center

404 N. Main St.

Azle, TX 76020

Show Manager: Jerry Cason 817-237-5867

E-mail: jerrycason@mindspring.com

www.forthbirdclub.com

Judge: Armondo Lee

Bird Entry Fee: \$2.00 with cap of \$20.00

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Hours: Judging starts at 9:00 a.m.



October 19, 2013

Annual Bird Show

Livonia Elks Lodge

31117 Plymouth Rd

Livonia, MI 48150

Show Manager: Mary Tarsitano 586-781-6429

E-mail: mtarsitano@gmail.com

www.scfbmichigan.com

Judge: Kenneth Gunby

Bird Entry Fee: \$3.00 with cap of 20 Birds

Early Registration for Birds on Friday the 18th. From 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration on the 19th 7 am to 9 am – NO ENTRIES AFTER 9 AM, NO EXCEPTIONS

Judging will start on the 19th at 9:00 a.m. and no later than 10:00 a.m.



N.F.S.S. REGIONAL SHOW
38th Annual Show and Exhibition
September 27, 28 & 29, 2013

Judge:

Kenneth H. Gunby

Fogolar Furlan Club, Udine Complex – Upper - elevator
1800 E.C. Row North Service Road, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Contacts:

Julianne Mion 519-948-6398 - E-mail: julianne@mnsi.net
Dave or Sue Sylvester 519-727-3766 - d.sylvestr@gmail.com
www.essexkentcbs.com

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VERY EYES!!

Date: Saturday

September 28th, 2013

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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755 N. 4TH AVE. • CANTON IL 61520 • 309-645-7773

AFFILIATIONS@NFSS.ORG

CALIFORNIA

Central California Cage Bird Club REGION 5 SHOW HOST
<http://www.mycCBC.org> Meetings—3rd Sunday at Mancini Hall Modesto, 718 Tuolomne Blvd., Stanislaus CA 95351. Contact—Janna Place: 209-862-3792.

Finch Society of San Diego <http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>
Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-4 p.m. 12/20 at Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064. Contact—Sally Huntington: 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122; 858-452-9423; sdfinchsociety@gmail.com

West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show
Meetings—No club meetings, show committee meeting in July. Contact—Sally Huntington, 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122. 858-452-9423.

COLORADO

Mountain States Avian Society
Meetings—2nd Saturday, 1 p.m. at Animal Central, 8308 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster CO 80021. Contact—Gary Morgan, 15341 Kingston St., Brighton CO 80602; 303-659-9554; burdmn@aol.com. NFSS Delegate: Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown CO 80116; 303-664-0399, pjbavila@aol.com

FLORIDA

Suncoast Canary and Finch Club REGION 2 SHOW HOST
Meetings—Wednesday, 7 p.m. Contact—Alexander Villarreal, 1419 Collingswood Blvd., Port Charlotte FL 33948; vetagator@yahoo.com. Show Date: 10-18 thru 10-20 2013.

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club <http://www.gccbc.org>
Meetings—3rd Friday, except November and December, at Yorkfield Civic Center, 15W354 Lexington St., Elmhurst IL 60126. Contact—Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook IL 60440; 630-980-4416. wild@comcast.net, secretary@gccbc.org

Illini Bird Fanciers Inc. www.illinibirdfanciers.com
P.O. Box 13006, Springfield IL 62791, Contact: Contact—Karen Williams, 217-391-4648.

INDIANA

Hoosier Bird Buddies Bird Club <http://home.mchsi.com/~tmaldrich/>
Meetings—1:30 p.m. at upper classroom, Diehm Museum, 600 Franke Park Dr., Fort Wayne, Indiana, near the Children's Zoo; 1st Sunday, unless holiday; if holiday, meet 2nd Sunday. Summer picnic and December party held at member's homes. President: Eric M. Clark, 260-452-7828; eclark1@orkin.com. Secretary: Theresa Etzler, theresa.j.etzler@gmail.com

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IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society

<http://www.macbs.org>

Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-5 p.m. at Des Moines Botanical Center, Swartz Room, 909 Robert D Ray Dr, Polk IA 50316. **Exceptions**—fairs held 3/24/13, 9/8/13 at IA State Fairground Walnut Center, E. 30th St. and University, Des Moines IA 50317 **President**—John Thielking, 8209 Twana Dr., Urbandale IA 50322-1522; 239-851-8132.
Thielking@lowolink.com

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

<http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org>

Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m. at Towson Library, 320 York Road, Baltimore MD 21204-5179. **Contact**—Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton MD 21120; 410-343-1807, compteocher@yahoo.com. NFSS Delegate: Ray Reter, 10310-L Malcolm Cir., Cockeysville MD 21030.

MICHIGAN

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders of Michigan

Region 3 Show Host

<http://www.scfbmichigan.com/> Meetings—3rd Saturday of month, location varies.
Contact—Kristen Reeves, 248-543-8903, Kristen.reeves@sbcglobal.net

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club

<http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org>

Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m. at Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, St. Louis MO 63122. **Exceptions**—no meetings June 10, Sept 19, Dec. 9 (second Sunday), and August. **Contact**—Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge MO 63049; 636-343-8097, President@GatewayParrotClub.org

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

<http://www.gkcas.org>

Meetings: 2nd Sunday at Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview MO 64030. **Contact**—Clay Behrman, 3523 NE 49th St., Kansas City MO 64119; 816-217-7263, birdmon79@live.com. NFSS Delegate: Anthony Day, 800 S. Butler Lane, Independence, MO 64056; 816-252-1120. doyorforthebirds@ool.com.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

<http://www.boaf.com>

Meetings: 2nd Monday. **Contact**—Ray Schwartz, 19 Olde Common Dr., Atkinson NH 03811; 603-362-6106; President@BOAF.com

NEW YORK

Colorbred Canary Club of New York

Meetings—1st Sunday each month, except July and August. **Contact**—Jose Zelada, 20 N. Goodwin Ave., Elmsford NY 10523; 914-345-5707.
Club Address—96-06 73rd, Corona, NY 11368.

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NEW YORK

Kings County Canary Club

Contact—Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229; 718-332-3413, kanarykate@aol.com. Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229.

New York Finch and Type Canary Club

Meetings: 1-4 p.m., 2nd Sunday, except July and August. Contact—Stan Kulak, 17 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island NY 10309; 718-967-6899, barstand@verizon.net.

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Inc.

Juan Alicea, 12203 Urb Serenna, Los Prados, Apt. L-302, Caguas PR 00727; 787-479-7405. juanalicea@yahoo.com. Meetings: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Las Catalina's Mall, Food Court Area. Juanalicea@yahoo.com

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

<http://www.przfc.com>

Meetings—Wednesday, Caguas in Plaza Centro Mall Caguas, Caguas PR. Contact—Gene Perez Forte, Jardines Arecibo Q59, Arecibo PR 00612. President—Jorge Mojica, Urb Lomas Del Sol, 175 Calle Acuario, Gurabo PR 00778-8930; 787-550-3163. puchasbirds@yahoo.com.

TEXAS

Fort Worth Bird Club

REGION 4 SHOW HOST

Meetings—2 p.m., 2nd Sunday at Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Dr. (north of I-30 in Fort Worth). <http://www.fwbc.org>

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association <http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

Contact—Clarence Culwell, 4211 Kelly Elliott Road, Arlington TX 76016-4607; 817-220-5568. coculwell@verizon.net. Club meetings by conference call. TBA

CANADA

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

REGION 1 SHOW HOST

<http://www.essexkentcbs.com> Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, julianne@mnsi.net. Annual Shows: June 23 and September 27-29, 2013. See Club Events, starting below.

NFSS IS PROUD TO AFFILIATE WITH THE FOLLOWING

American Federation of Aviculture

P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709; www.afabirds.org

Avicultural Society of America

Contact—Steve Duncan, P.O. Box 3161, San Dimas CA 91773. Founded in 1927, this is the oldest aviculture society in the United States.

<http://www.asabirds.org/home.html>

National Animal Interest Alliance www.naiaonline

NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013

Mountain States Avian Society

Location: Adams County Regional Park, 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton CO 80601

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

New York Finch and Type Canary Club

Fair Location: St. Jude School, 1696 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Contact: Stan Kulak

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2013

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Annual Show, Canaries and Hookbills: Fogolar Furlan Club, 1800 Ecrow, N: Spruce Road, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Show Manager: Dave Sylvester, 519-727-3766; d.sylvestr@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Fort Worth Bird Club P.O. Box 1712 Keller, TX 76244

Show: judge, TBA. Location: Azle Community Center, 404 N. Main St., Azle, TX 76020

Show Manager: Jerry Cason, 817-220-5867. jerrycason@mindspring.com

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 12, 2013

Suncoast Canary and Finch Club

Location: Charlotte Harbor Event & Conf. Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda FL

OCTOBER 12-13, 2013

Kings County Canary Club

Show Location: St. Jude's Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn NY 11236.

Show Manager: Dan Griffin/Kathy Guise, 718-332-3413; Kanarykate@aol.com

OCTOBER 19, 2013

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Show Location: Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia MI 48150

OCTOBER 19, 2013

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Annual Show: Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview, MO.

Judge: Annette Howard. Show Manager: Anthony Day

OCTOBER 26, 2013

Central California Cage Bird Club

Regional Show-Fair: MRPS Social Hall, 133 N. Grant, Manteca CA 95669.

Show Manager: Jane Perez, 209-245-3582; janep.plymouth@gmail.com

NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Del Este

Location: Alturas de Villa Del Rey Ballroom, Calle Francia, Caguas PR 00727

Show Manager: Juan Alicea, 787-479-7405; juanalicea@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Location: Weitendorf Agriculture Center, 17840 Laraway Road, Joliet IL 60452

Show Manager: Robert Wild, 630 985-4416; r.wild@comcast.net

NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers

FAIR AND SHOW. Judge: TBA. Location: Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501. Show Manager: Clarence Culwell.

Other Divisions: Tiels, Budgies, Parrots, Canaries.

NOVEMBER 3, 2013

Hoosier Bird Buddies

FAIR. Location: Allen County Fairgrounds, 2720 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Variety of vendors, food, large raffle table, door prize. Fair or Vendor Information:

Diana Fair, 260-482-3845.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1, 2013

Finch Society of San Diego County <http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

Contact: Maureen Shanahan, P.O. Box 1297, Fall Brook, CA 92088.

sdfinchsociety@gmail.com

FAIR: Holiday Craft Fair and Bird Mart. Location: Poway Elks Club, 3219 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064.

Contact: Antonio Rodrigues, 914-512-0632, antonio979@aol.com

EARLY DECEMBER

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

Location: Coliseo Manel Petaca Iquim, Arecibo, PR 00612

SHOW. Judge: Laura Watkins. Fair Manager: Ramon Rernandez, 787-633-1215.

Watch the journal and the NFSS website for show dates.

NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS

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Show Manager: Jane Perez, 209-245-3582; janep.plymouth@gmail.com

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/	/	/	/	/	
/	/	/	/	/	

<p>Size A (2.20mm): Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl Finch, Red-eared and Strawberry Waxbill</p> <p>Size B (2.34mm): Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufus-backed Mannikin, Timor Zebra Finch.</p> <p>Size C (2.55mm): Violet-eared and Blue-capped Waxbills, Cherry Finch, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Green/Grey Singing Finch, Pytilas, Red-headed and Forbes Parrot Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, American Society, Cuthroat Finch.</p>	<p>Size D (2.73mm): Blue-faced, Peals, Red-headed Finches, Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted and most Mannikins, Pintailed Nonpariel, most Twinspots, American Zebra Finch.</p> <p>Size E (2.89mm): Black-crested Finch, Diamond Sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Spice finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra Finch.</p>	<p>Size G (3.20mm): Magpie Mannikins, Siberian Goldfinch, small tanagers.</p> <p>Size J (3.4mm): Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, small softbills.</p> <p>Size K (3.50mm): Java Rice birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush.</p> <p>Size L (4.30mm): Diamond Dove, Mousebird, small doves, quail</p> <p>Size M (4.48mm): Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, Superb Starlings.</p>
<p>BAND CUTTER NOW AVAILABLE \$20.00 ea.</p> <p>► Visit us at www.NFSS.org ► Join Finch Save</p> <p>► Join in on our line forum ► Gift memberships</p>		

► **ALUMINUM BANDS: Members only • sequentially numbered • permanently recorded. \$5.00 per string of 10 bands.** Indicate quantity only below.

A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	Subtotal:												
										\$ _____												
<p>*HANDLING FEE: Must be included in all orders.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Under \$ 40.00</td> <td>\$ 4.00</td> <td>\$ 61.00 - \$100.00</td> <td>\$ 8.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 41.00 - \$ 60.00</td> <td>\$ 6.00</td> <td>\$101.00 - \$ 300.00</td> <td>\$ 10.00</td> </tr> </table>										Under \$ 40.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 61.00 - \$100.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 41.00 - \$ 60.00	\$ 6.00	\$101.00 - \$ 300.00	\$ 10.00	<p>Handling fee: \$ _____</p>				
Under \$ 40.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 61.00 - \$100.00	\$ 8.00																			
\$ 41.00 - \$ 60.00	\$ 6.00	\$101.00 - \$ 300.00	\$ 10.00																			
<p>**POSTAL INSURANCE: Optional</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>\$ 00.01 - \$ 50.00</td> <td>\$ 1.95</td> <td>\$200.01 - \$300.00</td> <td>\$ 5.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 50.01 - \$ 100.00</td> <td>\$ 2.45</td> <td>\$300.01 - \$ 500.00</td> <td>\$ 6.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$101.00 - \$ 200.00</td> <td>\$ 3.05</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>										\$ 00.01 - \$ 50.00	\$ 1.95	\$200.01 - \$300.00	\$ 5.10	\$ 50.01 - \$ 100.00	\$ 2.45	\$300.01 - \$ 500.00	\$ 6.25	\$101.00 - \$ 200.00	\$ 3.05			<p>**Insurance \$ _____</p>
\$ 00.01 - \$ 50.00	\$ 1.95	\$200.01 - \$300.00	\$ 5.10																			
\$ 50.01 - \$ 100.00	\$ 2.45	\$300.01 - \$ 500.00	\$ 6.25																			
\$101.00 - \$ 200.00	\$ 3.05																					
										<p>FINAL TOTAL \$ _____</p>												

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