

The National Finch and Softbill Society



MAY

JUNE

1988



GWNOREN

MAY / JUNE

1988

Volume 5 Number 3

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most of us in the U.S., we are now into the drought of 88. This makes the summer doldrums even more difficult. Most of us have our birds resting now for the upcoming show season. Show season! Yes, the shows they're not that far off.

One highlight of the Summer is the AFA Annual Convention. This year the convention is in Tampa, Florida, from August 2nd through the 7th. It is to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at City Center in Tampa. This year's event will sponsor tours, lectures, seminars and a commercial area. NPS will have a general membership meeting at the convention. For more information contact Phyllis Martin, 4483 Gandy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33611. Call (813) 839-4751.

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ATTENTION ALL CLUB DELEGATES

Show name: _____
 Date _____ Panel Judge: _____
 Location: _____
 Delegate name _____ Phone () _____

TAKE THE TIME NOW. TO SEND THIS INFORMATION TO NFS P.O. BOX 18607
 EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-0607, SO THAT YOUR SHOW INFORMATION MAY
 BE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN. DON'T WAIT, DO IT NOW! THANKS.

NFS BULLETIN AD COSTS

DISPLAY READY ADS

FULL PAGE \$35 PER ISSUE \$144 PER YEAR (SIX ISSUES)

HALF PAGE \$20 PER ISSUE \$96 PER YEAR (SIX ISSUES)

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The National Finch and Softbill Society

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Ann. Date _____

Check type of membership desired:

Single 15.00, Dual 20.00, Junior 7.50 (-16yrs), Canada add \$5.

Foreign add \$10. Canada and Foreign Subscriptions are first class.
Please list other name to be included in a dual membership:

Please answer a few questions for us:

How long have you been involved in finches and softbills? _____ yrs.

How many species have you kept? _____

How many species have you successfully bred? _____

Do you exhibit in bird shows? _____

Do you keep softbilled birds? _____

Please list an occupation or special talent that may be helpful to
the NFS (printer, artist, lawyer, etc.) _____

Are you interested in participating in the NFS Judges Panel? _____

Please indicate below the items you are most interested in.

Nutrition _____ breeding _____ management _____ exhibition _____ bulletin _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR APPLICATION AND DUES TO:

NFS Member Services c/o Russ Armitage Jr.

345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT 1988

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

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT ARE NOT EXHIBITION ORIENTED. THE FEE FOR THIS AFFILIATION IS \$25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE NORMAL EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO YOU WILL RECEIVE DURING THE AUGUST OF YOUR AFFILIATION YEAR A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FOR YOUR CLUB. THIS PLAQUE CAN BE A SERVICE OR BREEDER AWARD FOR ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB (THIS PERSON NEED NOT BE A NFS MEMBER). THE PLAQUE ALONE IS WORTH THE AFFILIATION FEE. REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE PLAQUE AND WORDING MUST BE FORWARDED TO NFS NO LATER THAN JUNE 1 OF THE YEAR.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION IS FOR CLUBS WITH EXHIBITIONS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL INCLUDE BEAUTIFUL PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND BEST IN DIVISION AT YOUR SHOW. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40, AND IS SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S AFFILIATIONS..

LEVEL TWO -WITH ROSETTE PACKAGE

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LEVEL TWO - WITH SOFTBILL PACKAGE

ADDS BEST SOFTBILL PLAQUE TO LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION, TOTAL COST \$65.

LEVEL THREE AFFILIATION

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

SEND YOUR APP AND REMITTANCE TO: THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY, AFFILIATION DIRECTOR, C/O PAM LIDDY, 245 DRAPER ST. SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108.

List your club, affiliation amount, delegate and address.



THE NATIONAL FINCH & SOFTBILL SOCIETY

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| C | Stars, Heck's Grass Finch, Cutthroats, Parrot Finches, Yellow Ninged Pytilia, & Shafttails | |
| D | Zebra Finch, Gouldians, Chestnut Breasted, Yellow Rumped, & Pectoralis | |
| E | Society Finches, Nuns, Firetails, Diamond, Gray Singers, & Green Singers | |
| G | Larger Nuthatches & Canaries | |
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| L | Quail, Doves, & Other Softbills | |

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Please make your check or money order payable to NFS and send your order to:

NFS BAND SECRETARY
Roger O'Connell
451 Moody Street, Box 114
Waltham, Mass. 02154

Please send me the following bands. (Multiple of 10 only.)

A () B () C () D () E () G () J () K () L ()

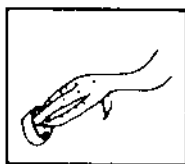
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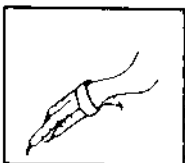
Leg banding Procedure courtesy of the NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY



The most important thing to remember when you begin to band a finch is to do it over a counter or table in case the chick makes a sudden move, it will not fall to the floor.



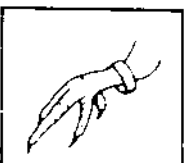
The age of the bird to be banded varies with the species. Generally it will be between five and six days old. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



The band is generally placed on the right leg of the bird. Banding just before the nightly roost will help prevent picking of the band by the parents. By the next morning the birds will have forgotten about the band.



Have the band ready with a toothpick (or other blunt instrument) and a lubricant. Hold the chick firmly but in a way not to cut off the air supply or to hurt the bird.



Put a little bit of lubricant on the bird's foot and slide the band over the front three toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band is now in the proper location between the ankle and elbow joints.

It is best to check on the chick after a few days to make sure the band has not slipped off. Before banding, make sure the band is right side up so that it can be easily read.

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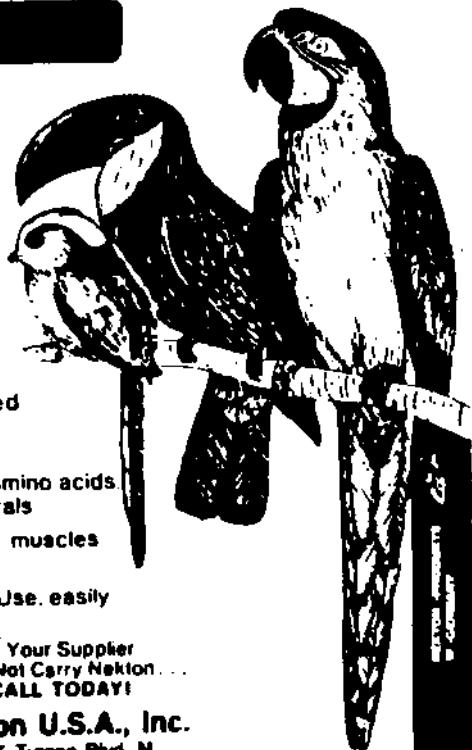
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Reported by Bill Parlee

The Board of Directors of the Society have set forth their 1988 species classifications for use at National shows. In the next several pages this classification system is spelled out in nine divisions.

There are few changes from 1987, however some are significant. I will outline the changes as follows:

Division One becomes the Softbill Division. Many Softbill exhibitors had asked for this change in past years. Our NFS judges paid particular attention to this request during the past season. They reported to the Board that Softbills would be better served if judged first in the day, and that the finches would not be harmed by this change.

Division Two - Zebra Finches remains the same.

Division Three- Australians. The Section for Grassfinches has a name change to Pintailed type with the addition of a class for Mutation Shafttails. This change reflects the efforts of breeders who are increasingly exhibiting the new mutations. The Section "Plains Finches" becomes Grassfinches. The Fire-tailed class has been deleted.

Division Four Indo-Pacific remains the same.

Division Five - Societies. Dilutes have been added to the Cinnamon Section and Mostly White has been deleted from the White Section.

Division Six - Europeans has changed significantly. All federally illegal birds, all mules and hybrids have been deleted.

Division Seven - Africa. The Board could not agree on any way to divide this division. It remains the same.

Division Eight - South American Finches. Siskins have been changed to Black-headed and Venezuelan Black-hooded. Illegal birds and Mules and hybrids have been removed. A statement has been included here and in the European classifications alerting local show officials that all federally or locally illegal entries should not be accepted for exhibition. This of course, should hold true for the entire show.

Division Nine - Softbilled Birds remains the same with many changes to come next year.

The National Finch and Softbill Society has at it's June meeting made a commitment to the ornithological clean-up all show classifications.

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY 1988 CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION ONE - SOFTBILLS, NECTARINES, AND DOVES

| YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS | YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| SECTION 1 - NECTARINES | | SECTION 4 - LARGE SOFTBILLS | |
| 100 Hummingbirds | 101 | 400 Toucans | 401 |
| 102 Flowerpeckers/pierce Honeyeaters/guides/Dacnis | 103 | 402 Toucanettes | 403 |
| 104 Sunbirds | 105 | 404 Touracos | 405 |
| 106 Honeycreepers | | 406 Barbets | 407 |
| Sugarbirds | 107 | 408 Jays | 409 |
| 108 White Eyes | 109 | 410 Any other Variety | 411 |
| 110 Bananaquits | 111 | SEC. 5 - DOVES & QUAIL | |
| 112 Any other Variety | 113 | 500 Diamond Doves | 501 |
| SECTION 2 - MYNAH BIRDS | | 502 Mutation Diamonds | 503 |
| 200 Indian Hill | 201 | 504 Green winged Doves | 505 |
| 202 Rothchild's | 203 | 506 Zebra Doves | 507 |
| 204 Any other Variety | 205 | 508 Lacenecked Doves | 509 |
| SECTION 3 - SMALL SOFTBILLS | | 510 Ringnecked Doves | 511 |
| 300 Starlings | 301 | 512 White Doves | 513 |
| 302 Bulbuls | 303 | 514 Button Quail | 515 |
| 304 Orioles | 305 | 516 Any other Variety | 517 |
| 305 Any other Variety | 307 | | |

Suggested Awards: Best, Best Softbill plaque.

2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION TWO - ZEBRA FINCHES

| YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS | YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| SECTION 1 - NORMAL ZEBRAS | | SECTION 3 - OTHER VARIETIES | |
| 100 Gray normal male | 101 | 300 Fawn | 301 |
| 102 Gray normal hen | 103 | 302 Penguins | 303 |
| SECTION 2 - WHITE ZEBRAS | | 304 Pied | 305 |
| 200 All White | 201 | 306 Florida-fancy | 307 |
| 202 Chestnut-flanked | 203 | 308 Black-breasted | 309 |
| 204 Silvers | 205 | 310 Orange-breasted | 311 |
| 206 Creams | 207 | 312 Crested | 313 |
| | | 314 Any other Variety | 315 |

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Zebra in Division plaque.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons

DIVISION FIVE - SOCIETY FINCHES

| YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS | YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| SECTION 1 - CHOCOLATE SOCIETY | | SECTION 3 - WHITE SOCIETY | |
| 100 Self Chocolate | 101 | 300 Solid White | 301 |
| 102 Chocolate and White | 103 | | |
| SECTION 2 - FAWN (CINNAMON) | | SECTION 4 - CRESTED SOCIETY | |
| 200 Fawn | 201 | 300 Chocolate Crested | 301 |
| 202 Fawn and White | 203 | 302 Fawn Crested | 303 |
| 204 Dilutes | 205 | 304 White Crested | 304 |

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Society in Division plaque.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION SIX - EUROPEAN FINCHES

| YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS | YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS |
|---|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| SECTION 1 - EUROPEAN GOLDFINCHES | | SECTION 2 - OTHERS | |
| 100 European Goldfinches | 101 | 200 Chaffinch | 201 |
| | | 202 Greenfinch | 203 |
| | | 204 Linnet | 205 |
| | | 206 European Siskin | 207 |
| | | 208 Any other Variety | 209 |

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THE CANARY & FINCH JOURNAL
 P.O. BOX 1583
 LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON 97035



DIVISION SEVEN FINCHES OF AFRICA

| YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS | YOUNG CLASS | OLD CLASS |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| SECTION 1 - SMALL WAXBILLS | | SECTION 4 - MANIKINS | |
| 100 Dufresne's | 101 | 400 Bronze-winged | 401 |
| 102 Cordon Bleu | 103 | 402 Magpie | 403 |
| 104 Gold-breasted | 105 | 404 Silverbill | 405 |
| 106 Orange-cheeked | 107 | 406 Cutthroat | 407 |
| 108 Red-eared | 109 | 408 Blue-billed (B&W) | 409 |
| 110 St. Helena | 111 | 410 Any other Variety | 411 |
| 112 Firefinch | 113 | | |
| 114 Any other Variety | 115 | SECTION 5 - WEAVERS & WHYDAHs | |
| | | 500 Napoleon | 501 |
| SECTION 2 - LARGER WAXBILLS | | 502 Orange Bishop | 503 |
| 200 Blue-capped | 201 | 504 Red-billed | 505 |
| 202 Lavender | 203 | 506 Scaly-headed | 507 |
| 204 Aurora (Crimson) | 205 | 508 Any other Weaver | 509 |
| 206 Melba | 207 | 510 Pintailed Whydah | 511 |
| 208 Violet-eared | 209 | 512 Paradise Whydah | 513 |
| 210 Purple Grenadier | 211 | 514 Combassou | 515 |
| 212 Yellow-wing Pytilia | 213 | 516 Queen Whydah | 517 |
| 214 Any other Variety | 215 | 518 Red-throated | 519 |
| | | 520 Fisher's Whydah | 521 |
| SECTION 3 - TWINSPTS | | 522 Any other Whydah | 523 |
| 300 Dusky | 301 | SECTION 6 - SERINS | |
| 302 Dybowski's | 303 | 600 Green Singing | 601 |
| 304 Green-backed | 305 | 602 Gray Singing | 603 |
| 306 Peter's | 307 | 604 Yellow-rumped | 605 |
| 308 Any other Variety | 309 | 606 Any other Variety | 608 |

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION EIGHT - FINCHES OF THE AMERICAS

SECTION 1 - BUNTINGS

100 All Buntings 101

SECTION 2 - SISKINS

200 Black-headed 201

202 Black-hooded 203

Venezuelan Siskin

204 Any other Variety 205

SECTION 3 - OTHER S.A. FINCHES

300 Black & White Singer 301

302 Rufous-collared 303

304 Peru Yellow Singer 305

306 Saffron 307

308 Crimson Pileated 309

310 Any other Variety 311

SECTION 4 - CARDINALS

400 Red-crested 401

402 Green 403

404 Black-crested (Pigmy) 405

406 Pope Cardinal 407

408 Any other Variety 409

NOTE: LOCAL SHOW OFFICIALS MUST
NOT ALLOW THE EXHIBITION
OF FEDERALLY OR LOCALLY
ILLEGAL ENTRIES.

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION NINE - FINCH PAIRS

YOUNG CLASS

OLD CLASS

YOUNG CLASS

OLD CLASS

SECTION 1 - ALL FINCH PAIRS

100 Zebra Pairs 101

102 Gouldian Pairs 103

104 Other Aust.Pairs 105

106 European Pairs 107

108 Society Pairs 109

110 Parrot Finch Prs. 111

112 Other Indo-Pac.Prs.113

114 S.American Pairs 115

116 Cordon Bleu Pairs 117

118 Other African Prs. 119

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Pair plaque.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

SPECIAL LEG BAND NOTICE

"D" SIZE BANDS

"D" SIZE LEG BANDS ARE NOW ALLOWED FOR THE BANDING OF ZEBRA AND GOULDIAN CHICKS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. "C" SIZE BANDS ARE STILL ACCEPTABLE, HOWEVER DUE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM NFS BREEDERS DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE NFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS PASSED THIS ITEM. THE VOTE HAD FAILED ON TWO PAST TRIES.

The Central Alabama Aviculture Society Presents

The 7th Annual
ALL FEATHER BIRD FAIR
&
CAGE BIRD JUDGING SHOW

Sept. 3rd & 4th 1988

SHOW PLACE:

The Civic Center
300 Bibb Street
Montgomery, AL

HOST HOTEL:

The Madison Hotel
120 Madison Ave.
Montgomery, AL

AFFILIATED JUDGES TO BE:

NFS: DAREN DECOTEAU

NCS: DR. A.E. DECOTEAU

BUDGIES: E.J. TARBUR

CANARY & HOOKBILLS: WAYNE THOMANN

Judging Saturday only, Contests On Sunday

For Information Contact:

Chuck Clift, Fair Chairman

P.O. Box ZEBRA

Montgomery, Alabama 36109-0313

Tel. (205) 832-2637, (205) 285-6522 (Nights)

A Voluntary Bird Census

by Bill Perlea

The voluntary bird census can be a valuable tool to the finch and softbill breeder. By filling out the census and mailing it in, you will furnish the census department with the necessary information to connect you with other interested parties.

Letters from members wishing to buy babies or odd birds to complete pairs at the NFS office, are a constant occurrence. Very often we can not help because the information is not available. Thus the purpose of the census. NFS has had a census for three years now, but the response has not been spotty, until last year, when our first major census was published.

This will be our last attempt this year in gathering this information. Please take the time to rip out the page or Xerox it, fill it out, and mail it in, even if you had done it last year (update please)

If we can gather a meaningful amount of breeder information, we will publish it in the July/August issue. This will make the information available to all for the show season.

Here's how it works. You fill out the form and mail it in. The information is computerized. When a member calls or writes (writing is better as the computer is not always immediately available) we punch in the species, and out pops a few members telephone numbers that they can call. This sells your babies and odd birds. On the other hand, when you need something, it works for you also.

We are constantly surprised to find that a member is breeding a particular species that we did not realize anyone was breeding. We usually find out this information in a casual conversation at a show or other event. If this same information was available to other members, babies could be sold, odd birds swapped, and most importantly, breeding information shared. The info is even more important now, for the Finchsave program.

Your address will never be given out by NFS. We only use telephone numbers to connect members, so be sure when filling out the census to clearly print out your area code and number. Your cooperation with this census makes it work. Sit down right now, or as soon as you can and fill it out. Check off yes if you sometimes have babies for sale. Many finches are getting harder and harder to obtain. When giving out information we will try locate the members closest to you for convenience in shipping.



AFA in brief

June 1988

When one mentions AFA, most people immediately think of *Wheatebird*. This reaction is natural as *Wheatebird* is the most visible part of your AFA membership. It is, however, only one aspect of the Federation.

AFA is a dynamic and respected organization of hard working volunteers whose purpose is the conservation of avian life through the encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, education and monitoring of legislation affecting aviculture.

"AFA in Brief" is a communications tool designed to inform the members of affiliated clubs about the numerous activities AFA is engaged in on a continuous basis.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Six members of the AFA CITES committee recently met in Virginia to develop AFA's position and response in regard to the next CITES conference, tentatively scheduled to be held Oct. 9-21, 1989 in Jakarta, Indonesia. AFA's delegation will be taking a strong conservation message to the meeting.

In order to increase the committee's effectiveness, Chairman Lee Phillips has contacted the National Audubon Society, The World Macaw Society, the Species Survival Commission among others and asked to be on their mailing lists. This will increase AFA's knowledge of how other groups are preparing for the conference.

Thanks to members' generosity, the recent CITES appeal raised over \$14,000. Donations received will be used to send an AFA delegation to Jakarta and to develop AFA educational materials for use during the conference.

Legislation

National:

The revision of federal regulations is a continuous process. Over the past 14 years AFA has established and currently maintains a positive relationship with governmental departments whose regulations impact aviculture. They respect AFA and frequently seek our input.

Recent revisions to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations are, in part, unacceptable to aviculturists.

Permit Regulations (50 CFR Parts 13 & 21) Propose revisions such as mandatory lifetime permit revocations for certain inadvertent violations.

Humane Transportation Regulations (50 CFR Part 14) The Lacey Act established regulations for the humane transportation of birds. AFA believes that recent revisions to those regulations are, in fact, dangerous to birds and

therefore contrary to the purpose of the Act.

AFA representatives have discussed those and other matters that affect aviculture with department officials in Washington, D.C. AFA will continue to work toward an acceptable resolution of these issues.

State:

Pennsylvania — Bird Ban Bill (HB 2227) This bill closely parallels the existing New York wild bird law and regulations.

AFA State Coordinator Brenda Geesey coordinated efforts to educate the House of Representatives Committee hearing the bill regarding the detrimental aspects of the bill. AFA was joined in these efforts by the pet industry, game bird breeders, veterinarians, poultry industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Pennsylvania aviculturists. Also attending the hearings on behalf of AFA were Legislative Vice President Janet Lilienthal, Northeastern Regional Vice President Dallas Johnson and Legal Counsel Gary Lilienthal.

California — Bird Trade Study (AB3397) This bill would require the California Department of Fish and Game, assisted by an advisory committee, to prepare a report about the sale and trade of wild-caught exotic birds in the state.

While AFA has no objection to any educational process such as a scientific study, AFA has reason to believe that this bill is a precursor to an attempt to ban the sale of wild-caught birds in California.

State Coordinator Laurella Desborough met with Assemblyman Campbell's aide to convey AFA's concerns. In addition, a letter was sent to all AFA members in California alerting them about the bill.

If the bill is enacted, AFA will have a representative on the advisory committee.

The outcome of both bills is pending.

Detailed information regarding AFA's positions and response to legislative issues are regularly published in *Wheatebird*.

Convention

August 2-7, 1988, AFA's 14th annual convention, Hyatt Hotel, Two Tampa City Center, Tampa, FL 33602, (813-225-1234), \$38.00 room rates. Exhibits, speakers, tours, photo contest, drawing, education and fun. For registration information contact: Phyllis Martin, 4311 S. Trunk St., Tampa, FL 33611, phone (813) 837-4555.

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CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TOURACOS AT THE HOUSTON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

PART II

By Robert Berry

(Continued from Mar/Apr issue).

I would like to briefly outline some aspects of our husbandry program for you in this last half of the article.

Our diets are simple. They consist of a mixture of freshly diced fruits such as apple, papaya and banana, plus grapes, chopped greens and soaked raisins, sprinkled twice weekly with vitamin/mineral supplements (Paltone). Soaked Purina dog chow and mynah pellets are also offered daily.

Pairs are fed in the morning. When young are being reared, a second feeding is offered late in the afternoon. a few mealworms and small pieces of Zupreem Bird of Prey diet are also given during this time.

In our opinion the major factor contributing to our success is the segregation of specimens into individual pairs. Although it is possible to achieve, we do not recommend breeding touracos in colonies unless the aviary is large enough to allow for the establishment of sizeable territories for each pair.

Sexing presents no major problem. As quick methods for making tentative judgments, we rely on behavioral interactions and pairing in group situations. Adult males are invariably incompatible. On the other hand, females may live together compatibly and even lay in the same nest. By banding, or otherwise identifying individuals in a group, it is relatively easy to select true pairs. Unfortunately, there are always odd individuals which remain a question. In these cases, museum measurements may be helpful. In some species in which we have known pairs, males appear to have somewhat shorter crest measurements. We do not yet have sufficient data to support the validity of this distinction. Another physical characteristic which may prove useful for sex determination in some species is the size and shape of the eye ring, but again, further data are needed, and the age of the specimen is an important factor in this consideration.

There are several clinical or laboratory methods available, but we have not used these to any great extent due to the time involved and the lack of trained personnel required to handle large volumes of birds.

Having experimented with several types of nest structures, we find there are definite advantages in using nest platforms which have at least three inch lips on the sides. This helps prevent eggs or young from falling from the nest and appears to provide the females with a greater sense of

security. Produce flats have functioned best for us. These are lined with hay and a depression is made in the center. After adding a few twigs of their own, the birds seem totally satisfied with the arrangement. As you can see, the birds are not aesthetists with regard to the appearance of their nest.

Our observations indicate that both adults share the incubation responsibilities, with incubation periods averaging twenty-one to twenty-three days for the species bred at the Houston Zoo. The normal clutch consists of two eggs. The altricial young are covered with sooty black down at hatching and are fed by regurgitation. They leave the nest in about three weeks. At this time they are not fully fledged and clamor about in branches near the nest with great agility, closely tended by the adults. Once they leave the nest, we place perches low in the cage to help the young get off the ground should they happen to fall.

On occasion we have observed juveniles from the previous clutch assisting with brooding and rearing of their younger siblings. In some cases it has been necessary to remove the young when they become independent due to development of aggressive behavior in adults once they begin to recycle.

Our birds nest almost continuously from December through July. As a safety precaution we have on two occasions pulled chicks for hand-rearing during freezing weather and have found them extremely easy to raise.

Our hand-feeding formula consists of:

1 1/2 cup Gerber's Hi-protein pablum mixed with warm water to a porridge-like consistency, to which we add:

4 tablespoons aynah pellets

2 tablespoons Zupreen Soft-bill Diet

4 tablespoons applesauce

2 tablespoons Gerber's Strained Baby Beef

3 drops ABDEC liquid Vitamins

Initial feedings are by eyedropper. However once the specimens have become conditioned to handling, they soon begin to eat readily from a spoon. By the age of three weeks, they are usually eating by themselves.

It is significant that all of our breeding birds are maintained on public exhibit. Nest site, however, are provided in secluded areas out of public view.

Our breeding successes are in no small part due to the diligence and interest of the keepers. We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of young people working in our department. I would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of Peter Baul and his relief keepers, Carla Taft and Nancy Case, for the success of "project touraco".

With the arrival of several additional species on breeding loan from Busch Gardens this past year, we hope to expand our work with this group of birds.

EDITORS' NOTE:

The breeding of Touracos is now routinely accomplished at many zoos across the country. Much was learned from "Project Touraco" at the Houston Zoo.

The National Finch and Softbill Society is proud to have among its' members, several that are now raising and keeping Touracos in their own private collections. One NFS member now has the largest number of species in this country in a private aviary. NFS will soon publish an article on this breeder and his accomplishments with the Touracos.

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NFS HIGHLIGHTS A MEMBER

by William Parlee

This fall I will become a contributing editor to the NFS Bulletin, giving up my editorship which I have held for over five years. Brenda Geesey will be assuming the post of NFS editor. This new column is one I hope to continue and supply to Brenda on a regular basis. In the column we will be highlighting NFS members who have contributed much to NFS, have made great avicultural achievements, or are unique and interesting in some way that would be of interest to our members.

In this first column we are highlighting Karl and Peggy Kline of Del Ray Beach, Florida.

When the Northeast Finch Society went "national" and became the National Finch and Softbill Society, the Board of directors voted to establish the position of Regional Vice-President. Six regions were set-up to cover the U.S. NFS started a talent search to enlist members to hold these positions. Karl Kline was a natural for the Southeast.

Karl accepted the position and won the election. Ever since then he's been an ardent supporter and worker for NFS.

Karl and Peggy started in birds many years ago. First they kept Budgies and Cockatiels and belonged to the American Budgerigar Society, and the American Cockatiel Society. Eventually they settled down to keeping just finches and still later to specializing in Zebra Finches. Karl and Peggy raise many award winning Zebras including many of the mutations.

They have for the past few years really concentrated on the Black-breasted, and other new mutations. Last year when I judged the Great American I was surprised when one of Karls' birds didn't win Best Zebra. After the judging I found out that the bird that did win came from Karls original stock. What an honor to have someone buy yours birds and then win at a national exhibition with them.

Karl has been very active as Regional V.P. He always shows up at the meeting of local bird clubs and at shows to set up a booth, to give out information on finches and NFS. When I judged the Gold Coast Show a few years ago, Karl took me all over, to see friends aviaries.

Karl has served aviculture in many ways besides his breeding talents. He has served as Librarian, newsletter editor, show chairman, and you name it in the local south Florida clubs. He was elected President of the Greater Miami Avicultural Society. During his term as President he sponsored Florida's first all finch show.



Karl is always working to better himself. He is a member of the apprenticeship program of the NFS Judges Panel, and has become a published author in the Canary and Finch Journal.

One of the best things about Karl is his wife Peggy (I know he would not mind me saying this). Where Karl is, so is Peggy. They have great devotion to each other. Peggy is always there by Karl's side, helping do whatever needs doing.

Many of you may have met Peggy at the NFS booth she and Karl manned at the Columbus National. Peggy is a sweet, knowledgeable woman who has a deep respect for aviculture, and understands the service that people who are dedicated to their hobby must give to help others.

Cecil Gunby of Atlanta was recently elected Southeast Region V. P. for NFS. But for those of us who know Karl and Peggy, that will make little difference to them, they will still set up booths and promote NFS in South Florida. Cecil is lucky to have them on board, as we have been proud to call Karl and Peggy friends.

Tips for Raising Gouldians

by Timothy S. Morris

The following are some tips I have found useful in raising Gouldians. You may find them of interest as well.

1. Let young un-bred birds pick their own mates. I put four or five 1 year old males and females into a 3 foot by two foot cage two, and one-half five high that has nests already installed. I then watch to see which two birds dominate the upper perch/nest box area. The two that seem to "own" that area are left in the cage to breed. The other birds are removed.

2. Keep Society finches to raise the Gouldian young. I keep two pair in a divided double breeder cage with nest boxes attached to the outside. These Societies have done a very good job of taking care of orphans. There have been times when I was letting the Gouldians raise their own and the hatchlings were thrown out of the nest at one or two days old. These babies were given to Societies with eggs and the results were very gratifying.

3. Use N.F.S. size c or d (d is the recommended size) leg bands. This will show buyers that you can assure them of the age of the bird, and that you cared enough to keep track of the parentage. Bands do not prove quality, but there is no question that they improve the perception of quality.

4. If you buy green youngsters (not colored-up), do not let yourself end up with too many males. Almost as soon as they are weaned, the males usually start singing their song. It is possible to make pretty accurate guesses of sex at that point. Keep this in mind.

5. Be on the look-out for air sac mites as well as other types of parasites. A strange "gagging" type cough is the unfortunate sign of air sac mites. This condition is curable by injections of Ivermectin. They are treated again after ten days to be sure of catching the egg laying cycle of the parasite.

6. Find an avian veterinarian who know his apples (birds too!). Experience with Gouldians is almost "required". Just because a vet has had some experience with a few parakeets or canaries does not mean that he can be of help with your particular finch problems.

7. Feed plenty of boiled eggs shell to breeding females. I put it on top of their mineral grit, they really go for it. The only time I had a problem with egg binding was before I did this constantly. There are two reasons for the extra calcium. One is that calcium is needed in the blood

to cause the hen to have egg laying contractions, and the other is to produce a hard shelled egg that contractions will work on. Vitamin D is needed to convert calcium so it is a good idea to use vitamin and mineral supplements.

8. Use a big nest box, because I find that they mate in it. My boxes are 4" deep, 5" wide, and 6" top to bottom. I buy burlap and cut in into 4" squares. I then un-ravel it and throw it into the cage, when the male starts looking for nesting materials.

9. Limit your Gouldians to two nests per breeding cycle. It seems like they always go into a harder molt and recovery if they are over-bred. I have also noticed a distinct fall in the quality by the third nest. There may also be an increased rate of defects of the feet, etc.

10. Develop a feel for your birds. If you can set up your bird room so you are comfortable sitting and watching them, you can gain better control of their well being.

11. Know when to stop. Quality control dictates that you only keep as many birds as you and your equipment can reasonably handle. The risk of over-crowding is not a factor.

12. A great way to keep your interest alive is to subscribe to Avian publications that fit your interests. Another good idea is to help a less experienced new-comer. Remember this, even though you might not have been around as long as some of the old-timers, you can still be of great service to them by passing on the basics and offering re-enforcement when things are not going too well

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Breeding English Zebras

by John Bennett

I begin November 15th of each year to bring my birds into breeding condition. I start by feeding a soft food mixture once a day along with soaked seed. I also use wheat germ oil on the seed instead of cod liver oil. I put my birds outside for the summer months, hence the wheat germ oil instead of cod liver oil. When the birds start to show breeding behavior by December, I put the nest boxes in.

I like to have the first chicks hatch around December 25th. This way I can get the following years band on them. This is quite important when the show season comes along in the fall, the birds are ten to eleven months old then and many are shabbily.

We have never colony bred. I shudder every time I read where some knowledgeable person is promoting colony breeding for the novice. The novice should start right away breeding one pair of birds of the same mutation to one cage and as many pairs of quality Zebra's he can afford. Also you must be the boss over the nest box. If you can't inspect it you have trouble. Keeping track of parentage and banding becomes difficult.

The nest box I use is a five inch cube with a half open front, the lid is fastened with a piece of duct tape, this way you can check when the first egg is laid, when they hatch and when to leg band them. It is preferable to allow only two clutches per pair, per year. The only exception would be if the first two nests contained only two or three young. Then you could allow a third nesting.

To keep the birds from sandwiching their eggs, only give them enough nesting material to do the job. What I mean by this is, I build the nest in a five inch cube with a half front, then give them a little burlap bag cut into one inch squares and pulled apart. When they put this into the nest I take more burlap and finish the nest. I also make it deep enough that babies will not come out of the nest with a startled hen. I use a 40 watt light bulb to make the nest nice and round.

I should explain here that in the fall I gather the long uncut grass you can find in fields or by the roadside. This I use to start the nest with. I never give any of this grass to Zebras to build with. The burlap bag is soaked in Javex overnight then washed and dried. Then we cut it up into one inch squares and pull it apart by hand.

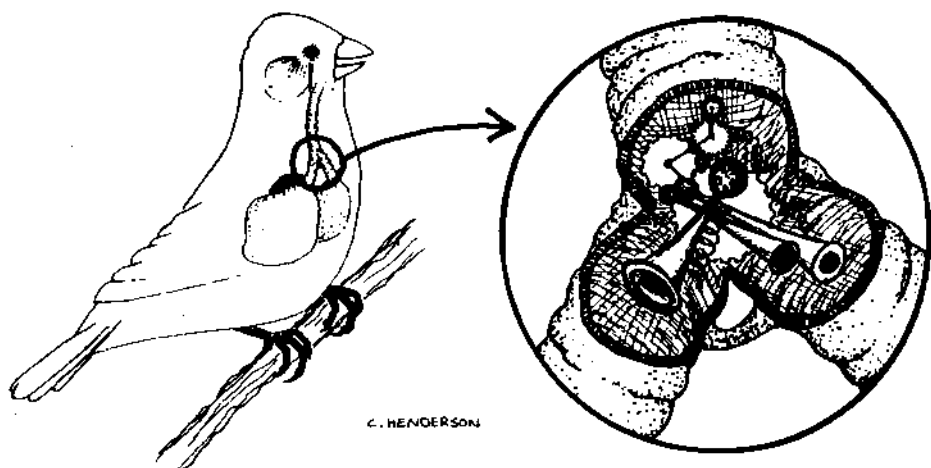
Zebras are usually leg banded from seven to twelve days old. They must be banded (ringed) to insure good records are kept, and also to enable you to enter them as young birds in the shows. When breeding season is over in

may, I will return the birds to their outside aviaries, for the summer months.

I keep the males separated from the females and old birds separated from the young birds. To stop Zebras from breeding you must take the nest box away otherwise they will keep breeding all summer and you will lose some of the size and eventually ruin your breeding stock. Breeding the English Zebras is not as easy as breeding the more common Zebras.

I have had Zebras refuse to use the nest box. sometimes they will use it if you hang it down near the perch. I have had birds that will not breed until the next year. I have had birds refuse to feed babies. I have my share of clear eggs. I even had a pair throw babies out of the nest as they hatched. I believe that everything that can go wrong will go wrong at some time or another. However all that notwithstanding we, somehow manage to enjoy and succeed in the fancy. Good luck in breeding your Zebras.

Editor's Note: John Bennett is a NFS member from Zephyr, Ontario, Canada. John is very well accomplished on the show bench. At our Columbus National John won the Best Finch in show, and the Kellogg for a beautiful Shafttail finch he bred.



INSIDE THE SYRINX OF A ZEBRA FINCH



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| 30-39 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 40-49 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x | x | x | x | x |
| 50-59 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x | x | x | x |
| 60-79 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x | x | x |
| 80-99 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x | x |
| 100-119 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | x |
| 120-139 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 140-159 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 160-189 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
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NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY LOCAL SOCIETIES AND EXHIBITIONS

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society, contact: C.B. Upchurch, (205) 288-8728. 13th Annual Bird Fair and Judging, Sept. 3-4., 1988, Montgomery Civic Center, Montgomery, Alabama. Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau.

CALIFORNIA

The Fresno Canary and Finch Society, contact: Helen Espindula (209) 686-4272. Show date: October, 29, 1988. Place: NFS Panel Judge: Clayton Jones.

The Capitol City Bird Society, contact: Helen Caudle (916) 933-1619. Show Date: October 8, 1988. Place: NFS Panel Judge: Ray Johnson.

The Golden Gate Avian Society, contact: Mary Payne (415) 449-8719. Show date: November 12, 1988. Place: NFS Panel Judge: Clayton Jones.

The Aviary Association of Kern County, contact: Hal Koontz (805) 872-1063. Show date: December 3, 1988. Place: NFS Panel Judge: Brian Bions.

The National Finch and Softbill Society Annual National Show, contact: Tony Patterson, P.O. Box 18607 E.Hartford, CT 06118-0607 or Helen Caudle (916) 933-1619. Show date: Nov. 17-19, 1988. Place: Vacation Village Princess Resort, San Diego, CA. NFS Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear.

North County Aviculturists, contact: Pearl Swatsek () - Show Date: Place NFS Panel Judge:

Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club, contact: Marty Von Raesfeld (408) 985-2712. Show date: Place NFS Panel Judge:

San Diego Bird Show Club, contact: Wayne Schulenberg () - Hosting the NFS National Show November 17-19 1988. See information above. Held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show.

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association, contact: Martha Wigmore (303) 574-1594.
Show date: October 14-15, 1988. Place: Colo Springs Auditorium.
NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, contact: Mary Buchtel (303)
422-6529. Show date: November 5, 1988. Place:
NFS Panel Judge: Ray Johnson.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Association for Aviculture, contact: Christine
Voronovitch (203) 649-8220. Show date: Oct. 22, 1988. Place: Veteran's
Memorial. E.Hartford, CT. NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee.

The New England Finch Fanciers, contact: Russell Armitage (203) 346-5875.
Show date: November 26, 1988. Place: Vet Mem. Bldg. E.Hartford, CT.
NFS Panel Judge: Al Decoteau.

FLORIDA

The Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club, contact: Karl Kline (305) 276-8711.
Show date: October 29, 1988. Place:
NFS Panel Judge: George Warren.

The Suncoast Avian Society, contact: Juanita McLain (813) 726-8326.
Show date: Oct. 8-9, 1988. Place: Sheraton Tampa East, Tampa, FL.
NFS Panel Judge:

The Sunshine State Cage Bird Society, contact: Jim Thomas (305) 656-5731.
Show date: October 22, 1988. Place: Altamonte Spg. Hilton and Towers.
NFS Panel Judge: Charles Anchor.

The Greater Miami Avicultural Society, contact: Hector Ugalde () -
Annual Bird Fair date: Place:

The Miami Parrot Club, contact: Marco Arida (305) 251-3895
Show date: September 25, 1988. Place:
NFS Panel Judge: Steve Hoppin.

The Panhandle Avicultural Society, contact:
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

GEORGIA

The Georgia Cage Bird Society, contact: Cecil Gunby (404) 251-2877
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

ILLINOIS

The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, contact: Charles Anchor (312) 543-3757. Show date: _____ Place: _____
NFS Panel Judge: _____

The National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries, Contact: Marie Ortiz ()
Show date: November 25-26, 1988. Place: _____
NFS Panel Judge: Earl Courts.

INDIANA

The Indiana Bird Fanciers, contact: Val Clear (317) 642-0795.
Show date: _____ Place: _____
NFS Panel Judge: _____

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society, contact: Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-2255.
Show date: _____ Place: _____
NFS Panel Judge: _____

LOUISIANA

The Gulf South Bird Club, contact: Evon Kruse (504) 469-2435
Show date: October 15, 1988. Place: Clarion Hotel, Canal St. N.O., La.
NFS Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear. Show info: Norma Reynolds (504) 837-7110

MARYLAND

The Baltimore Bird Fanciers, contact: Brenda Geesey (717) 854-2604
Show date: October 15, 1988. Place: Holiday Inn, Towson, MD.
NFS Panel Judge: Charlie Anchor.

Maryland Cage Bird Association, contact: Theresa Brown () -
Show date: Sept. 30 to Oct 2, 1988. Hosting the Great American Cage Bird Show, Festival Hall, Holiday Inn, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. see listing for Great American.

Great American Bird Show, for information contact: Dallas Johnson (301) 540-6198. Hosted by the Maryland Cage Bird Assoc. Hotel, Holiday Inn, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. September 30 to October 2, 1988.
NFS Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Cockatiel Society, contact: Helen Jabre (617) 641-3430.
Show date: September 24, 1988. Place: Framingham Civic League, 214 Concord St. Rte.126, Framingham. NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee

The Boston Society for Aviculture, contact: Kathy Wilson

The Exotic Cage Bird Society of New England, contact: Roger O'Connell
(617) 899-8523. Show date: September 17, 1988. Place
NFS Panel Judge: Al Decoteau.

The Massachusetts Cage Bird Association, contact: Shirley Eaton (401)
333-5594. Show date: October 15, 1988. Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

The Western New England Cage Bird Society, contact: Bob Clark
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

MICHIGAN

The Mid-Michigan Bird Club, contact: Mary Rue (517) 394-1047.
Show date: Oct. 29, 1988. Place: Ferry Elementary, Ferry, Mich.
NFS Panel Judge: Al Decoteau.

The Mid-West Canary and Cage Bird Society, contact: Mary Kaszyca (313)
285-5168. Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Cage Bird Society, contact:
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

MISSOURI

The Greater Kansas City Aviculture Society, contact:
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

NEBRASKA

The Greater Omaha Cage Bird Club, contact: Wayne Eichelberger (308)
872-2947. Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

NEW JERSEY

The South Jersey Bird Club, contact: Kristine Kroner. () -
Show date: Place:
NFS Panel Judge:

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Birds of a Feather, contact: Larry Brandt ()

Show date: Sept. 17, 1988. Place: Hampton Academy Jr. High, Hampton, NH.

NFS Panel Judge:

The New Hampshire Avicultural Society, contact: Mike Putnam (603)

352-2826. Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club, contact: Diane Lesser.

Show date: November 5, 1988. Place: Amer. Legion Hall, Hempstead, NY.

NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee

The Rochester Cage Bird Club, contact: Jeanne Murphey () -

NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society, contact: Pat Gibson (704)

588-1616. Show date: Sept. 10, 1988. Place: Holiday Inn I-77 at Woodlawn.

NFS Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert.

OHIO

The Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club, contact: Joan Gangie () -

OKLAHOMA

The Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma, contact: Gene Miller (405) 382-7066.

Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society, contact: Laura Bewley (918) 369-2717.

Show date: October 22, 1988. Place: Sheraton Airport, Tulsa.

NFS Panel Judge: Val Clear.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society, contact: Brenda Geesey (717)

854-2604. Show date: November 12, 1988. Place: Quality Inn, York PA.

NFS Panel Judge: Gerald D'Agata.

Chester Country Bird Breeders, contact: William Trace

Philadelphia Avicultural Society, contact: Rosemarie Priemon

The Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club, contact: Eva Duffy

Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

TEXAS

The Capitol City Cage Bird Club. Contact: Sarah Goodrich ()

Show Date: Place:

Panel Judge:

The Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association, contact: Sarah Goodrich

Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

VIRGINIA

The Penninsula Cage Bird Society, contact: Linda Oja

Show date: October 8, 1988. Place: Washington Inn, Williamsburg.

NSF Judge: Charles Anchor.

WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee Bird Society Ltd., contact: Fred Eggert.

Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Society, contact: Kathryn Konkol

Show date: Place:

NFS Panel Judge:

Note: \$ after judge's name, no points to be awarded, non-panel judge.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

The Australian Finch Society, England, Martin Mogg.

The New Zealand Finch Breeders, New Zealand, Valerie Hughes.

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was so excited when four chicks fledged from the pot, then five, then six! All fledged by February 3, 1988.

The second pair chose the larger woven nest, producing four fledglings within days of the "potted" pair.

Both pairs nested again, the potted pair's fifth "giant green olive" fledged April 18, 1988 and the second pair's four just a week later.

I love colony breeding the Goulds, as they seem to inspire each other to greater heights. One problem, I am not always able to split band babies from one pair, before the other family is born and then lose track of who is who. I am treating all babies from one aviary as one family and pairing them with babies from another to be sure they are unrelated.

The bromeliad is quite dead now, but the potted pair does not seem to mind at all. I am considering replacing it with a nice fresh one, if I can get to it before the next eggs are laid.

By the way, the potted mother of eleven babies still, on May 15, 1988 is not in color and not split banded, and I would not be able to distinguish her from her babies.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joleen Chrestensen is a NFS member from Pompano Beach, Florida. Two years ago while on a judging assignment for the Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club at Fort Lauderdale, I was fortunate enough to visit Joleen's aviary. Karl Kline who was my host during my stay in the area was nice enough to take me around and show me some of the area aviaries.

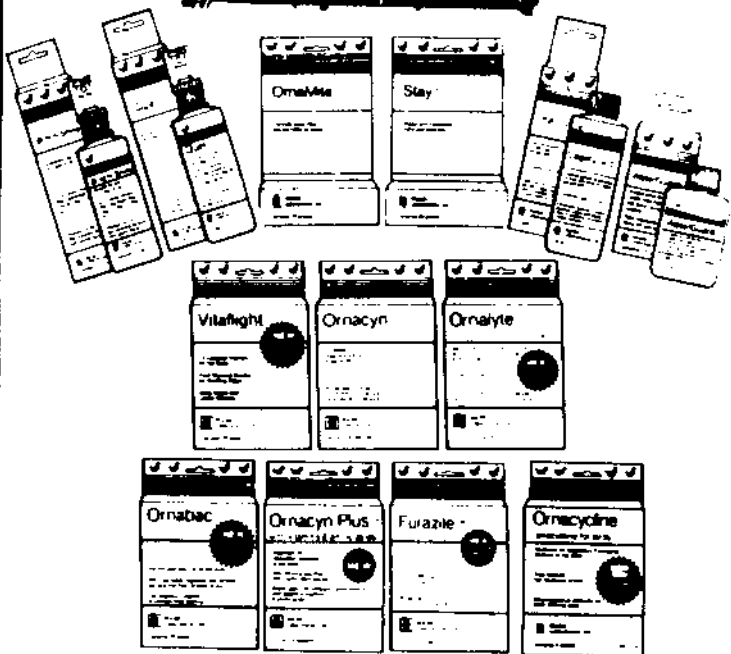
Joleen was very happy to have us both come to Pompano. The day we arrived was a bright, warm, sunny, and very windy day. We arrived at the motel, which I thought was quite unique. I wondered where the aviary might be. As we approached the gate, I noticed cages on the roof of the motel, and a very large American flag.

Joleen invited us up to see the birds. I was delighted and photographed by very pleasant hostesses' birds and aviary. At this time it was mostly parrot-like birds, but with a good mix of finches as well. Each aviary had a potted plant in it. Some, more like trees, so that observing the birds was difficult.

Joleen also had tall flight cages on the grounds of the motel as well. It seemed that once every four or five rooms there would be a flight of finches to enchant the guests.

One picture of the aviaries above the building, I use in a talk I have given on unusual or unique aviaries. Joleen, thanks for allowing me to visit and thanks for the interesting article.

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How I Raised Green Singers In Spite of Myself!

by Roger O'Connell

I maintain a sizeable collection of finches in a separate room of the house. I currently raise Gouldians, Societies, Gold-breasted waxbills, and of course, Green Singing finches.

The Green-singers were housed in a cage with about 15 female society finches with the usual fare of finch mix, spray millet, grit, cuttlebone, greens, soaked Japanese millet, and Necton S in the water.

One afternoon I noticed that the hen was missing several chest feathers. Figuring it may well be a heavy moult I did nothing. Several days later I noticed her chest was getting pretty bare so I decided that the male must be antagonizing her. (A side note here: I was always told that green-singers needed real privacy as they were temperamental breeders.) So, I separated the male from the hen. The next day she started to lay eggs in the feed cups! Now I understand! So I took the male and hen and put them in their own cage measuring approximately 16" wide, by 18" inches deep, by 24" high. The cage was placed above eye level on the top shelf in the bird room.

They were given a closed finch nest and nesting string. Nothing happened! Then I started to think. . .green-singing finches. . .Serins. . .canaries. . .alas, an open canary nest. Well they went right to it, and in a couple of days they had a nice nest built. I started to add to their regular mix a separate feeder of canary mix (which they never touched) and some canary song food. The hen started to sit after a couple of weeks, so I figured there must be eggs. I figured they would never hatch, so there was no sense in attempting to feed egg food. With great anticipation I went up to the bird room the day they were due to hatch and horror of horrors the nest had fallen off the side of the cage onto the floor. I picked it up, one egg was dead in shell, one had been discarded by the parents as infertile previously and now in the nest on the floor of the cage was the cutest little "impossible" baby.

I picked up the nest and hung it up on the cage, trying not to get my hopes up as these flighty green-singers would never put up with all this disturbance. As soon as my hand was out of the cage the hen hopped right on the nest and started to keep the baby warm. Well my outlook improved, but would they feed it? Figuring not, I still didn't mix egg food but gave petamine mixed with water as well as the previously mentioned diet and greens. The green-singers would empty both feeders out possibly feeding only select seeds. They fed him very well but would still fly off the nest as I approached. I worried about close banding him, but it had to be done (no one would believe me!). Well getting nervous about making sure he was

banded, I banded him far too early, which meant I had to keep banding him every day, until the band would stay on. What tolerant parents!

He was soon out of the nest, but I was really nervous about weaning him away from the parents too soon. After awhile the parents started to throw eggs out of the nest. I realized what this meant so I separated the baby, the parents went back to nest again.

They again had three eggs, two hatched, are close banded and have fledged. I didn't use the wet petamine or canary mix this time. I fed greens, finch mix, cuttlebone, grit, canary song food and soaked Japanese millet.

I really feel that being observant of your birds is an important aspect of bird care and can help you be successful in propagating these wonderful creatures. Of course, it doesn't hurt if the parent birds take you under their wing to teach you as well!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Roger has been a successful breeder of Goulds for some time, he is also the Society's Leg Band Secretary. I recently visited Roger's aviary, to my delight, his Green-singers (NFS banded, of course) are beautiful.

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NFS Notes and Classifieds. . .

The NFS July/Aug. issue will include these among other items of interest.

Hal Koontz's column.

The 1988 Bird Census Report..

Tios on Gouldians, Terry Dunham.

Java Rice Bird Standard Committee Report.

The NFS National Show, San Diego, California.

1988 Affiliated Shows.

The 1988 Great American Bird Show. Baltimore, Maryland.

Yummy Mealworms. Sister Shiva Kamuri.

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