

# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

January  
February  
1989



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1989  
VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

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FROM THE EDITOR:

I want to thank our President for allowing me to use his space; for all he has done organizing, promoting and publicizing this society; and for having the faith in me to permit me to take over this Journal. The transition has been plagued with more "glitches" than I dreamed it could be! I am still not on schedule but the next issue should be on time since the groundwork has been laid during this transition period. I will be expecting to hear from many of you with suggestions and comments. This Journal is for the NFS and by the NFS and I will be looking forward to articles, artwork, anecdotes, and ads. The Journal will be as full as you make it and as educational to all of us you help it to be. Please send in something for your Journal!

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MAKE SURE YOUR BIRDS HAVE ENOUGH**



**CALCIUM-MINERAL BLOCKS**

EXTRA SOFT WITH MUCH NEEDED IODINE

Per dozen: small \$3.25 Large: \$5.50

Super Aviary Block designed for the flight \$6.50

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2 doz med. \$18.50  
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**AVIARY PACKAGE**

10 doz. sm. \$28.00  
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Contains: Lime, Calcium Phosphate, Calcium Oxide, Mineral  
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## NFS NEWS AND NOTES

=====

### CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS FOR YOUR BIRDS !

DON'T FORGET..this year more than ever, it is important to band your chicks with closed, traceable, coded NFS bands. Only birds wearing those bands will be eligible for NFS Championship Points.

### NFS SHOW POINT STANDINGS TO BE LISTED IN THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE.

ORDER YOUR 1989 LEG BANDS EARLY ! PLEASE NOTE NEW BAND SECRETARY AND NEW ADDRESS.

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY'S FINCHSAVE PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY FUNCTIONAL. PLEASE GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO AVICULTURE BY HELPING TO ESTABLISH A FINCH OR SOFTBILL SPECIES OF YOUR CHOICE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE: HAL M. KOONTZ, 2604 AUBURN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306. AN APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE.

DIAMOND SPARROW STANDARD COMMITTEE; The current committee is: Chairman, Stephen Hoppin with members Laura Bewley, Juanita McLain and Brian Manderich. If you have an interest in participating, please contact one of the committee.

### CURRENT NFS APPRENTICE JUDGES:

Russell Armitage, Jr., Connecticut	Harold Harnish, Pennsylvania
Jeff Brissette, Connecticut	Karl Kline, Florida
Roddy Gabel, Maryland	Roger O'Connell, Massachusetts
Brenda Seesey, Pennsylvania	Rita O'Dell, Colorado
Sarah Goodrich, Texas	Marty Van Raesfeld, California
Kenneth Gunby, Georgia	Grahan Sutherland, California

NOT ALL OUR NEWS IS GOOD NEWS. On January 9th, 1989, Lawrence Brandt passed away. Larry was a Panel Judge for NFS and The Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors. A lifetime member of the New Hampshire Avicultural Society, he was a past president, AFA delegate and a director. He worked at many national-level, regional and local shows. He will be greatly missed. We have sent our respects to his family.

Early in February Or. Al Decoteau and his son Oaren suffered a devastating fire in their home. All of their birds, aviary birds and personal pets were lost. Many kennel dogs were lost and their house and all of their

personal possessions were lost. Fortunately they were not harmed as they were not present when the fire started. We have sent our best wishes to them. We hope they will be on the show circuit as usual this fall.

Also early in January another of our Panel Judges, Marco Arrida of Florida, resigned. We thank him for his service.

.....

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# FEEDER INSECTS

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Most major zoos throughout the country use our grubs.

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The liveliest and hardest  
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1000.....	\$ 3.50
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Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) are widely used and are well known as feed for birds. We can furnish the size you need.

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1000.....	\$ 7.00
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The fly larvae (*Sarcophaga bullata*) are excellent if you are having trouble with children in your feed.

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available anywhere

500.....	\$ 6.50
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The Bee Moth Larvae is a little more expensive but if this is what you need we have quality.

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(Ohio)  
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Add \$1.00 Handling to any order. Prices include Shipping Charges

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INCORPORATED

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## NFS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Any of the items may be purchased by sending a check in the exact amount, made out to NFS, to Membership Services, c/o Russ Armitage Jr., 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457. Check the items you wish and total the amount.

### NFS BACK ISSUES

\$1.50 each

- 1984 April (SOLD OUT)
- 1984 July
- 1984 October (SOLD OUT)
- 1985 Jan/Feb
- 1985 Mar/April
- 1985 May/June
- 1985 July/Aug
- 1985 Sept/Oct
- 1985 Nov/Dec
- 1986 Jan/Feb
- 1986 Mar/April
- 1986 May/June
- 1986 July/Aug
- 1986 Sept/Oct
- 1986 Nov/Dec
- 1987 Jan/Feb
- 1987 Mar/April
- 1987 May/June
- 1987 July/Aug
- 1987 Sept/Oct
- 1987 Nov/Dec
- 1988 Jan/Feb
- 1988 Mar/April
- 1988 May/June
- 1988 July/Aug/Sept
- 1988 Oct/Nov/Dec

### SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

- 1986 NFS Tee-Shirt  
Zebra Finch Design  
(SOLD OUT)
- 1987 NFS Tee-Shirt  
Gouldian Design  
only \$12.00 each  
\_\_ medium \_\_ large  
(only sizes available)
- 1988 NFS Tee-Shirt  
Toucan Design  
only \$12.00 each  
\_\_ small \_\_ medium  
\_\_ large \_\_ x-large

### SHOW BOX BLUEPRINTS

- Cage #1 (Finches Up To And  
Including Zebras) - \$3.00
- Cage #2 (Finches Larger  
Than Zebras) - \$3.00
- Cage #3 (Softbill) - \$3.00
- all three plans - \$7.00

### NFS NAME BADGE

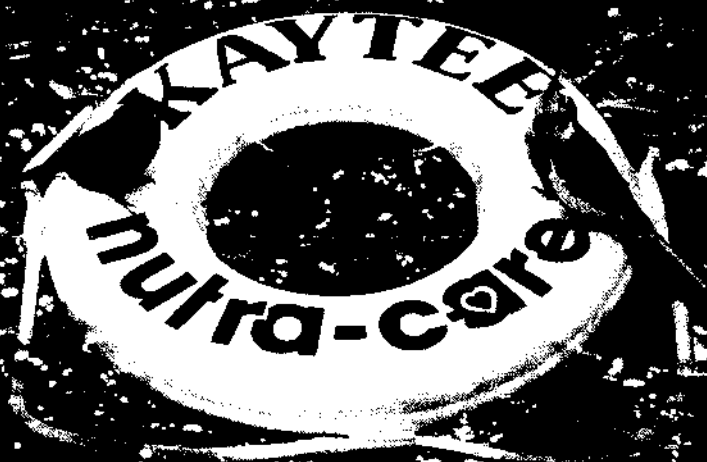
- \$3.00 each (members only)

### NFS OFFICIAL COFFEE MUG

- NFS Logo & Java Sparrow  
\$5.00 each plus \$1.00 for  
shipping

- 1984 NFS Show Catalog  
(SOLD OUT)
- 1985 NFS Show Catalog  
only \$3.00 each
- 1988-89 NFS Handbook - \$5.00

↑



## ...For The Life Of Your Bird.

- Supplies essential nutrient fortification lacking in all seed diets.
- For use during breeding, growth, molting, transport, and other times of stress.
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*America's favorite birdfood.*

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THE TEN LARGEST SHOWS OF THE 1988 SEASON

Fresno Finch and Canary, Fresno CA	Clayton Jones	272 birds
Capitol City, Sacramento. CA	Clarence Culwell	229 birds
Great American, Baltimore, MD	Daren Decoteau	215 birds
Santa Clara Valley, CA	Clarence Culwell	205 birds
National Cage Bird, San Diego, CA	Dr. Val Clear	183 birds
Central California, Turlock, CA	Hai Koontz	181 birds
Golden Gate, Livermore, CA	Clayton Jones	130 birds
Aviary Assn. Kern Cty., Bakersfield, CA	Brian Binns	112 birds
New England Finch Fanciers, Hartford, CT	Dr. Al Decoteau	111 birds
Georgia Cage Bird Soc. Atlanta, GA	Daren Decoteau	104 birds

.....  
DISPLAY READY (PHOTO) READY AD COPY:

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS:

FINCHSAVE CLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE TO PARTICIPANTS.

Others are 15 cents per word per issue.

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FINAL SHOW REPORTS AND POINTS REPORT WILL BE IN THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE  
.....

**SUPPORT  
FINCHSAVE**



MAIL TO: DENISE CAPAZZI  
280 Burningtrees Drive  
GROTON, CT 06340

1989

NFS offers to members only, closed traceable aluminum leg bands. They are available only in the NFS color of the year and are engraved with the initials NFS, size code, year, and number. There are no number choices, all bands are recorded for permanent record.

Bands may be ordered in strings of 10 same size bands at a cost of \$1.75 per string, no shipping charge. Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent orders. Orders will be shipped within 30 days of receipt.

SIZE # OF STRINGS TO FIT LEGS OF:

- |   |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
| A | _____ | Small Waxbills; Strawberry, Owl, Orange-cheek Red-ear, Gold-breasted and others.   |
| B | _____ | Cordon Bleu, Fire, Lavenders, Cuban Melodius, Olive, Blue caps and others.   |
| C | _____ | Grn Singers, Silverbills, Star, Shafttails, Cutthroats, Parrot, Cherry, Painted, Heck's Pileated, Grey Singer, and Pytilias. |
| D | _____ | Zebras, Gouldians, Pictorella, Yellow-rump, Chestnut-breast and smaller mannikins.   |
| E | _____ | Society, Nuns, Diamond Sparrows, (Gloster, Fife, and other small Canaries).  |
| G | _____ | Larger Mannikins and Canaries.   |
| J | _____ | Pekin Robins, Yorkshires, other Sm. Softbills  |
| K | _____ | Java Rice, Indian Shama, and etc.  |
| L | _____ | Doves, Quail, and Larger Softbills.  |

Total # strings \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 1.75 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mem.# \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY  
AFFILIATES, DELEGATES AND SHOW DATES**

=====

**ALABAMA**

Central Alabama Avicultural Society; C. B. Upchurch, (205) 288 8728

**CALIFORNIA**

The Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Helen Espindula, (209) 686 4272

The Capitol City Bird Society; Helen Caudle, (916) 933 1619  
October 21, 1989 Dr. A. E. Decoteau

The Golden Gate Avian Society; Dawn Senna, (415) 449 8713

The Aviary Association of Kern County; Hal Koontz, (805) 872 1063

Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld  
(408) 385 2712

**COLORADO**

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Martha Wigmore, (303) 574 1594

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Mary Buchtel, (303) 422 6523

**CONNECTICUT**

The Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Christine Voronovitch,  
(203) 649 8220

The New England Finch Fanciers; Russell Araitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875

**FLORIDA**

The Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club; Karl Kline, (305) 276 8711

The Suncoast Avian Society; Juanita McLain, (813) 726 8326

The Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Jim Thomas, (305) 656 5731  
October 14, 1989 Oaron Decoteau

The Greater Miami Avicultural Society; Hector Ugalde, (305) 673 4899

The Miami Parrot Club; Marco Arrida, (305) 251 3895

**GEORGIA**

The Georgia Cage Bird Society; Cecil Gunby, (404) 251 2877

**ILLINOIS**

The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Charles Anchor, (312) 543 3757

The National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries; Marie Ortiz,

**INDIANA**

The Indiana Bird Fanciers; Dr. Val Clear, (317) 642 0795

**IOWA**

Mid-America Cage Bird Society; Rhoda Shirley, (515) 243 2255

**LOUISIANA**

The Capitol Area Avicultural Society; Tim Schexnayre,

The Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Kruse, (504) 469 2435

The 41st National Cage Bird Exhibition; Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, LA  
November 16, 17, 18, 1989

**MARYLAND**

The Baltimore Bird Fanciers; Brenda Geesey, (717) 854 2604

Maryland Cage Bird Association; Theresa Brown,  
September 29 and 30, 1989      Daren Decoteau

**MASSACHUSETTS**

The Boston Cockatiel Society; Helen Jabre, (617) 641 3430  
September 23, 1989      Jon Hoffman

The Boston Society for Aviculture; Kathy Nilcox,

Exotic Cage Bird Society of New England; Roger O'Connell, (617) 899 8523

The Massachusettes Cage Bird Association; Shirley Eaton, (401) 333 5594

The Western New England Cage Bird Society; Bob Clark,  
MICHIGAN

The Mid-Nichigan Bird Club; Mary Rue, (517) 394 1047

The Mid-Nest Cage Bird Club; Jean Niley,

**MINNESOTA**

The Minnesota Cage Bird Society;

**MISSOURI**

The Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Earl Courts, (816) 524 0921

The Missouri Cage Bird Association; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

Kaytee Great American Bird Show; Bill Parlee (203) 528 1458

Hosted by Gateway Parrot Club, St. Louis, MO at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel, St. Louis Int. Airport, September 29 to October 1, 1989, Judge Clarence Culwell

**NEBRASKA**

The Greater Omaha Cage Bird Club; Wayne Eichelberger, (308) 872 2947

**NEW JERSEY**

The South Jersey Bird Club; Kristine Kroner, (215) 628 4143

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Birds of a Feather;

September 16, 1989 Bill Parlee

The New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Mike Putnam, (603) 352 2826

October 14, 1989 Or. A. E. Decoteau

**NEW YORK**

The Astoria Bird Club; Diane Lesser

The Rochester Cage Bird Club; Jeanne Murphey

**NORTH CAROLINA**

The Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society; Pat Gibson, (704) 588 1616

September 10, Owen Decoteau

**OHIO**

The Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club; Joan Gangle

**OKLAHOMA**

The Bird Faaciers of Oklahoma; Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society; Laura Bevely, (918) 369 2580

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Jerry McCawley, (717) 288 0529

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Carol Casper, (215) 723 8643

PENNSYLVANIA (cont'd)

Chester County Bird Breeders; Joe Kessler, (215) 326 5109

Greate; Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society;

November 4, 1989 Daren Decoteau

Philadelphia Avicultural Society;

TENNESSEE

The Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffy, (615) 361 5949

TEXAS

The Capitol City Cage Bird Club; Sarah Goodrich,

The Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association; Sarah Goodrich

VIRGINIA

The Peninsula Cage Bird Society; Linda Oja, (804) 874 8581

WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.; Fred Eggert

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Society; Kathryn Konkol

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

The Australian Finch Society, England, Martin Mogg.

The Budgerigar and Foreign Bird Society of Canada Inc., Toronto, Canada.

The New Zealand Finch Breeders, New Zealand, Valerie Hughes

The Zebra Finch Society, England, J.A.W. Prior.

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**DELEGATES: Please help me to keep  
your club's listing accurate and up  
to date. Write or call the Editor.**

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# The National Finch and Softbill Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY

NFS# \_\_\_\_\_ Sel# \_\_\_\_\_

Reg.# \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \_\_\_\_\_

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

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY  
AFFILIATION AGREEMENT 1989

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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 DEALING WITH NFS. THE DELEGATE MUST BE A MEMBER OF NFS.

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

THIS IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT ARE NOT EXHIBITION ORIENTED. THE FEE IS \$ 25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO YOU WILL RECEIVE DURING, 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. (THIS PERSON NEED NOT BE A 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 1ST OF THE YEAR.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO 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 AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO - WITH ROSETTE PACKAGE

SAME AS LEVEL TWO BUT WITH 10 ADDED LONG STREAMER ROSETTES FOR THE BEST TEN FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS IN DIVISION PLUS 3 ROSETTES FOR UNFLIGHTED. THIS OPTION WITH LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION COSTS \$ 65.

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, 10 LONG STREAMER ROSETTES AND 3 ROSETTES FOR UNFLIGHTED BIRDS. TOTAL COST FOR LEVEL THREE IS \$ 90.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND THE FEE TO: THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL  
ION DIRECTOR, C/O PAW LOODY, 245 DRAPER ST., SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108  
(413) 734 7053.


NFS Welcomes these new members to  
the flock !

*0401	DANSON, ANDREW	NORWALK,	IA	60211
*0402	DAWSDN, DENISE	NORNALK,	IA	60211
*0408	FIND, GARY M.	NILKES-BARRE,	PA	18702
*0413	HAMNDND, MICHAEL	NEADVILLE,	PA	16335
*0414	NADAYDA, WALTER	IRVINGTON,	NY	10533-1727
*0419	NALLOY, JAMES	ORLANDO,	FL	32801
*0420	ZEMAN, KEVIN	ST. CLOUD,	FL	32769
*0421	ZEMAN, LAURIE	ST. CLOUD,	FL	32769
*0423	NORWDD, RICHARD C.	COLUMBIA,	SC	29205
*0427	BEAUPREZ, VIKKI L.	FT. COLLINS,	CO	80526
*0428	McGINNIS, CHRIS	DANVILLE,	CA	94526
*0429	HILL, DARRIN	BRYAN,	TX	77803
*0430	BURHANS, DENNIS	ST. CHARLES,	MO	63303
*0431	ABRANS, JULIA	SACRAMENTO,	CA	95864
*0433	LANGIONE, JIM	YORK,	PA	17404
*0434	LANGIONE, SANDY	YORK,	PA	17404
*0435	FELLOWS, SUSAN	CHESTER,	NH	03036
*0436	VANDIGRIFF, THOMAS	MILPITAS,	CA	95035
*0437	VANDIGRIFF, JEANNE	MILPITAS,	CA	95035
*0440	SCHWINDT, PATTI	ORLANDO,	FL	32806
*0442	KIRBY, TED L.	MARIETTA,	GA	30066
*0452	KITTREDGE, MARY	SEDONA,	AZ	86336
*0453	VANDER LEESE, RAY H.	LITTLETON,	CO	80122-2833
*0454	FERNANDES, WYNN	ALTAMONTE SPRINGS,	FL	32714
*0455	KRUSE, JAILA	BERNE,	IN	46711
*0456	KRUSE, DAVE	BERNE,	IN	46711
*0458	KINGSBURY, GAIL	INDIANAPOLIS,	IN	46241
*0459	HANEL, JO ANNE	NEWMARKET,	NH	03857
*0460	TODD, CHARLES	DRELAND,	PA	19075
*0461	HARLIN, DR. ROGER W.	OKLAHOMA CITY,	OK	73149
*0463	RIED, WILLIAM	TOPANGA,	CA	90290
*0464	HARRISON, J.	NESA,	AZ	85201
*0469	CONUNALE, JAMES	CARLSBAD,	CA	92009
*0473	CENBURA, JILL	GRASS VALLEY,	CA	95945
*0474	MAXNELL, ROGER G.	SNYRNA,	TN	37167
*0475	HDL LAUER, ANTHONY N.	BRIDGEPORT,	CT	06606
*0476	BEDRGE, ROBIN	HUNTINGTON STATION,	NY	11746
*0477	GEORGE, CRAIG	HUNTINGTON STATION,	NY	11746
*0480	AVIARY & C.B. SOC. DF SD. FL	HOLLANDALE,	FL	33008
*0481	UBALDD, LELI	BOSTON,	MA	02118



*04B2	NORRISON, MARGARET	VAN WERT,	OH	45891
*04B3	STEWART, GINNY	VALLEY FORGE,	PA	19481
*04B4	BONILLA, FELIPE JR.	LANTANA,	FL	33462
*04B5	HELTON, CARL	SHELBYVILLE,	IL	62565
*04B6	LIPKINS, IRA	WHITESTONE,	NY	11357
*04B7	LIPKINS, SHARON	WHITESTONE,	NY	11357
*04BB	CENTRAL CALIF C.B. CLUB	SAN JOSE,	CA	95127
*04B9	DROPKIN, NARY JO	NEW YORK,	NY	10021
*0490	LAIRD, DALE	WINTER PARK,	FL	32792
*0496	FORT WORTH BIRD CLUB	SPRINGTOWN,	TX	76082
*0498	WEAVER, DANNY	CARY,	IL	60013
*0504	DURAND, PETIE	NEW YORK CITY,	NY	10021
*0506	GTR. BRANDON AVIAN SOC., INC.	TAMPA,	FL	33609
*0509	NORTHWEST EXOTIC BIRD SOC.	SEATTLE,	WA	98105-3922
*0510	KANSAS AVICULTURAL SOC.	AUGUSTA,	KS	67010
*0511	EXOTIC BIRD CLUB OF FL, INC.	COCOA BEACH,	FL	32931
*0512	DELAWARE VALLEY BIRD CLUB	ANBLER,	PA	19002
*0517	FINCH SOC. OF SAN DIEGO CTY.	SAN DIEGO,	CA	92117
*0524	BURCH, KEVIN	PEARLAND,	TX	77584
*0525	AVICULTURAL COUNCIL OF TEXAS	PEARLAND,	TX	77584

\* = Reassigned membership numbers






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## BREEDING THE CHESTNUT- BREASTED MANNIKINS (Lonchura Castaneothorax)

By Vince Moase

The Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin, from Australia is a very nice addition to one's bird collection. This species is a very active finch with a beautiful song.

They are not normally an aggressive bird except with their own kind during breeding season. Even at this time they do not cause physical damage. We have found that the young have a tendency to pull or over preen the tail feathers of other species. This causes the feathers to flare out or curl and these birds can not be used for shows and until new feathers grow in the birds appearance is spoiled.

The habitat of this species is the grasslands and reeds of Australia and this is shown by how they perch sideways on stems of grasses or shrubs. They also can and seem to enjoy hanging upside down from perches or wires. They often hang by one foot which adds a different activity to a breeders flights. The first time we observed this habit we thought the bird had caught it's foot and we knew that that usually meant a broken leg. The bird did let go and looked at us as if to say, "What's the matter?" Because of this activity the birds will strip all grasses, especially the tall ones, larch trees and forsythia shrubs.

Putting fifteen or twenty young Chestnuts in a planted aviary means that you have to be willing to put up with a lot of damage to the plants. Other Australian finches, except the Zebra, do not share this characteristic of stripping plants.

Most of the males from this finch species have some kind of a song; whether it be soft or loud. This species song is very pleasant to hear and since the males tend to sing throughout the day it makes the collection more lively.

When I attended the 1986 National Cage Bird Show in Vancouver, British Columbia, I met Grant and Gill Reshman from Victoria. It was from them that we purchased our original two pairs of Chestnut-Breasted, one male, one female and two its. These birds were originally from Holland.

One of our indoor bird rooms measures twenty by thirty feet. In this room are sixteen box cages, seven small flights measuring two feet wide by three feet deep by four feet high, and five larger flights which are between four and five feet wide by five feet deep by seven feet high. All the flights have solid walls between them. At one time they were wire

mesh to allow light and because they looked nice but we found that when one flight is disturbed then the other flight would get upset and you could lose young birds that were in nests. For perching we use 3/8 dowel and dogwood branches. For nesting we use vicker nests, Gouldian nest boxes, white cedar branches, bundles of canary grasses and long soft grass for building the nests. In the large flights we set up four to five different species and only one pair of each in a small flight. In the small flights we have found that we have better control of the birds. This is shown by being able to return birds back to the nest easily when they fledged too early.

The two pair were first set up in two different large flights along with three or four different species of finches. There was no fighting but the unknown pair did nothing. The true pair built a large rounded type grass nest and laid four eggs in it. One by one they rolled off and broke. What was worse was that some of the eggs were fertile. At least I knew they were a true pair.

The birds were then moved to two different small flights and the two birds making the unknown pair each built a nest. The second pair were a true pair and raised young. They built four nests, two in the grass and two in the wooden box. The first pair had problems with poor nest construction, and breaking the eggs. We fostered eggs under Society finches and raised young. This pair did raise their own young after we fastened a canary wire nest for the foundation of their own nest.

When sexing the young of this species there were no problems at first since the males would truly sing, but they stopped after we removed a large number from the flight when we saw them singing. I guess they got smart. For the 1986-87 breeding season we had 16.5:1. That is 16 males, 5 females and one questionable. The one young seemed to have started to sing then quit so it was questionable. Three females laid eggs of which two raised young and two females died before the breeding season.

For the 1987-88 breeding season we set the birds up with the same mates in the same small flights. This time both pair raised their own young without much trouble. Since we had cut down on our Society finches we were not fostering very much and only fostered eggs that were on the floor or abandoned.

The second pair did the same as last year, moving from grass nest to box nest and back. The only difference this time was we left the young with the parents though we normally do wait 14 to 21 days after fledging before removing young. As of July it is too early to give a accurate sex ratio but so far there aren't as many males singing as there were last year. Another change is that all the young went outside this year where only half were put outside last year.

All our finches are fed a seed mixture that we make up; two parts 50/50 Budgie mix, one part Hungarian millet, 2 parts small golden millet,

3/4 part proso, 3 parts wild seed mix. They also get soaked seeds, our own egg food mixture, different chopped greens, apples and other fruits, mealworms and fruit flies. They also get the normal cuttle bone and millet spray.

We lost our female from the first pair, she was four years old so the male will be set up with a young female this fall. We will see what the 1988-89 breeding season will have to offer.

As with any new species that you try there are good things and bad but that is what makes keeping birds so interesting. You never know what challenge is going to be put before you in the raising of birds. The Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin is a worthy challenge which we have enjoyed mastering.

To Mr. Mease: Thank you for sending this article and others. NFS appreciates the strong support we get from our Canadian members. The Editor

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**PARENT RAISED  
PURPLE GRENADIERS  
(*Uraeginthus Ianthinogaster*)**

**By Stash Buckley and  
Carol Anne Calvin**

This is, without doubt, one of the most desirable of all finches, and to my way of thinking, the most beautiful. Everything about this bird is exceptional: the rich chestnut and royal purple markings, the beautiful and variable song, and the strong showing of intelligence in a bird of such small stature. This especially evident in the young, whose strong curiosity and trust in their keeper is quite astonishing. Although burdened with the reputation of being difficult to breed, I have found this far from the truth. These birds are quite willing to go to nest and can even be persuaded to raise their own young. With the recent ban of African exports we are in real danger of losing these birds. It is hoped that this recounting of my experiences will tend to encourage the more timid to attempt to breed these beautiful birds.

First, the basics. I keep my birds in large indoor flights - 4 feet long, 3 feet high and 2 feet wide. These are placed as far apart from each other as possible for they will spend most of their time pasted on the screen, challenging their rivals, instead of managing their households. Into these I put living plants and tall tussocks of grass, preferably from floor to ceiling. Strategically located in these are the nesting sites, of which they seem to prefer the large, closed wicker type. For a bedding, I use the dried lawn clippings in which they seem to take extreme pleasure in looking for seed heads. One must take care to insure that the tussocks and clippings are from a pesticide-free source, as birds are extremely susceptible to these dangers. Perches are natural wood and various circumferences, placed to allow maximum flight space in which to exercise their graceful, undulating flight. In effect, you are trying to create a savannah in the suburbs.

I use Vita-Lites exclusively, lighting each flight with two 4-foot tubes placed directly over the cage in shop fixtures. I keep the temperature of the birdroom at 78 degrees and the humidity quite high. This seems to encourage breeding in all the species, not just the Grenadiers. Into this environment I introduce a sexed pair of Grenadiers, who generally do not get along at first, but after a few days begin to settle down and tolerate each other.

Then I begin the program. In the wild, these birds are termite-eaters, relying upon these foods to feed their young, which are quite abundant when the rains occur. This, in effect, is what you are trying to reproduce. Since live termites in a private home are an unacceptable risk, I

substitute them with live, baby mealworms, newly molted, which all my birds seem to relish. These I begin to offer every four hours or so, plus misting the birds and the plants twice a day. This, I believe, is the magical trigger which fires the natural breeding instinct. One must take extreme care in misting, as not to soak the grass, as this will cause mold and fungus and more problems than you would care to deal with. You are simulating showers, not monsoons.

Relatively soon the hen's beak begins to turn a leaden gray. This indicates that she is in prime breeding condition, which is quite apparent for, by this time, the pair will be sitting together and preening each other in a most amorous way. This could take from a few weeks to a few months. Patience is a virtue.

Although not great lettuce-eaters, I offer these birds Romaine as I do my other birds. This provides a great deal of calcium for the making of the eggs and also keeps them off your plants.

When the birds begin to bond, this is when I introduce the small strands of burlap which seem to be their preferred nest-building material. My cocks seem to do all the work, with the hen sitting on a nearby perch with restrained interest. With only one exception, all my clutches consisted of three eggs. They are quite surprisingly, very steady brooders, tolerating stereo and TV and other such annoyances from our apartment days.

In a birdroom you can expect your birds to sit quite faithfully until you decide what to do with the eggs. Your choices are obviously to foster them or to allow them to raise their own young. I have found Societies quite willing to foster, providing they have been properly conditioned. I have also found, contrary to popular opinion, that these birds will raise their own young; but this is a task one must not set out to accomplish if there is not someone there to monitor these birds at all times.

The key here, once again, is the constant supply of small, molted mealworms. By molted mealworms, I mean the white ones, not the ones with the yellowish hue or "kind of" turning hard, but the white ones. For you must always bear in mind that these are wild-caught birds and you are trying to simulate their natural food - termites.

Unlike most finch chicks, I have found that these birds do not call from the nest, but are rather quiet and restrained - perhaps a natural adaptive behavior to help conceal them from their enemies. When you do finally hear the chicks calling, you can be assured that they are quite developed.

Along with the eggfood that should be offered at all times, I begin to increase the dosage of mealworms. I have read where 7 to 10 mealworms a day are sufficient for most breeding birds. I have found this to be far from sufficient. I offer my birds up to the hundreds per day. As long as they eat them I offer them. These are birds feeding young, and I sincerely believe there will be no health problems to the birds since they are offered only for a few weeks while they are raising their young. These must, and I emphasize

must, be made constantly available. I check on my birds at least every 2 hours, and if the dish is empty, I plop in 10 or 20. They are quite ravenous feeders and make many trips to the nest, both cock and hen feeding the young. I have never had young thrown out of the nest and I believe this is due to the constant supply food, since the bird mind does not interpret a drought or a famine.

Grenadier chicks leave the nest at about 26 days of age, being a uniform dirty chestnut wash in color, save for a small purplish splash at the rump. Once they leave, they never return. These birds seem to take an extremely long time in which to be weaned - up to 3 weeks or so. You must be very diligent in watching for signs of recycling, for if they choose to go to nest again, they will certainly kill the young. When the chicks begin to eat on their own, remove them at once. By placing the cages so that they adjoin one another, one can encourage the parents to keep feeding, since family ties are still quite strong.

Soon the tails begin to lengthen and, after a few more weeks, the eye patches become apparent - purplish for the cocks and light whitish-blue for the hens. However, the breast molt does not occur for at least another month after this.

These birds are high-protein eaters and the juveniles must be supplied with a constant supply of egg food. Although in a stable environment the adults are quite hardy, I have found the juveniles to be very delicate. One should observe them on a day-to-day basis, watching for signs of drowsiness and fluffiness and other obvious signs of distress. Also, when sexing becomes apparent from the eye markings, one must be very careful to watch for signs of aggression, for as the name Grenadier dictates, these birds are quite combative. One must separate the cocks to separate cages, and even the hens will become quite belligerent to their sisters, if they are so inclined.

As you are probably aware of by now, these are not birds for beginners, but if you systematically follow these guidelines, and match it with good practical bird-keeping "know how", you will no doubt be surprised when you find yourself accomplishing what most people say cannot be done - wild Purple Grenadiers raising their own young.

At the risk of becoming redundant, to me these are the most beautiful of all finches and, with the hopes of perhaps soon working on my third generation birds, I have found them to be extremely rewarding. I wish you the best of success.

Editor's note: Carol Anne and Stash have also been quite successful with Melbas, Twinspots, Stars and several other of the more difficult finches. They live in New Jersey and you can reach them at (609) 783 2039.

**SUPPORT FINCHSAVE**

**BREEDING THE  
CUBAN MELODIOUS  
(*Tiaris canora*)**

**By Jose Aleman**

=====  
**(Also called Cuban Finch)**  
=====

The Cuban Melodious Finch is a native of the island of Cuba, and is in the Emberizidae family. The male has a black face and bright yellow band that starts behind the eyes and meets under the throat. The chest and belly are gray. The female shows a shade of brown and gray in the face area and the yellow band is not as bright in color.

When breeding the Cuban Melodious it is best to have a single pair per aviary. These finches are very aggressive towards their own kind, especially once they establish their own territory and have started the breeding process. Also these finches are very active and a single pair will occupy and make use of the entire flying area in their enclosure.

Our breeding aviary is six feet tall and three feet in diameter. Inside center we planted a small citrus tree. Two thorny bushes and two hanging plants (which are replaceable) complete the interior landscaping. A water hose for irrigation and a light bulb are installed inside the aviary. During spring, summer and fall the bulb attracts insects which supplement the diet. In winter, we replace this bulb with a heatlamp which is the only source of heat. The roof is completely covered but all sides are open to allow enough light into the aviary.

These birds seem to prefer the large, closed wicker basket. Several should be placed in different locations so they can choose some for breeding and some for resting. They will fill the nest with grasses to the point where you can no longer see inside.

Once a breeding pair starts producing eggs they will incubate, hatch and feed their own at an incredible pace. They usually lay a clutch of two eggs and incubate them for thirteen days. When the chicks leave the nest the hen will lay another clutch of eggs while still feeding the chicks for twenty eight days or so. When the young birds start showing the yellow bands under their throats they should be removed from the breeding aviary and placed in a flight cage to prevent territorial fighting between the juveniles and the adults.

The diet we provide consists of a fortified finch mix, egg food, insects, spray millet, cuttlebone, mineral grit and water with vitamins. All these items are placed in a small enclosure built right into the side of the aviary which serves as a feeding station and trapping cage at the same time. This area is one cubic foot and has a hinged door on the inside which can be



closed from the outside with a pull-string device from a few feet away. This system allows you to remove the juvenile birds without having to enter their space.

These robust bodied finches will live longer than the other finches, their song is clear, melodious and loud. Under the right conditions these birds will raise and feed their own young and offer a great challenge to the American aviculturist .

.....  
The editor thanks Mr. Aleman for sending in this and other articles and for participating in FINCHSAVE.

=====  
All articles, anecdotes, artwork,  
ads and other additions to the  
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Thanks.

P.S. Also all complaints, comments,  
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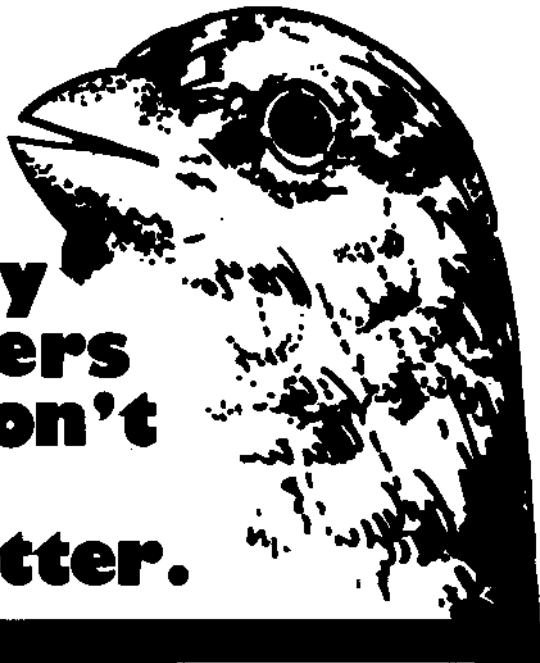
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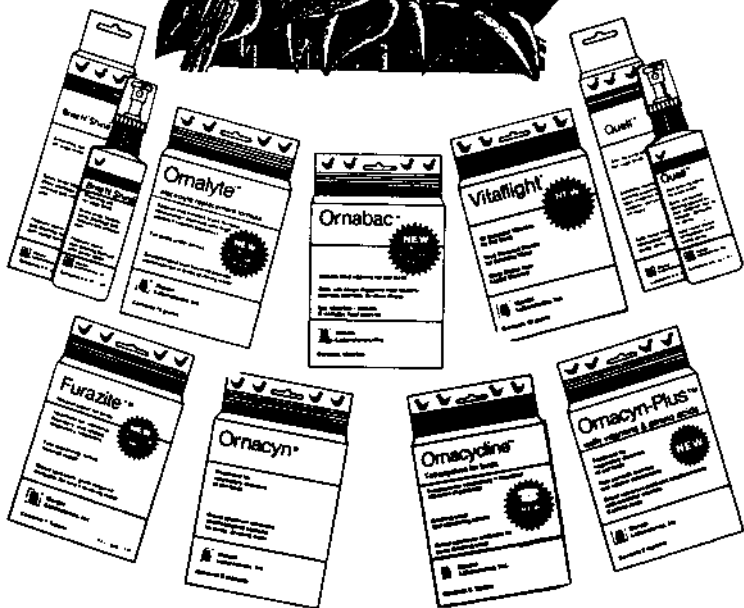


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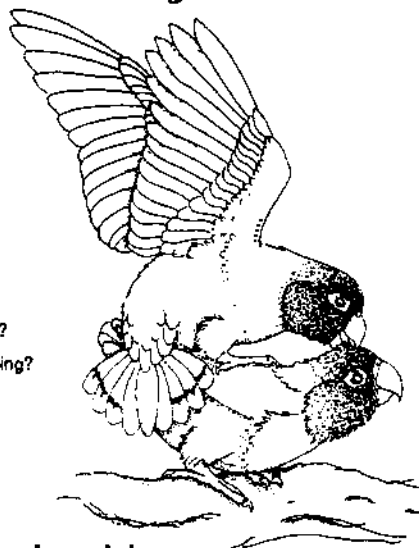
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What is a Dove Club?- John Pire Mar/Apr 87.  
Why Do Your Finches Do the Things They Do?- Wanda Deacon July/Aug 85.



## NFS NEWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARTICLES

- A Basic Standard- Jon Hoffman Sept/Oct 87.  
"FINCHSAVE"- Hal Koontz Oct/Nov/Dec 88.  
"FINCHSAVE" is a reality!! - Sept/Oct 87.  
NFS Affiliation Agreement- Nov/Dec 85, Mar/Apr 86, Jan/Feb 87, Nov/Dec 87,  
Oct/Nov/Dec 88.  
NFS Annual Financial Report- Oct/Nov/Dec 88.  
NFS Annual Minutes- Chicago, 1984, Jan/Feb 85; San Antonio, 1985,  
Nov/Dec 85; St. Louis, 1986, Nov/Dec 86; San Diego, 1988,  
Oct/Nov/Dec 88.  
NFS Attained Exhibitor Points- Jan/Feb 85, Jan/Feb 86, Jan/Feb 87,  
Mar/Apr 87.  
NFS By-Laws, as amended- Sept/Oct 85, Jan/Feb 87.  
NFS Captive Breeding Program- Parlee, Koontz, Kopecky Nov/Dec 86.  
NFS Census Results- 1987- July/Aug 87; 1988- July/Aug/Sept 88.  
NFS Educational Puzzle- Mar/Apr 86.  
NFS Election Ballot- Sept/Oct 85.  
NFS Exhibitor Points Schedule for 1986- Nov/Dec 85; for 1987- Jan/Feb 87;  
for 1988- Jan/Feb 88.  
NFS Index of Articles- Jan/Feb 87, Jan/Feb 88.  
NFS Judges Panel Handbook Supplement- Jan/Feb 86.  
NFS Membership Roster- Oct 84, Jan/Feb 85, Jan/Feb 86, Nov/Dec 86,  
Jan/Feb 88.  
NFS National Show 1984- Tony Patterson Jan/Feb 85; 1986- Mar/Apr 86.  
NFS Organizational Plan 1987- Jan/Feb 88.  
NFS Regional Map- Nov/Dec 85, Mar/Apr 86, Jan/Feb 87.  
NFS Show Classifications for 1985- May/June 85; for 1986- May/June 86;  
for 1987- May/June 1987; for 1988- May/June 88.  
NFS Show Results, 1984- Jan/Feb 85.  
NFS Show Results, 1985- Nov/Dec 85, Jan/Feb 86, Mar/Apr 86.  
NFS Show Results, 1986- Nov/Dec 86, Jan/Feb 87, Mar/Apr 87.  
NFS Show Results, 1987- Nov/Dec 87, Jan/Feb 88.  
NFS Show Results, 1988- Oct/Nov/Dec 88.

# SUPPORT FINCHSAVE

## Classified ads:

=====

**HELP WANTED** Person needed to take over some of the responsibilities of the NFS membership services dept. Particularly the "store" portion ...handling sales of t-shirts, mugs, handbooks, etc. For more information contact Russ Armitage Jr. (203) 346 5975.

**FINCH LOVERS:** Our book on finches, "LET'S TALK BIRDS" covers breeding, feeding and more. Please send \$14.50 for your copy to: Finch Society of San Diego, P. O. Box 178153, San Diego, CA, 92117

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**WANTED;** Hen Bamboo Parrot finches. (*Erythrura hyperythra*). Call (609) 783-2039 (NJ) after 5 p.m..

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**FINCHSAVE Classified ads:**

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**Needed:** New blood for Cherry Finches. Could use two extra hens. Jose Aleman, A-1 Aviary, 5503 Axiom Ave., Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 352-1593

**WANTED:** Black-Crested finches. (*Lophospingus pusillus*) for Finchsave program. Need hens, however singles and pairs accepted. Stephen Hoppin, (813) 997-2237 after 7 p.m..

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## FINCHSAVE APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into by and between the undersigned (hereafter referred to as "Participant") and the Finchsave program, a specialization breeding program of the National Finch and Softbill Society (hereafter referred to as "the program").

Participant represents that Participant believes himself/herself to have sufficient experience breeding finches/softhills to successfully participate in the program, and

Participant represents that he/she has the breeding facility to breed at least five pair of the species designated below (hereafter referred to as "the species"), and

Participant represents that he/she has at least five pair of the species and will attempt to raise at least 25 chicks of the species each year for at least the next five years, and

Participant represents that he/she has a copy of the Rules of the Finchsave Program and has read them, and

Participant represents that he/she is a member of the National Finch and Softhill Society.

The undersigned hereby applies to become a participant in the program for the species and, if accepted, agrees to comply with the Rules of the Finchsave Program, specifically including the following rules:

1. Participant will devote as much time and energy to the program as is necessary to meet the goals of the program.

2. Participant will complete and return each year's annual report (questionnaire) by January 31 for the previous year of participation ending on December 31.

3. Participant will first offer to sell surplus stock through the Species Captain if requested by the Species Captain or the Director of the program.

4. If Participant changes his/her address or telephone number or determines that he/she can no longer participate in Finchsave or continue with the species, he/she will notify the Species Captain and the Finchsave Director in writing immediately thereafter.

5. If Participant does not timely return the questionnaire or comply with Finchsave rules, Finchsave may, at Finchsave's discretion, drop Participant from the program.

6. Birds for sale through the Species Captain or to another participant in Finchsavve shall be accurately described by Participant by pointing out the age of the birds, the sex, if known, and whether the birds have any known defect.

7. If Participant does not want his/her name and telephone number disclosed to the other participants working on the same species nor recognition for meeting the program's goals, Participant shall notify the Director of the program of this fact in writing at the time that this Agreement is returned to the Director. Failure to so notify the Director shall mean that the program may disclose said information to others in the discretion of the program. The program will make every attempt to maintain privacy if requested by the Participant.

8. Participant agrees that the National Finch and Softhill Society, the Finchsavve Director, the Group Managers and the Species Captains will not have any liability to Participant arising out of a transaction or communication with respect to the program. Participant releases said individuals from liability even if they make a false statement about the quality of a bird offered for sale or fail to maintain privacy when requested to do so.

9. Participant will close band all chicks raised under the program in accordance with the rules of the Finchsavve program.

10. If the program requests the Participant to write an article on the species, the Participant agrees to either write an article on the species or fill out a detailed questionnaire so the editor of the NPS Bulletin can prepare an article from the answers to the questionnaire.

In order for the Director to determine whether the Participant qualifies to participate in the program and to help the Species Captains understand how the Participant intends to breed the species, the Participant agrees to fill out the attached questionnaire and send it to the Director with this Agreement.

Participant represents that all of the information in the questionnaire is correct and encloses the \$5.00 application fee with this Agreement. (Please make checks out to "NPS".)

Name of species for which participation  
is being applied (send a separate  
application and fee for each species): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

The Finchsavve program hereby accepts Participant's application thereby making this Agreement effective.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hal M. Koontz, Finchsavve Director

APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of species for which participation  
is being applied (complete a separate  
application for each species): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Participant (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of Participant: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work  
NFS number \_\_\_\_\_

Breeding experience in general (number of  
years, types of birds raised, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Breeding facility in general (number and size  
of aviaries, breeding cages, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Breeding experience with the species for which  
application is being made (number of years  
kept and breeding results, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of chicks of the species raised in 1987: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of how Participant intends to breed the  
species (type of cage, single pair vs. colony, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds currently owned in species: \_\_\_\_\_

How many are: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown sex \_\_\_\_\_

Supply the information requested below for each bird Participant owns in the species applied for (attach additional sheets if necessary):

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Date (or Year) of Hatch (if known); otherwise Date of Acquisition</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Source of Bird (e.g., hatched by Participant or bought from importer or breeder (please state name, if known))</u>
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Do you have any interest in being a Species Captain? \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL APPLICATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE TO HAL M. KOONTZ, 2604 Auburn Court  
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**CECIL GUNBY**  
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**GEORGE NARREN**  
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Paulsgrove,  
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**KELLY DAWILL**  
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(508) 649-6103

**DRIAN MAMBERICH**  
4743 E. Hedges Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93703  
(209) 255-6508

**NOTE:** \* indicates a person who is also a judge in another specialty society. For more information on NFS Panel Judges, contact Dr. Decoteau, Panel Chairman.