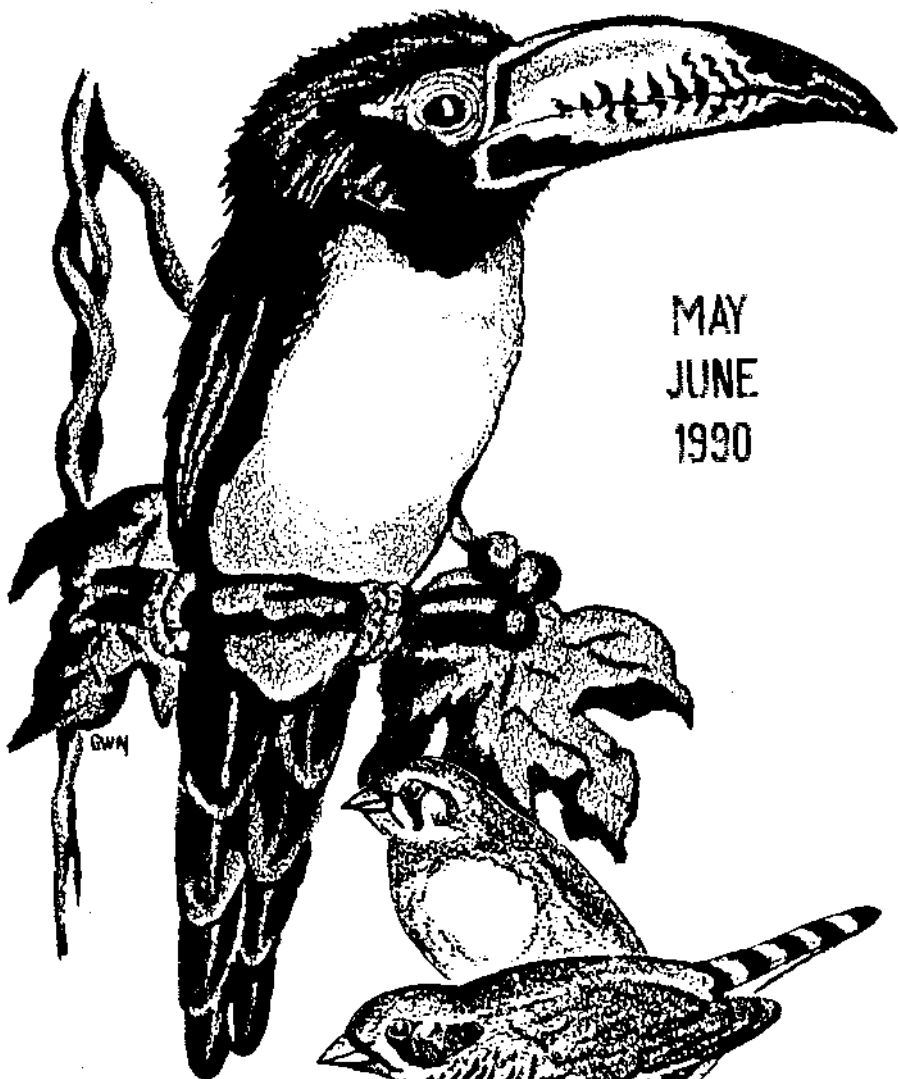


THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



MAY
JUNE
1990



GWNOREEN

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Presidents' Message:

Spring has certainly sprung here ! By June 1st we'll have fresh local strawberries for the Mynahs to throw on the walls ! One of the big delights of the season. I hope you all have many delights this season; lots of NFS banded chicks, new show cages, success with your favorite species in FINCHSAVE, good health and prosperity in your family and your flock. I hope your summer travel plans include the AFA Convention in Arlington, VA, just outside of Washington, DC. I'll see you there. I hope to see many of you in Sturbridge, MA in June and I'm sure I'll see many more of you in Atlanta in November. We certainly share some good stories when we are together ! Please consider sending some notes or a story in for the Bulletin. It can be a success story or a "I tried this and it didn't work" story, just share your thoughts with the rest of us, in print, like we do when we meet in person. We'll all benefit and maybe get a good laugh too !

Thanks.

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=====

NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1990

=====

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 (708) 543-3757

KELLY DANILL
 4497 Beachwood Lake
 Naples, FL 33962
 (813) 774-2062

STEPHEN HOPPIN
 3836 Hidden Acres C
 No.Ft.Meyers, FL 33903
 (813) 997-2237

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 10500 E. 121st St.
 Bixby, OK 74008
 (918) 369-2580

DR. A. E. DECOTEAU *
 P. O. BOX 369
 Groton, MA 01450
 (603) 878 4391
 Panel Chairman

RAY JOHNSON *
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 Soquel, CA 95073
 (408) 728-8676

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 3402 Milliams St.
 Marietta, GA 30062
 (404) 973-1790

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 600 Gist Avenue
 Silver Spring, MO 20910
 (301) 585-9647

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 2604 Auburn Ct.
 Bakersfield, CA 93306
 (805) 872-1063

DR. VAL CLEAR
 1001 Martin Drive
 Anderson, IN 46012
 (317) 642-0795

BRENDA GEESEY
 125 N. Jackson St.
 York, PA 17403
 (717) 854-2604

JOSEPH KRADER
 17347 Aspenglow Dr.
 Yorba Linda, CA 92686
 (714) 996-5538

EARL COURTS *
 1807 N. E. Colburn
 Lee's Summit, MO 64063
 (816) 524-0921

CECIL GUNBY *
 8031 Highway 54
 Sharpsburg, GA 3027
 (404) 254-1261

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

CLARENCE CULWELL *
 Rt. 3, Box 61-7
 Springtown, TX 76082
 (817) 523-5568

KENNETH GUNBY *
 8031 Highway 54
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 2122 Lamar Drive
 Asheboro, NC 27203
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 c/o Jeff Taylor

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 Naples, FL 33962
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 1226 S. 6th St.
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 1212 E. Cr. 300 S
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 (219) 269-2873

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1737 Ela Avenue
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(719) 275-1787

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1135 Chapman St.
San Jose, CA 95126
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Colo.Springs, CO 80916
(719) 574-1594

WILLIAM S. PARLEE *
P. O. Box 18607
E. Hartford, CT 06118
(203) 528-1458

GEORGE WARREN
28 Chedworth Crescent
Paulsgrove,
Portsmouth, England
PO6 4ET

PAUL S. WILLIAMS
783 Bonegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 399-8772

NOTE: * indicates a judge who is also certified in another society.

For further information on the NFS Panel of Judges, contact Dr. A. E. Decotaan at the above address.

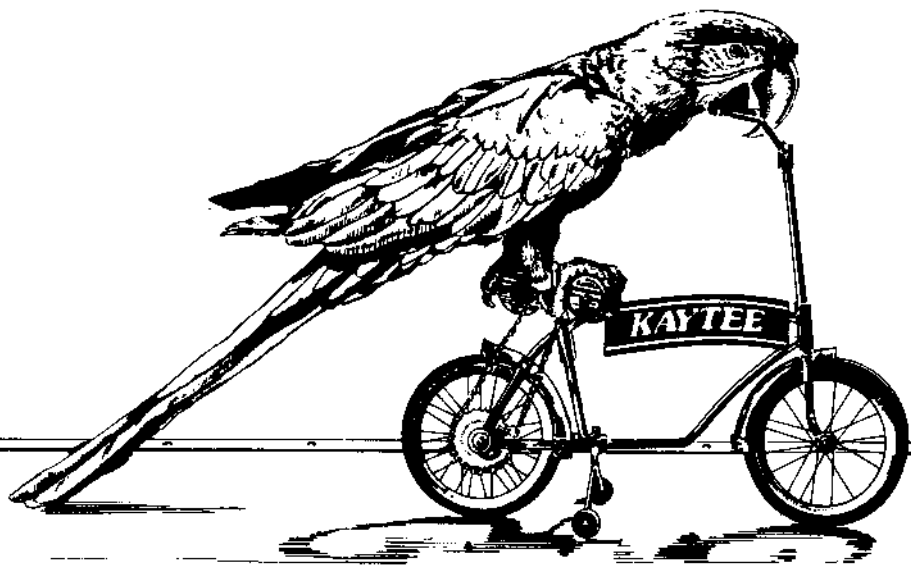
=====
Please check your address label and keep your membership and your address up to date. Save the Society the work and expense of sending reminders to you. Those who have dual memberships will see that now both names are on the label
RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

NFS Membership Services
Russell Armitage, Jr.
345 Boston Road, Middletown, Ct 06457

=====
AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Tom Rood, Vice President for the Mid-West Region, is working on an international program with clubs in Europe and elsewhere. The object is to exchange rosettes and/or trophies between NFS and those clubs. Tom has been doing this for several years, on his own, and it's because of his efforts that we've had those nice rosettes at past National Shows. This year, NFS will help him expand his efforts. Tom says he has already received 3 plaques and 2 or 3 medals, including TWO GOLD MEDALS from the German National Club! We'll have more news about this in upcoming issues. To get involved, contact:

Tom Rood
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A LITHOGRAPH by ERIC PEAKE for NFS

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"In my art work, I have been able to add or subtract areas of development in the avian subjects I choose. Being an artist who loves birds, and having been fortunate to paint the things I love has been a rewarding achievement in itself.

Most of my years as an artist, I have been connected with the parrot family. But from time to time, I paint other birds, Raptors, Cage Birds, etc. When I painted the beautiful "Diamond Firetails" I tried to portray the beauty of this lovely bird, also to show its' character for bird lovers.

It has been my pleasure to have the "Firetails" issued by the National Finch and Softbill Society as a Limited Edition print. Please support the Society by purchasing a print. I will continue to paint one subject a year, if it proves successful."

Eric Peake (UK)

=====

BARBECUING FINCHES

by Martha Wigmore

=====

It's June and you haven't seen a display of finches and softbills since attending your last show in December? Feeling run-down and uninspired after months of candling eggs and banding chicks (if you've been that lucky)? Need to see FINCHES, and the local pet store just doesn't have those special birds you'd like to see to help you get through the summer? NFS members in the Colorado area of the NFS Mountain Region have conquered these exhibition withdrawal symptoms through their annual Finch BBQ. This is no ordinary BBQ - naturally with finches it couldn't be. This special BBQ is held during our Finch Spring Review.

Participants in the Finch Spring Review (all bird lovers in the area are invited) are asked to bring with them as many finches and softbills representing as many different species as possible. Rather than go to all the trouble of barbecuing these birds, we use the birds in the workshop, and something like hamburgers or spaghetti (barbecued? It's not bad!) is served to the guests.

This annual Review serves as a refresher course, or a beginning course for some, on using the NFS standards to evaluate birds for the purpose of purchasing good stock, pairing breeders, or selecting exhibition birds. In an informal setting, those present at the workshop compare birds to the standards and to other birds, and leave hopefully rejuvenated and eager to have another fruitful year with their birds.

At the Review a judging stand is set up and the workshop begins by reviewing the key anatomical points of birds. Features such as wing and tail carriage, back and chest lines, etc. in relation to conformation standards are studied. The experience of the NFS Panel Judges and apprentices who attend the Review is particularly valuable at this point. To illustrate this discussion, there is no better way than to compare birds with conspicuous conformation faults (birds only a Mother hen could love!) with better birds of the same species.

In this Region we had made up a pamphlet, now replaced by the NFS Handbook, which includes each of the standards to date, including Zebras, Societies, Gouldians, Cordon Bleus, Green Singers and Shafttails. The birds at the Review are brought up to the judging stand in this order and compared with the standards and against one another. The important points of the standards are discussed until each participant truly feels comfortable using a bird standard.

At this point in time, of all the finch species, Zebras and Societies show the greatest influence from having had standards. They have shown tremendous improvement in type and size in recent years. For persons

interested in testing their skill at interpreting and meeting a standard, Zebras and Societies are excellent birds to work with, and at our Review we had many examples to compare.

We also evaluate species brought to the Review that have no written standards. To do this, we keep in mind the usual appearance of these species, with our main interest when we examine a bird being its conformation, followed equally by condition and color and markings. Then stance and demeanor are evaluated.

Since this is not a competition the birds at the workshop have a "come-as-you-are" appearance. During the Review, though, we do note exceptionally good or poor examples of condition and share ways in which condition can be improved.

We also find that the wide variety of birds at the workshop allows beginners to get an opportunity to see color mutations which they may have only read about previously.

The Finch Spring Review has been a successful and satisfying event for NFS members these past two years. This opportunity to have our birds evaluated informally and objectively, and to develop a better eye for good quality birds also provides each of us a joy-filled afternoon with BIRDS! Plan your BBQ today!

=====

Martha had subtitled this article "ANOTHER EXCUSE TO BRING BIRDS TOGETHER" but I decided the title alone would really catch your eye. Did it work? Are you planning your BBQ now? Sounds like a great way to combine fun and education.

Thanks Martha. The Editor.

=====

after the Leafbirds. But they shouldn't have (and didn't) win.

4. I've spoken in front of large groups but you, too, will be intimidated when you first meet Drs. Val Clear, Al Beceteau et al. (What do you say to Dr. Clear, "I just loved your banana article in 'Cage Bird'?) So relax, be yourself and ask a few dumb questions like all the rest of us do. Just remember that although you and Dr. Clear may both put on your pants one leg at a time he has the wardrobe to match the bright red cape.

5. Have fun; meet some other people. After all, we veteran exhibitors like to meet new folks.

6. It may not be your birds' fault if they don't win. It could be a genetic problem - YOURS!

=====

Sorry it took so long to get this into print Joe but I'm sure the members will find it was worth the wait! You are BY FAR the funniest CPA I know! Bring us up to date on your adventures when you have time. The Editor.

=====

=====

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

=====

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETYS' NATIONAL SHOW: November 15 - 17.
In conjunction with the 42nd Annual National Cage Bird Show, hosted by the
Georgia Cage Bird Society at the Radisson Hotel - Atlanta, GA.
NFS Panel Judge: Joe Krader For information: Cecil Gunby, (404) 254 1261
For hotel reservations: (404) 659 6500.

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society; Danny Hall, (205) 491 8603
Show: August 31-Sept. 2, 1990

Bird Club of Greater Birmingham; Judy Johnson, (205) 836 3023
Show: September 15 & 16, 1990 Birmingham, AL Panel Judge: Marold Bowles

CALIFORNIA

Finch Society of San Diego County; Larry Russell, (619) 274 2095

Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Richard Lujan, (408) 984 1453
Show: October 26-28 Nadera, CA Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Golden Gate Avian Society; Bawn Senna, (415) 828 9395
Show: November 2-4, 1990 Livermore, CA Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.; Janice Pritchard, (619) 442 1164
Show: November 3 & 4, 1990 Delmar, CA Panel Judge: Joe Krader

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld,
(408) 985 2712 Show: November, 23-25, 1990 Sunnyvale, CA
Panel Judge: Joe Krader

South Bay Bird Club; Gregory Aden, (213) 379 2416

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Martha Wigmore, (719) 574 1594
Show: Nov.10, 1990 Colorado Springs, CO Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Donald Locke, Jr. (303) 289 5721
Show: October 27 & 28, 1990 Denver, CO Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Chris Voronovitch, (203) 649 8220
Show: Oct. 27, 1990 E. Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

New England Finch Fanciers; Russell Armitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875
Show: November 24, 1990 E. Hartford, CT Panel Judge: William Parlee

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Len Brover (305) 931 3468
Show: August 25, 1990 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club; Cynthia Patton, (407) 439 6582

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.; Andrea Whiting, (813) 888 5935
Show: September 16, 1990 Tampa, FL Panel Judge: Jerry D'Agata

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn.; Jerri Neisenfeld (904) 731 7173
Show: September 28-30, 1990 Jacksonville, FL Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Suncoast Avian Society; Joe Ventimiglia, (813) 392 9391
Show: October 6 & 7, 1990 Clearwater, FL Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Dale Laird, (407) 657 7989
Show: October 13, 1990 Orlando, FL Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society; Cecil Gunby, (404) 254 1261
Show: Hosting the National November 15-17, 1990 Panel Judge: Joe Krader

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club; Cynthia Pregana,
Show: Panel Judge: Joe Krader

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Charles Anchor, (708) 543 3757
Show: November 3, 1990 Panel Judge: Daren Becoteau

National Institute Red-Orange Canaries; Catherine Miegeler, (219) 922 1146
Show: Nov. 23-25, 1990 Elk Grove Village, IL Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers; Dr. Val Clear, (317) 642 0795
Show: October 13, 1990 Ft. Wayne, IN Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear

IOWA

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

Show: October 6, 1990 Des Moines, IA Panel Judge: Paul Williams

LOUISIANA

Capitol Area Avicultural Society; Tim Schexnayre, (504) 562 3579

Show: November 10, 1990 Baton Rouge, LA Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

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

Show: October 19-21, 1990 New Orleans, LA Panel Judge: Bill Parlee

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers; Deb Clark, (301) 242 8471

Show: October 20, 1990 Towson, MD Panel Judge: Roddy Sabel

Maryland Cage Bird Association; Theresa Brown, (301) 386 3907

Show: November 10, 1990 Frederick, MD Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

November 11, 1990 Frederick, MD Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

MASSACHUSETTS

N.E.S.T. Show: Sept. 22, 1990 Framingham, MA Panel Judge: Bill Parlee

Co-sponsored by: Boston Cockatiel Society, Boston Society for Aviculture,
and Exotic Cage Bird Society of New England. (New England Societies Together)

Boston Cockatiel Society; Elizabeth Vaughn, (508) 663 7874

Boston Society for Aviculture; Roger O'Connell, (617) 899 8523

Exotic C. B. Society of New England; Roger O'Connell, (617) 899 8523

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Kim Rendigs, (508) 546 2248

Show: October 20, 1990 Mansfield, MA Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

MICHIGAN

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

Show: November 3, 1990 Perry, MI Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Bro. Anthony Michael, F.S.D., (616) 245 0049

Show: November 10 & 11, 1990 Westland, MI Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear

Motor City Bird Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643

Show: October 27 & 28, 1990 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Chris Hunsberger, (816) 461 5582
Show: October 20, 1990 Grandview, MO Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Missouri Cage Bird Association; Eileen Lambert, (314) 962 8186
Show: November 3, 1990 Eureka, MO Panel Judge: Earl Courts

NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society; Susan Traylor, (402) 435 7886
Show: September 29, 1990 Omaha, NE Panel Judge: Kenneth Gunby

NEVADA

Las Vegas Avicultural Society; Vernon Born, (702) 363 6565
Show: October 28, 1990 Las Vegas, NV Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club; Erika Inkster, (609) 694 2004
Show: October 6, 1990 East Windsor, NJ Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society; Larry DeLorenzo, (508) 927 5494
Show: September 15, 1990 Auburn, NH Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Ken Akey, (603) 880 9804
Show: October 13, 1990 Nashua, NH Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

NEW YORK

Fingerlakes Cage Bird Assn.;

Astoria Bird Club; Douglas Disen, (212) 865 5841

Rochester Cage Bird Club; Jeanne Murphy, (714) 232 5477
Show: November 11, 1990 Rochester, NY Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society; Wanda McCormick, (704) 825 1972
Show: September 8, 1990 Charlotte, NC Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

OHIO

Cleveland Cage Bird Society; Joseph DeLuca, (216) 225 0517
Show: October 13, 1990 Parma, OH Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma; Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066
Show: November 10, 1990 Oklahoma City Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society; Laura Bewley, (918) 369 2580
Show: October 27, 1990 Tulsa, OK Panel Judge: Rita O'Dell

PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Jerry McCawley, (717) 288 0529
Show: October 27, 1990 Mechanicsburg, PA Panel Judge: Stephen Noppin

Chester County Bird Breeders, Joe Kessler (215) 326 7541
Show: September 8, 1990 King of Prussia, PA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143
Show: November 10, 1990 Creamery, PA Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society; Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 323 7235
Show: November 3, 1990 Washington, PA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

Philadelphia Avicultural Society; Rick Szlachta, (215) 635 2097

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffey, (615) 361 5949
Show: October 27, 1990 Nashville, TN Panel Judge: Earl Courts

TEXAS

Capitol City Cage Bird Club; Sarah Goodrich, (512) 258 5048
Show: October 13, 1990 Austin, TX Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

Fort Worth Bird Club; Clarence Culwell, (817) 523 5568
Show: October 6, 1990 Arlington, TX Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Assn; Sarah Goodrich, (512) 258 5048
Show: Nov. 3, 1990 Killeen, TX Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society; Linda Oja, (804) 874 8581
Show: October 6, 1990 Hampton, VA Panel Judge: Kenneth Gunby

WASHINGTON

Northwest Exotic Bird Society; Nancy White, (206) 525 0941

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.; Linda Reynolds, (414) 482 1345
Show: October 6, 1990

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Australian Finch Society; England, Martin Nogg.

Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society of Canada: John Bennett (416) 473 5612

New Zealand Finch Breeders: New Zealand, Valerie Hughes

Zebra Finch Society, England: Chris Blackwell, Durham, England

=====

ARE YOU A BIT TIMID ABOUT WRITING ?

Jon Hoffman, our new Second Vice-President, and well known BIRD TALK columnist has volunteered to help you! In a letter to me Jon said, "since some people are shy about writing and aren't comfortable about their ability to write, perhaps they could submit the outline or sketch of what they want to say, and then I can put it into an edited-form of article for them. The procedure might be that a breeder sends me the information or calls me to discuss what they want to say. I then write it up and it goes back to the breeder for approval. The breeder makes notes of any clarifications or requests for changes and sends it back to me. I put it into a final form and send it to the bulletin editor for publication."

=====

This is a very generous offer and I hope many members who have hesitated to write for the bulletin will be contacting you soon Jon ! Thanks. The Editor.
Contact Jon at his NEW address:

1226 S. 6th Street
Louisville, KY 40203

=====

AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Tom Rood, Vice President for the Mid-West Region, is working on an international program with clubs in Europe and elsewhere. The object is to exchange rosettes and/or trophies between NFS and those clubs. Tom has been doing this for several years, on his own, and it's because of his efforts that we've had those nice rosettes at past National Shows. This year, NFS will help him expand his efforts. Tom says he has already received 3 plaques and 2 or 3 medals, including TWO GOLD MEDALS from the German National Club! We'll have more news about this in upcoming issues. To get involved, contact:

Tom Rood
313 N. Broadway
Shelbyville, IL 62565
(217) 774 5265

=====

=====

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER !

by Tom Rood

=====

By now you have received the NFS Bulletin issue with the 1989 Census. So as not to leave anyone out, the following is to be included with your Census material. These census forms were received after the "completed" census results were mailed to your editor and sent to the printers. I must apologize to the following people for not including their information in the main census, but it could not be helped. I guess "better late than never !"

Member	State	Member's Name	Phone Number
CN05L3	ONT., CANADA	VINCENT MOASE	(416) 723 1978
KS0967	KANSAS	GAIL NOSLER	(316) 784 5457
MA0661	MASS.	DIANNA SMITH	(508) 540 3214
MA0571	MASS.	RICHARD PERRY	(413) 245 9662
VA0814	VIRGINIA	PEGGY ICKLEY	(804) 384 1929
IN0563	INDIANA	C. & B. WIEGELE	(219) 922 1146
PA0768	PENNSYLVANIA	MARGARET MOLLENBACK	(215) 789 7920
CA0987	CALIFORNIA	RITA HOLMES	(213) 640 3292
VA0281	VIRGINIA	SALLY HURST	(804) 357 7949
PA0551	PENNSYLVANIA	KRISTINE KROMER	(215) 628 4143
MN0688	MINNESOTA	S. GREGORICH (new number)	(612) 493 3107

In order to make this late installment of the NFS Census as simple as possible, I will simply list those species kept and/or bred by each of the members listed above.

MOASE: Zebras, Owls, Grassfinches, Strawberries, Gold-Breasts, Cuban Melodious, Cherries, Purple Grenadiers, Societies, Pekin Robins, Silver Eared Mesias and Shanas.

NOSLER: Zebras, Societies, and Spice.

D. SMITH: Zebras, Societies, Orange Cheeks, Green Slogers and Shafflails.

PERRY: Zebras, Gouldians, Green Gingers, Cullthroats, Fire, African Silverbills and Societies.

ICKLEY: Zebras, Gouldians and Green Slogers.

Continued on page 23

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MY THOUGHTS ON FINCHSAVE

by Jeff Brissette

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For my grandmothers' eightieth birthday, some ten years ago, my mother thought a quilt would be a grand idea for a birthday gift. What she had in mind wasn't buying a quilt though. Each of Grams children and grandchildren were to prepare a square of cloth with something that reminded her or her of Gram. We were all provided a piece of unbleached muslin to work with. The ideas and the colors were left to the individuals, as were the materials we would work with. The only thing asked of each of us was that we contribute. All the pieces were to be sent to my mother for quilting.

This open-ended assignment presented a wide range of options for the family. One of the younger children used crayons to recreate a memory of the root beer Gram used to make. One embroidered a rooster that recalled the chickens she once raised. Another painted a squirrel, to remember Gram feeding peanuts to her "friend", Perry. Even the curmudgeonly uncles contributed. One appliqued an old car that reminded him of his youth.

My mother gathered these pieces from our family around the country, somehow, and arranged them into a quilt. The diversity, (I thought, hodge-podge), of parts didn't matter. The finished work was a thing of beauty. My grandmother takes it off her bed and brings it out at family gatherings where we all admire our efforts.

It is a real source of pride to each of us to see our individual contributions as a part of a useful and cherished finished product.

Through the efforts of such people as Hal Koontz, NFS has started a quilt, of sorts. And, the analogy is close. We also have a family, of finch and softbill breeders, scattered across the country. We are dealing with a huge patchwork of bird varieties. We all take pride in our individual successes, yet almost everyone would like to contribute to something that is greater than its' parts.

We call it FINCHSAVE.

As newly elected director of FINCHSAVE I'd like to keep on with the work of Mr. Koontz, et al. I would like to assemble the parts we have, and enlarge FINCHSAVE.

I think that one way to accomplish this is to have regional chairmen. Their responsibility would be to work with FINCHSAVE members on a closer basis. A lot of very good ideas, tricks and techniques can fall through the cracks in organizations that are too extended. If we are to perpetuate the varieties of birds we now have in captivity, we can't afford to lose even one tidbit of information. The duties of the chairmen would be to gather this information and work with the species captains to disseminate it to our breeders.

Another goal I would like to accomplish is to enlarge and strengthen FINCHSAVE. Personally, I have always felt that FINCHSAVE has been somewhat unapproachable to members. I think the rigidity of the framework has put off very qualified people from entering. It is my intention to make this program more "user friendly". Some of the standards called for are very important, yet I feel we will have more success by making them more attainable to our breeders.

I think that from the genius of the people who started FINCHSAVE, we have the pieces we need to build our quilt. Now we have to put it all together.

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NFS FINCHSAVE Vice-President, Jeff Brissette
34 Liberty Street
Manchester, Ct 06040
(203) 649 4563

Contact Jeff for more ideas on putting this very valuable quilt together !

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FINCHES FLYING EXPRESS MAIL ?

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We all hear rumors from time to time and some cause us to perk up and hope that it is the truth and that it is as good as it sounds ! I have heard from several sources that it is possible to send small birds safely and cheaply through the United States Postal Services' Express Mail Overnight Service. I haven't had time to investigate either the rumors or the USPS to confirm this. I hope it is true. I would like to hear from anyone who has shipped, received shipments or has knowledge of USPS regulations that would permit this type of shipping. I'm going to write letters to the people that "rumor says" have been doing this in hopes of getting confirmation. I hope to print some additional, verified information in the next bulletin. If you know anything I can use, please send me a note. I'm hoping there's a NFS member somewhere who can assure me that this is one of those rare, wonderful rumors that is as good as it sounds !

The Editor

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A REPORT ON BIRDS WITH CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

by Dr. Al Decoteau

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The results of my work compiling the first NFS listing of birds with individual championship points is completed and I am pleased to present it to you. Twenty one members have earned championship points on one or more birds. The top three members are:

Kris Kroner.....25 points each, on two birds.
 Tom Rood.....14 points on one bird.
 Gene Miller.....11 points on one bird.

The three members with the most birds having earned points are:

Gene Miller.....10 birds with points.
 Tom Rood.....8 birds with points.
 Kris Kroner.....4 birds with points.

The following list will show you which specific birds have points.

<u>Jose Aleman</u>	Cherry Finch.....	NFS	E	603	'88	8 points
<u>Russell Armitage, Jr.</u>	CFW Zebra.....	NFS	C	155	'87	8 points
<u>Cathy Gaffney</u>	Fire Finch.....	NFS	B	143	'86	7 points
<u>Sarah Goodrich</u>	White Zebra.....	NFS	D	1385	'88	3 points
<u>Pat & Mary Krichten</u>	Society.....	NFS	E	962	'89	9 points
	Strawberry.....	NFS	B	261	'89	8 points
<u>Kris Kroner</u>	Maggie Mannikin...	NFS	G	180	'89	25 points
	Maggie Mannikin...	NFS	G	182	'89	25 points
	Maggie Mannikin...	NFS	G	178	'89	2 points
	Maggie Mannikin...	NFS	G	183	'89	2 points
<u>Bro. Anthony Michael</u>	Fawn Zebra.....	NFS	D	452	'89	9 points
	Green Singer.....	NFS	C	795	'86	5 points
<u>Gene Miller</u>	Star.....	NFS	C	175	'89	11 points
	Yellow-faced Star.	NFS	C	192	'89	11 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	305	'86	9 points
	White Brst. Gould.	NFS	D	609	'89	3 points
	Red Headed Parrot.	NFS	C	181	'89	3 points
	Cuban Melodious...	NFS	B	37	'89	2 points
	Gouldian.....	NFS	D	615	'89	3 points
	Gouldian.....	NFS	D	643	'89	3 points
	Fawn Zebra.....	NFS	D	1192		2 points
	Fawn Zebra.....	NFS	D	305		1 point
<u>Linda Oja</u>	Pied Zebra.....	NFS	D	3538	'89	1 point

<u>Tom Rood</u>	Zebra.....	NFS	C	302	'87	14 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	87	'89	11 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	54	'87	7 points
	Gouldian.....	NFS	D	4950	'89	4 points
	Fawn Zebra.....	NFS	D	307	'89	3 points
<u>Anna Sinclair</u>	Pied Zebra.....	NFS	D	339	'89	2 points
	Shafttail.....	NFS	C	418	'89	2 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	442	'89	5 points
	Cordon Bleu.....	NFS	B	262	'88	5 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	465	'89	3 points
<u>Dianna Smith</u>	Penguin Zebra.....	NFS	D	283	'89	3 points
	Fawn Zebra.....	NFS	D	292	'89	1 point
<u>Rick Szlachta</u>	Yellow Faced Star.	NFS	C	41	'88	9 points
	St. Helena.....	NFS	A	152	'88	1 point
<u>Mary Lou Terwilliger</u>	Java.....	NFS	K	74	'88	3 points
	Java.....	NFS	K	259	'87	1 point
<u>Chris Voronovitch</u>	CFW Zebra.....	NFS	D	1440	'89	3 points
<u>Cathy & David Weigle</u>	Pearl Hd. Amadine.	NFS	E	309	'89	4 points
	Society.....	NFS	E	335	'89	4 points
	Crierson Pileated..	NFS	E	33	'89	2 points
<u>Sandy Woosnan</u>	Indian Silverbill.	NFS	C	1145	'89	5 points
<u>Marvin & Tina Yoder</u>	White Zebra.....	NFS	D	143	'89	6 points

I congratulate all of these members and their birds. I hope to see them on the show bench in 1990. These points will "carry over" from season to season and it's possible that 1990 will be the year we have our first champion bird. Remember, you must put the bird's band number on the show entry form to receive points and, of course, the exhibitor must be an NFS member in good standing and the bird must have an NFS closed band.

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THE LITHOGRAPHS ARE READY !

The "Diamond Sparrow" lithographs have been mailed to members who have ordered and paid for them. We have special, heavy-duty mailing tubes and we're ready to fill your order today! The lithographs are lovely and if you act NOW you can still have a low number of this first series of signed and numbered Eric Peake lithographs made specially for NFS members. See the FINCHSHOP page for ordering information.

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NEXT STANDARDS NEED VOLUNTEERS !

We need volunteers to help with write two new Standards. The Pekin Robin will be the first Soltbill Standard to be written. The next Finch Standard to be worked on will be the Fire Finch. Two judges will be serving on each committee. If you breed, keep or have interest in either of these birds, please write to:

Dr. Al Decoteau, P. O. Box 369, Groton, MA 01450

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NFS 1990 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

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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 DO NOT HAVE SHOWS. THE FEE IS \$25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO, IN AUGUST OF YOUR AFFILIATION YEAR, YOU WILL RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FOR YOUR CLUB. THIS PLAQUE CAN BE A SERVICE OR BREEDER AWARD FOR ONE OF YOUR MEMBERS. (NEED NOT BE AN NFS MEMBER.) THE PLAQUE ALONE IS WORTH THE AFFILIATION FEE. REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE PLAQUE AND ITS' WORDING MUST BE FORWARDED TO NFS NO LATER THAN JUNE 1ST .

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO IS FOR CLUBS WITH SHOWS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL INCLUDE BEAUTIFUL PLAQUES FOR FIRST AND SECOND BEST IN DIVISION AT YOUR SHOW. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION WITH ROSETTE PACKAGE

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

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION WITH SOFTBILL PACKAGE

ADD A PLAQUE FOR BEST SOFTBILL TO STANDARD LEVEL TWO PACKAGE. COSTS \$65.

LEVEL THREE AFFILIATION

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

SEND YOUR FEE AND A NOTE INDICATING WHICH LEVEL AND WHICH ADDITIONAL PACKAGES YOUR CLUB WANTS TO:

PAM LIDDY, LIAISON OFFICER
245 Draper Street
Springfield, MA 01108

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PROPOSED DIAMOND SPARROW STANDARD

(Diamond Firetail)

Steganopleura guttata

Submitted for the consideration of the membership by the committee. Comments and constructive criticism should be submitted to:

Dr. Al Decoteau
P. O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450

CONFORMATION: 50 points
CONDITION: 20 points
COLOR & MARKINGS: 20 points
DEPORTMENT: 5 points
PRESENTATION: 5 points

CONFORMATION: 50 points

Head, body, legs and feet.

From the beak to the tip of the tail the Diamond Sparrow should measure between 4.5" and 5". The head should be nicely rounded, blending with the thick neck and back. Look for a slight dip in the nape area between the head and the backline. The straight, conical shaped beak should be red with a silvery cast. Eyes are large with an orbital ring. The Diamond should be a robust and full-bodied bird exhibiting substance, with body thick, muscular and compact. A lumped chest is considered a fault. The dorsal line of the back should form a consistently smooth straight line from nape to tip of tail. The ventral line should exhibit slight concaveness in the throat region, then gently curve into a strong chest. This curvature continues to the under tail coverts. The legs should appear parallel and both feet should grasp the perch appropriately.

Wings:

Long wings adorn this large Australian finch. Regardless of the size of the finch, the wings should be held close to the body and meet evenly atop the upper tail coverts.

Tail:

The Diamond has a short, squared tail that follows the straight dorsal line of the bird. A tail angling downward or a skytail is considered a fault.

CONDITION: 20 points

While Diamond Sparrows are not difficult to maintain, acquiring excellent condition requires additional work, including frequent bathing. For exhibit, all feathers should be present, clean, soft and shiny, with the tail flawlessly squared off and evenly rounded. Legs and feet should be clean, free of abnormal growths and scaling. Pin feathers, missing feathers, soiled or frayed feathers, missing toes or toenails are all condition faults and will count heavily against the bird. Any sign of obvious disease shall be faulted.

COLOR: 20 points

Beaks should be deep red with a silvery grey cast covering all but the thin rim at the base. Forehead, crown, nape and lower neck are medium dull grey. This fades evenly to a pale silvery grey white on ear coverts, lower cheeks and throat areas. Broad black lores initiate at the base of the beak (centered evenly at the point which maxilla and mandible meet) and extend to posterior eye. Reddish to dark brown eyes are fully surrounded by a ring of pink orbital skin. The back and wing coverts are a dull greyish brown. Primaries and secondaries are a darker greyish brown with narrow, pale fringes on the outer webs. Underwing coverts are whitish. A horizontal broad black band extends across the chest, marks sides of chest and halts at posterior flanks. Bold white spots dot the black sides and flanks, with rump and uppertail coverts a brilliant scarlet red. Tail is jet black. Legs and feet, a dark bluish grey with a silvery cast.

Mutations:

Fawn: Fawn replaces all grey areas and deeper, darker fawn replaces black areas. Scarlet rump remains the same.

DEPORTMENT: 5 points

Having been domesticated by cage or aviary for several years, the Diamond Sparrow should exhibit in a composed manner. Appearing alert, steady and bold, the Diamond should stand up straight and move from perch to perch calmly. Excessive roosting or crouching on the perch to be faulted.

PRESENTATION: 5 points

At time of writing, a standard show cage is not required. A National Finch and Softbill Society Standard show cage, size # 2 is recommended. However, any clean cage relative to the size of the bird can be used. Flat top preferred. Perches suitable to the size of the birds feet need to be used. Perches should run from the cage front to rear and be positioned far enough from the sides so as not to injure the tail when the bird moves from perch to perch. Position perches to give the judge a full lateral view of the bird.

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PROPOSED LAVENDER FINCH STANDARD

(Lavender Waxbill)

Estrilda caerulescens

This second printing contains revisions. Unless further revisions are submitted and accepted, this version will be presented to the Board of Directors for acceptance on June 16, 1990. Comments and constructive criticisms are invited and should be submitted to:

Dr. Al Decoteau
P. O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450

CONFORMATION: 45 Points
CONDITION: 25 Points
Demeanor: 15 Points
MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 15 Points

CONFORMATION: 45 POINTS

This must be a 4 1/2 inch bird. The head should be gently rounded at the crown and somewhat broader at the jaw, with smooth mandibles that meet evenly at the point. There should be a straight topline with no sharp curves. The line from under the chin past the neck and the chest should be gracefully arched. The Lavender is a deep bodied bird with a full curved abdomen. The legs must be wide set and free of scaling. The straight back should be wider at the shoulder, gradually tapering to the tail.

The wings must be carried evenly while blending smoothly into the back. The wing tips must meet at the base of the tail and not cross. The Lavender frequently drops its' wings so that the primary flight feathers form a straight line with the tail. This exposes the crimson rump. This is a typical behavior and should not be faulted unless it is noted as a chronic weakness in the wing carriage.

The tail should be 1/4 of the total length of the Lavender. It must be carried to follow the backline. It should not be elevated or droop. It must be compact and full. Fanning of the tail is important.

CONDITION: 25 POINTS

The Lavender must be a bird of immaculate feather. Exhibited specimens must be in top show condition. All feathers, skin, beak, legs and feet must be clean, smooth and lustrous. There must be no pinfeathers nor any missing feathers, toes or toenails.

DEWEANOR: 15 POINTS

This waxbill is, and should be, a very active bird. It is bright and inquisitive and quite active in the show cage. On the perch it must have a backline with a 35 degree angle. The legs should be wide set and strong with the weight of the bird evenly distributed. The bird moves from perch to perch spreading or fanning out the tail; as they move giving a proud appearance is exhibited.

MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 15 POINTS

The Lavender is a bird of soft feather with a pearly white to pearly red beak ending with a black tip. Legs are reddish brown to black. There must be a sharp black stripe running from the gape of the mouth to just past the eye. The cheeks, ear coverts, throat and upper breast are a whitish gray. This blends into a delicate bluish gray above the eye stripe, over the back and wing and through the flank. This shades to a sooty gray in the lower flank. There are small white spots on the lower flanks, most readily seen when the Lavender is in motion. The lower back, long tail coverts, rump and tail are a rich, vivid crimson. The Lavender is prone to melanism; this should be penalized heavily if it occurs.

The Black Tailed Lavender, *E. perreini*, is slightly larger and darker with a darker red over the rump and a black tail. There is a greater velvet look to the finish of the feathers.

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MIEGEL: Javas, Stars, Cherries, Strawberries, Ovl's, Diamond Sparrows, Crimson Pileated, Gouldians, Fire, Shafttails and Blue Faced Parrot Finches.

HOLLENBACK: Zebras, Cordon Bleus, Green Avadavats, Strawberries, Violet Ears, Purple Grenadlers, Gouldians, Red Ears, Javas, Pintail Nonpariels, Gold Breasts and Societies.

HOLMES: Ovl's, Green Singers, Cordon Bleus, Cutthroats, Gouldians, Societies and Zebras.

HURST: Diamond Doves, Blue Cap Waxbills, Button Quail and Zebras

KROMER: African Silverbills, Indian Silverbills, Pearl Headed Anandines, Nagpie Mannikins, Bronze Wing Mannikins, Blue Bill Mannikins, Rufous Back Mannikins, White Hooded Nuns, Black Hooded Nuns, Tri-Colored Nuns, Spice, Javas, Chestnut Breasted, Timor Sparrows, Zebras, Gold Breasts, Gold Breasted Bantings, European Goldflachen, Saffrons, Nuvfinches, Golden Song Sparrows, Stars, Strawberries, Lavenders, Green Singers, Pekin Robins, Social Weavers, Ovl's and Societies.

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FAIREST FINCH OF FALL

by Joe Heard

If you are like me, you are impressed by the breeding and show success of the heavyweights in our hobby. Perhaps even more impressive is the size and time and dollar investment in their aviaries and the occupants.

As I continue my own investment in facilities and birds, I am finding that success comes with an even steeper time cost than I ever imagined. Of course, that has one obvious merit - the time investment increases my dedication to meeting my birds' needs.

The pay off is the same for all of us whether it's the amusing antics of our Zebra Finches or successfully weaning a clutch of Violet Ears. But my most enjoyable pay off came when I participated in my first bird show in the fall of 1988.

It all started out when I volunteered to be the Finch/Softbill manager for the Wichita show. (I was living in that area then, I'm in Colorado now). No one else wanted to do it and the regulars were burned out and/or bused out. Lots of time - that was late spring and I also volunteered to type the show catalog on my PC. Now THAT was truly an experience! The results were acceptable but I know how to do better next time.

I lined up my stewards and an assistant, both experienced, fortunately. I still didn't know what it was about or what I was supposed to do but I showed up on Friday night to help check in early arrivals. Back at the motel by 6:30 A.M. Saturday, I felt like a cat with a six-foot tail in a roomful of rocking chairs. We still didn't have a secretary and what exactly does a ribbon-tier do and why do I need/want one? What were all these people doing here and why were they all in my area? I hadn't seen so many people gathered for such a big event since my sister announced she would (and did) whip Butch Allen back in third grade!

Fortunately, two successful Oklahoma exhibitors, Gene Miller and NFS judge, Laura Bewley, jumped in to help as steward and secretary, respectively. Amazing how smoothly things run when other people know exactly what you should be doing and then do it for you! Managing is a piece of cake - just hire the right people.

While helping with the stewarding, I listened closely to Dr. Becoteau's instructional comments. After the judging I also met a number of other exhibitors, bought some flaches and show cages and participated in the fire drill at the end of the day when exhibitors checked out.

I had a marvelous day but there were two things I didn't do that I resolved to do in the 1989 show season: exhibit finches and attend the awards banquet. The first item was ignorance - a steward/secretary/manager CAN show birds in the area where he is working; PURCHASES finches can be

exhibited and as of this date they can be shown in ANY cage. As for the second, I had made other plans because I had no idea the banquet could be so much fun.

FINANCIAL ADVICE FROM A CPA TO ROOKIE EXHIBITORS: Pay the \$5 - \$10 (or more) premium for properly painted and maintained show cages. I did this with the three I bought last year. I bought new ones this year. Unpainted. Find someone foolish/kind enough to sell you PAINTED show cages. Buy HIGH. I would rather clean cages - at least you can see and hear birds! You also finish painting in your lifetime. [Ever wonder about the root word (PAIN) in paint? Now you know.]

At the two day show in Tulsa I continued acquiring finches and friends, picked up a few ribbons/rosettes (What is the difference? Class/Section/Division?), 2 NFS points and visited with friends from grad school at UT.

Although I only accomplished one of my objectives in Tulsa, things were easier - no hotched introductions of another legend - all I had to do was steward for two days. This time my knees weren't shaking like a dead Aspen in a March chinook.

That was the start and end of my first show season. I have since made some major bird acquisitions, raised a few of my own finches, (okay, provided a suitable environment for only the easily raised ones), bought and partially painted a warehouseful of show cages, became involved with the Kansas Avicultural Society, moved from Wichita back home to Denver and have finally settled into a new job in a new industry. Now I am ready to start the 1989 show season, (Editor's note: Joe sent this in the early fall of 1989 and I hope to have an update in his 1989 season for you soon.) get involved with my local club, the NFS and all other worthwhile opportunities.

Although I enjoy raising/exhibiting finches more than any other hobby I've ever tried (scuba diving and sky diving are close - give either a try and you begin to understand why your finches act so very happy to be alive when they're in a large aviary!) But as twitter as I am over my second show season, I, like you, remember that all of my birds would probably rather stay at home. I will survive a long trip to a distant show but a "nervous" or "off" bird may very well not. So what if I only bring 10 birds instead of 11? Wait 'till next year!

By recounting my experiences/mistakes like this the seasoned exhibitor might find some of my anecdotes mildly amusing or nostalgic. But my dialogue is meant for fellow novices who will have similar experiences:

1. I exhibited only three birds in the one two-day show last year since I had only three show cages. They're an advantage but not de rigueur (yet).

2. All of my 1988 exhibition birds were purchased.

3. After reading the standards, you will understand why the blind/prejudiced/non-discriminating/other pejoratives judge didn't select your Cordon Blews/whatever for the awards. The Cordies are still my favorites

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NFS NEWS & NOTES

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This spring the NFS Board of Directors conducted it's first "Board Meeting By Mail". The idea was very successful and was very well liked by the majority of Board members. The basic purpose was to insure that each Board Member has an equal voice in the decisions made that will influence the organization. Now that our 18 Board Members are all scattered across the country from Connecticut to Florida and California travel to meetings is very difficult.

Five major decisions were reached.

First and foremost in my mind...the Board voted to make our founder and first president, William G. Parlee a lifetime member of the National Finch and Softbill Society and to give him a permanent seat on the Board of Directors and to excuse him from all further payment of dues.

Second we decided to create a new Board level position of Awards Director to handle the nearly 1900 awards the NFS gives out each year.

Third we decided to place Christine Voronovitch in this position. With her cheerful consent I am pleased to add !

Fourth we created a committee headed by Rick Szlachta with Denise Capazzi and Cecil Gunby to study the sizes of bands we offer and the species we recommend that they be used on. This was in response to some questions and complaints about some sizes not being appropriate for some species. This committee will give it's preliminary report in the June 16th Board meeting in Sturbridge, Mass. and it's final report in the August Board meeting held in conjunction with the AFA annual Convention in Arlington, Virginia.

Fifth the Board voted to change the "Home Office" address of the National Finch and Softbill Society to 125 W. Jackson St., York, PA, 17403-2265.

Committee and directors reports indicated that as of March 15, 1990 our balance in account was \$ 7834.15. As of March 20, 1990 we had only 13,940 1990 bands and were showing a profit as of that date of about \$182.

The Lavender Waxbill Standard and the Diamond Sparrow Standard have been submitted by those committees for publication. There was no report yet from the Star Finch Committee. The proposed revisions on the Society Standard (involving the Dilute and the Chestnut) which were tabled for further study in November of 1988 have made no reported progress and so are dismissed from study at this time. The next two standards to be worked on will be the Pekin Robin (Marty von Raesfeld will chair that committee) and the other will be the Fire Finch Committee. Please, if you would like a lively learning experience and you have any interest in these species, get in touch with Dr. Decoteau. He is looking for volunteers.

We have five people in the apprentice judges program. Russell Armitage, Jr., Jeff Brissette, Sarah Goodrich, Dennis Lewis and Roger

O'Connell. None have passed the written test yet. Jeff has apprenticed once.

The balance in the two Bulletin accounts, (one checking and one USPS postal account) totaled \$ 846 as of March 15th. Each issue averages about \$ 900 including the printing, first class and foreign and bulk mail. Russ moves money into those accounts as it is needed to cover each issue.

We are sold out of the original version of the NFS Handbook. Jon Hoffman volunteered to edit it, removing outdated items and cleaning up the grammar and punctuation and so forth. That work is progressing nicely and several of us are beginning the lengthy job of typing it up fresh and new.

The status of birds competing for Championship points will be reported in this issue and the show reports, in their entirety, will appear in the July/August issue.

The first of the Eric Peake prints have been delivered and more are available from the FINCHSNOP. This is a unique, first time opportunity for NFS members to have an Eric Peake rendition of the Diamond Sparrows, signed and numbered by the artist.

We have finished artwork ready to go to the manufacturer for the NFS 1990 T-shirt! We are using Harold Narnish's drawing of a Shafttail that appears on the Shafttail Standard, enlarged, surrounded by the words "THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY". The shirts will first be available at the AFA's annual Convention, then through Regional VP's and on the show circuit and then through FINCHSHOP. We are hoping to get a new 1990 version of our very popular pin too. Not sure about that one yet though. Our first pin sold very well and made a nice profit for the Society. We hope to do as well with another version this year, probably a Gouldian Finch.

Show cage plan prices will have to be raised. We have sold out of the original stock and now prices for reproductions are higher.

We will be subscribing to various foreign journals in the upcoming year, particularly those that have a wealth of finch and Softbill articles and will permit us to reprint them. We will be listing the Society in the popular "newstand" bird magazines and we will (very soon) be distributing a tri-fold brochure to your regional vice-presidents that promotes the NFS. Tom Rood designed this brochure and we will be making copies of it available to all Regional VP's to circulate among all delegates.

If you have ideas on ways to promote the Society, get in touch with your Regional Vice President. If you have questions or issues that you would like the Board to consider, notify your Regional Vice President in time for the Board meetings in June or August. NFS wants to hear from YOU !

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TO GET INVOLVED IN THE WORK ON THE TWO NEW STANDARDS CONTACT:

Dr. Al Decoteau, P. O. Box 369, Groton, MA 01450 (603) 878 4391

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BLUE-FACED PARROT FINCHES (*Erythrura trichroa*)

by Timothy Morris

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If you keep Australian finches and want to try raising a new species, then you might want to consider the Blue-faced Parrot Finch. This bird is actually not a native Australian bird, although a few have been spotted there over the years. The Blue-faced Parrot-finch lives in the lowlands of New Guinea and the surrounding islands.

There are two distinct species of Blue-faced Parrot Finches. The one kept in American aviculture and in the UK is *Erythrura trichroa*. The other species is *Erythrura papuana* (also known as the Giant Parrot Finch). The Giant Blue-faced is a resident of the higher elevations of the island of New Guinea. It is said to be hardier than *trichroa* because of its' larger size and its' ability to do well in cooler temperatures. For those readers not familiar with New Guinea: The island is the second largest island in the world, about 1500 miles long from east to west. There is a range of mountains that runs from east to west the entire length of the island. The average temperature is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Of course, the average temperature is somewhat misleading because of the temperature gradient due to the topography of the island.

The Blue-faced Parrot Finch is similar in size and shape to the Gouldian, but that's where the similarity ends. The face is a beautiful indigo blue, the body color is green, similar to an Amazon Parrot. The tail is carmine red. The beak color is light horn before the time of weaning. After weaning, the beak changes to black. The eyes are very dark in color. The Blue-faced seems to have better night vision than the Gouldians. The youngsters are similar in color to the adults except for their lack of blue on the face. The dull green facial colors can change to indigo blue within a matter of months from weaning. The facial colors of the hen are not quite as bright as the males', but I would not count on this difference alone for sexing the birds. The male has a loud song that he sings whether he is breeding or not. The song reminds me of a canary (please don't ask me for specifics, because I know nothing about the technicalities of canary song). When the hen is receptive to breeding and the male is chasing her around like he is trying to kill her, you may get the impression that he is being a little rough. Don't worry. It's normal. You may want to keep them in separate cages when not breeding.

The Blue-faced Parrot Finch is not hard to breed. There are a few "do's and don'ts" to raising these birds. Don't try to breed them in a cage less than 2 to 3 feet in each measurement or you may find that all of the eggs are on the floor, broken. Parrot Finches are much more active than

Gouldians and need plenty of flying space. You will also want to make sure that you have a young pair in peak condition. The nest box used is the same as you would use for Gouldians. The male will build the nest very quickly, in about two days. The female doesn't assist. Parrot Finches mate outside of the nest. The eggs are about the same size and shape as Gouldians. One egg is laid a day and a usual clutch is five. Incubation commences when the last egg is laid. You can start counting the days to hatching when the hen broods the eggs overnight for the first time. Hatching takes place at 13 or 14 days. Mealworm consumption is slow when the birds are incubating, and I cut back on vitamins at this time. When the chicks hatch the activity of the parents will let you know. When the nestlings are about two days old the parents will start to consume massive quantities of mealworms. I also keep millet sprays and finch mix available at all times. Lack of live food may cause the parents to stop feeding, particularly to stop feeding the smallest chick. It is a good idea to order plenty of mealworms ahead of time and expect to use from 50 to 100 a day of the medium size. I order 1000 to 5000 at one time from Grubco in Hamilton, Ohio and keep them in a ten gallon aquarium with dry oatmeal and slices of apple.

Parrot finch chicks will be feathered out by the time they are two weeks old. The red tail is already visible at this time. At about three weeks they fledge. Some books say that the young will not return to the nest at night, but I have found that they do. The hen may begin to lay another clutch before the young are weaned. If this happens the juveniles may accidentally destroy the eggs when they return to the nest. The male may become very aggressive to the juveniles at this time and it is a good idea to remove the nest until the young are weaned if you have these problems.

It is possible to foster Parrot Finches under Bengalese (Societies). I have not tried this because I feel that the natural parents do a better job of feeding.

It is very possible for a pair of Parrot Finches to breed themselves to death. Leaving them together for more than three nests is not advised. Two nests is enough for a pair to produce. When the birds start to get worn out, there is usually a dramatic drop in production anyway.

I use open bands because I don't like to disturb the nest. I do band them as soon as they leave the nest since it is so easy to get them confused with other birds from different families. I do not use colony breeding because the males are very territorial. I'm afraid it would cause more problems than it's worth.

I have found that Parrot Finches will eat egg-food very well. I have not used eggfood for parents rearing chicks but maybe someone else has and they can contribute their experiences on this subject in a future bulletin.

There are many other species of Parrot Finches but I would recommend starting with the Blue-faced since it is readily available and probably the easiest one to get started with. A Lutino mutation is now fairly common and a Blue mutation has now been produced in a few collections.

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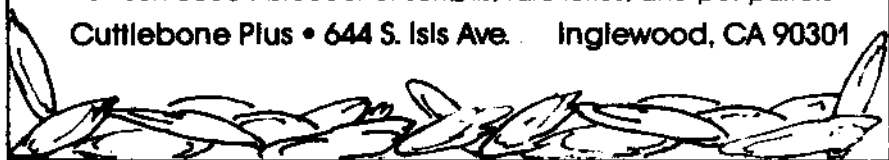
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Jeff Brissette, 34 Liberty Street, Manchester, CT 06040

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All articles, anecdotes, artwork,
ads and other additions to the
bulletin should be sent to:

NFS Editor, Brenda Geesey
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Thanks.

P.S. Also all complaints, comments,
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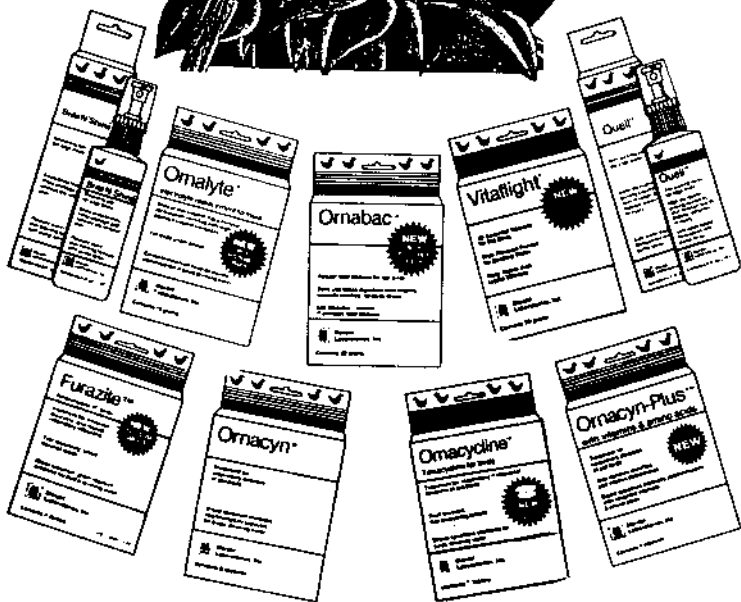
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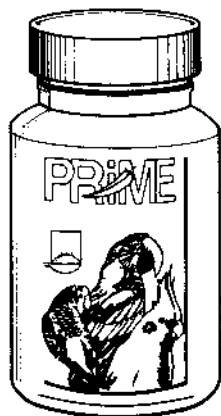
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AFA in brief

March 1990

Conservation Update

At the winter meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, AFA's board of directors approved funding of additional conservation projects including "Natural History of the Plate-billed Toucan in Southwestern Columbia," principal investigator William Beltran; "Bird Conservation in Grenada," principal investigator David Bockstein; "Evolutionary History of Genus *Tragopan*," principal investigator Kamal Islam; "Life History and Ecology of the Yellow-lored Parrot," principal investigator Paul Wood; "Food Habits of the Scarlet Macaw," principal investigator Mark Kainer; and preparation of educational materials for the Lesser Antilles, RARE Center for Tropical Bird Conservation. This last project is under consideration to receive matching funds from the Department of the Interior, Office of International Affairs.

After several fruitful telephone conversations with Susan Jacobsen of the Office of Management Authority (the body that regulates movement/possession of red siskins), a good working relationship has begun between that office and the red siskin consortium. Kevin Gorman is editing *Siskinews*, a special newsletter for consortium participants and other interested parties. Green-cheeked Amazon census participants are being polled regarding their chicks and willingness to use AFA bands if these were available. Almost 200 pairs of birds are listed: individual identification (being owned by someone doesn't count as identification!) needs to be established before a management scheme can be developed further.

"The Use of Starch-gel Electrophoresis to Assess the Degree of Genetic Variability in a Captive Population of Socorro Doves" is one of the projects currently funded by AFA's Conservation Committee. Luis E. Baptista is working on this in conjunction with the Socorro dove reintroduction project. This technique has been used with other species. For this project, a pilot study comparing proteins of Socorro doves, mourning doves and hybrids (including a Socorro x *Streptopelia*) is being conducted. If successful, this will allow selecting pairs for breeding to promote maximum outcrossing, detecting hybrids and should offer some insight about the inheritance of the alleles involved.

Upcoming Survey

At the winter board of directors meeting, AFA approved cooperating with World Wildlife Fund/Traffic (USA) by assisting in the distribution of a confidential survey to determine captive bird populations. This will be similar to the survey distributed last August at the AFA convention, but will receive wider distribution. The aim is to begin establishing a statistical body of data to demonstrate aviculture's role in avian conservation. This is a contribution aviculturists know but cannot as yet

document. This survey will be distributed to AFA members and affiliated clubs. Individual responses will be held in strict confidence, but data generated from this survey will be an important step in giving aviculture credibility in the scientific and conservation communities.

Avian Research

Another research project has now been funded by AFA. Walter Crawford of the Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project will be funded for the psittacine semen studies investigation. This is the fifth avian research project this year to receive funding from AFA. Other projects funded this year are: "Potential Use of Enrofloxacin (Baytril) for Treating Psittacosis in Psittacine Birds," Dr. Keven Flammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh; "Gonadal Response to Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone," Dr. J.J. Milan, University of California, Davis; "Development of a Nonradioactive Genomic Probe for Diagnosis and Study of Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease," Dr. Branson Ritchie, University of Georgia, Athens; and "Development of an Immuno-peroxidase Test to Diagnose Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease," Dr. Kenneth S. Latimer, University of Georgia, Athens.

When donations are made to the Avian Research Committee, they can be earmarked for specific projects or research in a particular field of interest. The committee received a \$2,000 donation last August to be used on research particularly of interest and benefit to retailers. When an appropriate application is approved, these funds will be used for their intended purpose. Projects funded this year are also eligible recipients for specifically targeted donations. Donors wanting to contribute to a particular one of these research endeavors may specify the project they wish to support; the donation will then go to that project. If clubs or other large donors have specific interests they want investigated scientifically, research projects will be sought to match the specified requirements. For more information, write to Dr. Susan Clubb c/o the AFA Business Office.

1990 Convention

The 1990 convention will be held August 8-12 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Washington National Airport), 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. A tentative list of speakers includes Dr. Nigel Collar from the United Kingdom on the status of parrots in the wild and in captivity and the work of the International Council of Bird Preservation (ICBP) and how it relates to aviculturists; Dr. George Smith from the United Kingdom on hyacinth macaws and caiques and possibly a third topic: Jaynee Salan on Indian ringnecks and their mutations and several more speakers.

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