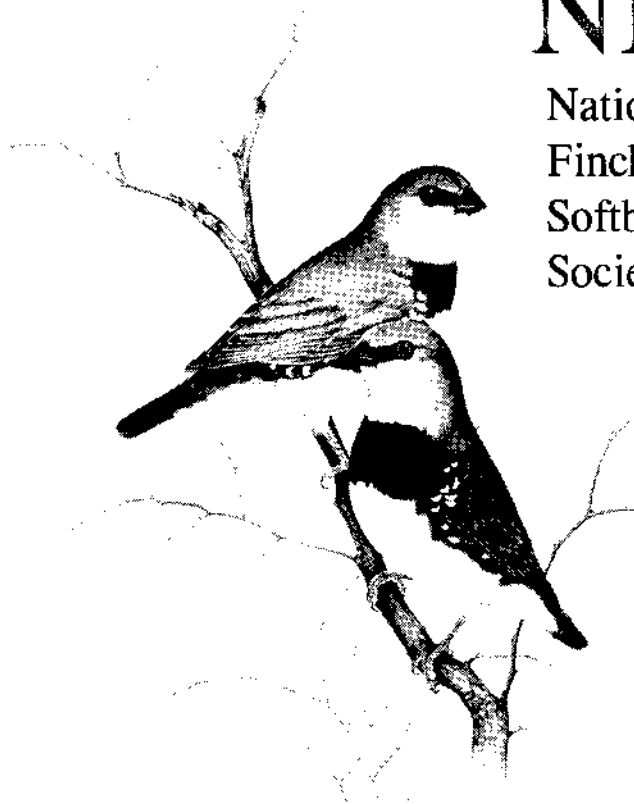


The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 12, No.2

NFSS

National
Finch &
Softbill
Society



March—April 1995



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Editorial Policy/Disclaimer

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NFSS members are encouraged to submit articles, drawings and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all editorial, photographic and advertising material submitted to *The NFSS Bulletin* for publication. Photographs, when submitted, shall become the sole property of NFSS and shall be subject to use in any and all NFSS programs. We will return them to you after use, if requested.

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In this issue:

This issue is close to having it all — species information, a funny spot, breeding help, diet information, avian medicine, handfeeding, show results, and *more!* Thank you to all our contributors!

And also included is a loving tribute to a departed friend who gave so much to aviculturists around the world — NFSS Panel Judge Brian Binns of Manchester, England. He and his lovely wife, Margaret have touched, helped, and befriended so many of us.

A reminder — the next issue of the *Bulletin* will be a yearbook issue, *The NFSS Handbook*. It will contain important information for you as an NFSS member, including the annual NFSS Census, the annual index to *The NFSS Bulletin*, show classifications, FINCHSAVE information, and other organizational tidbits for you to have handy in one publication. (NFSS standards and judging procedures will be available later this year, through FINCHSHOP in a separate publication, *The NFSS Judges Handbook*.)

More of those *rich* articles about finches and softbills will follow shortly in the July/August 1995 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*.



Deadline for the next issue is
April 1st.

The NFSS Bulletin

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Cover Credit:

Diamond Firetails
by Eric Peake of the United Kingdom

In 1989, NFSS first offered this beautiful lithograph done exclusively for NFSS by Mr. Peake. Still available through NFSS FINCHSHOP, each print is signed by this world-renowned artist. We wish we could reproduce it on our cover in full-color, for it is indeed a lovely illustration of the birds we know as Diamond Sparrows.



President's Message

By Steve Hoppin

The passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 has certainly had an impact on the finch and softbill keeper and breeder, as well as most aviculturists. We no longer have the same availability of wild caught finches and softbills as we had in the past and many breeders are now facing the real challenge of obtaining "pure stock" and/or "new bloodlines" to continue with their conservation efforts. Knowing we have limited resources, the American finch and softbill aviculturist has major responsibilities to the birds and to fellow finch and softbill fanciers.

We must focus on the pairing and breeding of an unrelated cock and hen of the *same* species. It is of paramount importance both birds be the same species so as not to hybridize and weaken the gene pool (note: NFSS does not advocate hybridization!).

To keep and breed healthy birds, you should maintain your flock in a healthy environment by providing proper caging, diet, lighting, ventilation, etc. suitable for the species.

Accurate record keeping of your birds' pedigrees (genealogy chart), banding, and sales will assist you to differentiate, identify, and track bloodlines, and also reduce the chances of inbreeding. For reference purposes mortality records should be kept. These may help in determining trends of morbidity and mortality.

When purchasing birds from an unfamiliar seller — get references! And do not be afraid to ask the seller questions.

All new birds obtained should be quarantined in a separate room away from your flock for a minimum of thirty days. Experienced bird keepers are now finding a minimum *sixty day period* to be more effective in determining problems.

Set and stick to high standards when selling your birds. Be up front and honest. The birds *must* be in good health; otherwise they should not be sold or transferred until the illness has been eradicated. It is one of the most important ethical issues facing aviculture, that all finch and softbill keepers and breeders make a conscious effort to preserve and/or conserve the birds that we are entrusted with. Need I say more?

Remember, eventually even you will be in the position of needing to purchase or trade stock to procure genetic diversity in your flock.



Special Issues Coming Your Way!

Looking Forward to **SPECIAL FOCUS** Sections
This Year in The NFSS Bulletin —



Your contributions of articles, photographs, artwork, and trivia are requested on the following subjects:

- Small Softbills
- Nuns & Mannikins
- Bird Room Time-Saving Methods & Hints

Items in support of these Special Focus sections should be sent to the Editor by *June 1st, 1995*.

AFFILIATION REMINDER:

Local clubs may affiliate with NFSS in 1995 and receive a copy of the NFSS Eric Peake *Diamond Sparrows* lithograph and Breeder, Service or Exhibition recognition plaques and ribbons. Several packages are available. Affiliation fees start as low as \$35.00. Contact Ginny Allen (*see page 8*) for more information. Honor your members this year in a special way — the NFSS way!

Deadline is **April 30, 1995**.

1995 REGIONAL SHOWS:

The deadline to request to host an NFSS Regional Show in 1995 is **March 31, 1995**. Contact Ginny Allen.

Notice of Upcoming 1995 NFSS Board of Directors' Meetings

2ND QTR 1995

"By Mail"

3RD QTR 1995

Kaytee Great American Bird Show - Concord, California
October 7 & 8, 1995

4TH QTR 1995

National Cage Bird Show
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 16-18, 1995

Understanding that circumstances vary for each individual, all Board members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

In Fond Memory of Mr. Brian Binns Dec. 3, 1935 - Feb. 12, 1995

*Submitted by Bill Novickas
Bakersfield, California*

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Brian Binns in Manchester, England after a lengthy illness. Brian had retired from Shell Oil several years ago where he was a decorator (painter). Brian and his wife Margaret had performed many duties for the hobby, and could often be seen working at the Zebra Finch Society (of England) membership booth at the National Show in England. Brian and Margaret both were past Chairman of the Society. Brian and his wife were ring secretaries of the Zebra Finch Society for over 25 years. They could always be counted on when there was work to be done.

Brian had been a member of the Zebra Finch Society since 1952, active on its judges panel, and was also a panel judge for the National Finch and Softbill Society (U.S.). Brian had numerous judging assignments over the years, having judged National Shows in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and the United States. He also traveled to Germany and Ireland to judge and to visit about Zebra finches. Brian was a successful

breeder and exhibitor of pied, white and non-standard varieties. He also kept and bred several varieties of Australian finches.

Brian kept budgies for several years prior to taking up finches. He came to the fancy with a heritage of raising small animals. He told a story of his father winning a mouse show of over 5,000 entries when he was a child. Brian and Margaret had enjoyed riding a motorcycle with a club whose "short jaunt" could be several hundred miles on a weekend.

Brian is survived by Margaret his wife, sons Paul and his wife Sabine, Andrew and his wife Julie and two grandchildren, Adam and Yvette, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.



NFSS News & Notes

Compiled from NFSS Directors

Tom Rood new First Vice President

"I am pleased to report that our Special Election for First Vice President is closed with what I consider a nice response from our members," reports Diane Pittman of Cape Coral, Florida. Diane was appointed by the NFSS Board to record the votes in this special election. Tom Rood of Shelbyville, Illinois was elected as First Vice President to serve the remainder of the 1994/95 term left vacant with the passing of Jon Hoffman. *Thank you, Tom!*

Diane adds, "I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Board and participating members for such a fresh and positive year in regards to the 'new' *Bulletin* and I am looking forward to what's ahead in 1995."

NFSS Makes Consortium Grant and Helps a School Aviary

The Sun Coast Avian Society in Florida has now received a \$100 grant from NFSS for their breeding Consortium (approved in 1994). NFSS is pleased to support their breeding program.



National Finch And
Softbill Society's

FINCHSAVE

FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT

Linda Oja

NFSS FINCHSAVE Director
268 Exeter Road
Newport News, VA 23602
(804) 874-8581

And students at Bryan Elementary School in Plant City, Florida have been provided an NFSS membership and free NFSS leg bands for the hatchlings in their school aviary. *We welcome these young bird fanciers to our flock!*

New NFSS T-Shirt is Ready!

NFSS now offers a new T-Shirt design featuring a half-dozen varieties of finches in a colorful, naturalistic setting, attractively bordered by the name of our organization. Available from FINCHSHOP for \$18.00. *Be the first on your block!*

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Eric Peake *Diamond Firetails* Lithograph Price Reduced

Sales of NFSS' exclusive *Diamond Firetails* print by Eric Peake were good during our holiday sale. NFSS will continue to offer the signed print at the lower price of \$35.00. See the print through your local club this year — each NFSS affiliated club receives a *Diamond Firetails* print as part of their 1995 affiliation package.

Betty Crocker & NFSS Raffle Prizes

A strange connection? No, says NFSS Treasurer Miki Spartzak! Save all your Betty Crocker catalog points from all Betty Crocker product packages, and send them to Miki (*see address on page 8*). NFSS will turn them in for cash — a fun and easy way to generate funds for raffle prizes!

New Plaques for 1995 Affiliates

If your club ordered awards from NFSS this year, your 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques will have a new appearance, in response to an oft-heard request for change. Hope you like them! (*Sorry, the new plaques will not be available for the summer 1995 shows.*)

Recording Secretary Position Open

If you are interested in serving in the position of Recording Secretary for NFSS during 1995 (per NFSS Bylaws "shall be responsible for the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings..."), please notify President Steve Hoppin.

When is Your NFSS Membership Due for Renewal?

How to Read Your Mailing Label:

Your mailing label shows the issue *through* which your membership is paid (i.e. **Expire: 3/01/95**). If you have not paid by the time of the mailing of this issue you will see highlighted the sad tidings: **LAST ISSUE**.

RENEW TODAY!

Renew early, before the deadline given in your renewal letter, to save money. If you miss the deadline, you pay extra to be mailed any missed issues. See your renewal letter for details.

Recent Happenings —

Minutes from the 1st quarter 1995 NFSS Board meeting held at the Florida State Fair 2-day show in February will be included in an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin*. The meeting was 'good!', one attendee remarked. Here's some news you'll want to know:

Classifications - The Board approved new show classifications for the 1995 show season. These will be published in the May/June 1995 *Handbook* issue of the *Bulletin*. NFSS Panel Judges will expect to judge your birds this year per these new classifications. *Please ask your local show committees to use these improved classifications.*

Revised Society Finch Standard and Pekin Robin Standard Approved - These two standards were approved by the Board. The

Continued on page 10

News & Notes, continued

approved Society Finch Standard was published in the Sep/Oct 1994 issue of the *Bulletin* and the approved Peikin Robin Standard was published in the Jan/Feb 1995 issue. The **Star Finch Standard** is still in Committee.

Region 7 Postage - Effective with the May/June 1995 issue, members in Puerto Rico will no longer be receiving *Bulletins* by first class mail, unless they have paid \$5.00 extra for first class postage.

Bylaw Revision Committee Formed - A committee chaired by Dale Laird of Winter Park, Florida has been formed to review the NFSS Bylaws. If you are interested in participating on this committee please notify Dale (*see page 8 for Dale's address*).

And speaking of the Laird's . . .
At the 1995 Florida State Fair's 2-day show in February, Dale and Eileen Laird and two of their softbills, a Zosterops (White-eye) and Pagoda Mynah were awarded Best in Show, out of a strong entry of 120 birds the first day and 108 the second! *Congratulations!*

And Speaking of Softbills . . .

Support NFSS members' efforts with softbills this year through contributions of softbill articles and photographs for the *Bulletin*. Cover art and finch photographs are also needed.

Judges Panel Rule Change

The Board approved an additional rule for the NFSS Judges Panel, as follows:

Active vs. Inactive Status: An NFSS Panel Judge may request to go into inactive status. The judge must write to the NFSS Judges Panel Director within 60 days following the due date of his/her annual judging fee and request to go inactive. A judge may stay in inactive status up to three years. In order to come back to active status, the judge must write to the Panel Director to request to go back to active status, and must apprentice successfully under an active panel judge approved by the Panel Director. If the judge exceeds three years in inactive status, the judge will be dropped from the NFSS Judges Panel.

The NFSS Handbook 1995

As reported in the last issue, *The NFSS Handbook*, previously available as a separate purchase through FINCHSHOP, will become a regular part of your membership as the May/June issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*. The *Handbook* includes the Annual Census, *Bulletin* Index, Classifications, and other regional, Society and Board of Directors information.

The NFSS Judges Handbook, which includes all standards and procedures for judging will be issued as a separate publication, available through FINCHSHOP. More details about the updated *Judges Handbook* will be announced soon.

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A Gouldian Breeder's Tips

Chloebia gouldiae

by Luis Garcia
Colorado Springs, Colorado

When I wrote the article on the genetics for the yellow body Gouldian, which was published in the Sep—Oct 1994 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*. I expected to get a large amount of letters as well as phone calls from breeders wanting some help with their birds. The response was great, far more than what I could imagine. However, I was surprised at how many NFSS members are trying to work with the Gouldian finch and how many of them asked for advise or help so they can raise this beautiful little bird.

Many of them told me that the Gouldian finch was the hardest finch that they ever tried to breed and that they were wasting their time trying. I was asked questions such as what to feed the Gouldian, how to house them and even how to foster eggs under Societies.

I will admit the Gouldian finch is not one for the novice and you should first try to get some experience in raising finches with either Societies or Zebras before you try

Gouldians. Most of the people that called me had never tried to raise any other finches and bought the Gouldian only because of its beauty without knowing anything about them and then tried to breed them, only to fail.

For these reasons, I am writing this article to share some of the

*I have found that
Gouldian finches do
better if they are fed
a little higher protein
diet than most other
birds*

things that I have done for the past 14 years while raising finches (the Gouldian for almost 10 years now). The ideas that I am about to share with you are not the only way to raise and breed these birds; however, they are what

work best for me.

The four most important things needed in raising the Gouldian finch are knowledge, (some kind of experience in breeding finches), diet, housing and overall bird management skills. Without these you are not going to do too well with these birds, especially if you are trying to work with them for the first time. Now remember, the things that you are about to read are what work for me, but some of them may give you an idea as to what you are doing wrong or maybe help you out in raising the Gouldian finch.

Diet

I have found that Gouldian finches do better if they are fed a little higher protein diet than most other birds; this way they stay in better condition throughout the year and breed better. I feed my birds a custom finch mix, which is as follows:

Luis Garcia's Finch Mix

50% Canary Seed Plain	25 lbs
10% White Wonder Millet	5 lbs
10% Golden German Millet	5 lbs
10% Red Siberian Millet	5 lbs
10% Niger Seed	5 lbs
5% Rape Seed	2½ lbs
5% Steel Cut Oats	2½ lbs

Total	50 lbs

However, a standard finch mix will do just as well as long as it has a little extra plain canary seed in it. I then mix 25 lbs. finch mix with 50 lbs. chick starter (a 1:2 ratio). The chick starter is anywhere from 18 to 24% protein. This is their basic everyday mix and it's always in their cages all year round. A small cup of high calcium Kaytee grit is also always available.

The chick starter is not a necessity to be successful, but I like what it does for my birds. Chick starter has all of the vitamins and minerals needed to give the birds a well balanced diet, just like the crumble mixes out on the market today,

without the large price. **CAUTION** however should be taken if you decide to start using chick starter in your birds' diet. It takes about 4 months to get the birds used to it, putting it into their seed a little bit at a time until they start to eat it, and if you don't keep an eye on them some of them will die of starvation.

In addition to the every day mix above, I feed soaked seed and egg food daily, about a 1/4 of a teaspoon of each per bird in each cage. I feed this small amount to the birds for two reasons:

1. I don't want the birds just eating the soaked seed and egg food and leaving their daily mix.
2. We as bird breeders have the habit of over feeding our birds based on their body size, instead of what they can eat, taking a chance that the left over egg food or soaked seed may spoil.

Birds with eggs in the nest get 1/4 of a teaspoon of the soaked seed or egg food per pair. This helps keep them in condition while incubating. Once the eggs hatch, they get 1/4 of a teaspoon of soaked seed and egg food per baby until the 10th day. Then they get 1/2 a teaspoon of each until the chicks are weaned. At this time it goes back to 1/4 of a teaspoon. *At no time are the soaked seed and egg food put in the same dish or cup, or left in the cages over night.*

In addition to the above, two to three times a week they also get



The RECIPE CORNER

Today's Dish: Egg Food

Prepared by Chef Luis Garcia
of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ingredients for Dry Mix for Egg Food:

- 5 lbs. yellow corn meal
- *1 lb. box Gerbers rice baby cereal
- *1 lb. box Gerbers high protein baby cereal
- 1 lb. box powder milk
- 8 oz. jar of multi-mineral/vitamin powder for birds
- 4 oz. can of ground anise seed
- 8 oz. jar of brewers dried yeast

* A 1 lb. can of soy protein powder can be substituted for the Gerbers rice and high protein baby cereals.

All of the ingredients are mixed together and stored in containers until needed. Once the eggs are boiled and mashed (egg shell included) I mix one tablespoon of this mix for every egg and add a little bit of wheat germ oil and feed to the birds. (To help your birds get used to the chick starter, you can mix it in with the egg at about a teaspoon per egg). This mix can also be given to the birds as a dry daily supplement by mixing it with seed, at one cup mix to half cup seed.

greens or fruits such as alfalfa sprouts, spinach, lettuce and broccoli or apples, pears and oranges cut into very small pieces. Once again, these are not left in the cage overnight. The last and most important food item that all of the birds get is fresh water daily, no matter if I use glass tube waterers or open pans.

Housing

BREEDING CAGES — I breed my birds in cages which are 30" long

by 15" high by 12" deep. Inside these cages I have 2 perches, one at each end, of two different sizes. One perch is 6" from the top of the cage while the other is 6" from the bottom and about 6" each from the side walls. This way the birds have to fly up or down, getting exercise. The only other thing inside of the cages is a small cup of grit which is always available. Everything else is placed on the outside of the cages, such as feeders, water tubes and nest boxes, which are 5" x 5" x 6" high with the first top 3 inches cut out and a

hinged lid on top for easy inspections.

FLIGHTS — My three walk-in flights are 6 ft high x 6 ft long x 2 ft wide. I use them for resting hens or cocks and fully feathered young. For young chicks just weaned I use small flight cages 3 ft long x 18" high x 18" wide. The young birds are left here until they are fully feathered out. Once feathered out I place them in the larger flights until I sell them or use them for breeding stock. Inside of these small flight cages I always keep an older cock so he can teach the young cocks the Gouldian song and dance as well as show them where the food and water are.

Inside of these cages I have a 6" round open seed pan and a small grit cup. On the outside I have two external feeders and two water tubes, the same kind used on all of the other cages.

Overall Bird Management

One of the biggest reasons for failures with the Gouldian finch is poor bird room management, such as lack of clean cages, freshwater and food daily and the lack of knowledge. By this, however, I don't mean that your birds should be kept and raised in hospital rooms and that you should be an expert in the field of Gouldians, but you should do what you can to keep them healthy. I feed all of the birds daily and replace all the water at least once a day. I try to clean the cages at least every other day, doing half on one day and the

rest on the next. Once a week I soak all of the water tubes or containers in hot water and bleach for about one hour and then I scrub them out and rinse them in cold running water to remove the bleach. All of the extra cups used for egg food or soaked seed are removed and cleaned daily so I can use them on the next day's feeding. The floor in the bird room is swept daily and mopped twice a week.

Temperature

For years now I have heard from many people that the Gouldian requires a room temperature of no less than 80° to 85° in order to stay healthy and in condition. My birdroom temperature is from 65° in winter to 85° in the summer and no heater is ever provided. I also have two air cleaners and a large fan going at all times keeping the air moving. I have not had any problems with breeding or raising any young with these temperatures and find that my birds are lot hardier than those which I have gotten from breeders who keep their birds in a hot house.

Fostering

I foster about 40% of my Gouldians to Society finches, not because the parent birds won't raise their own young. I only do this to raise more of them. For those of you who don't know how to use Society finches as fosters, all you have to do is replace the Society eggs with Gouldian eggs. Make sure the

Springtime

by *Barbara H. Collins, R.N.*

The most fragrant of all seasons
 Oh how sweet!
 Meadows cloaked with tiny blooms caress my bare feet
 Songbirds' melody echoes through the trees
 Carried away by a warm gentle breeze
 Clouds light and fluffy drift lazily like cotton candy
 Nature reborn once more
 Old man winter you're such a bore!

May 1994

A Gouldian Breeder's Tips, *continued*

Societies themselves are on eggs before you replace them.

As you can see, I don't really do that much more for my Gouldians than most of you would do for your own birds, other than give them a little higher protein diet all year long. However, you do need to pay close attention to what you are doing in order to be successful. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to make about anything I have written, please feel free to call me at (719) 630-8483 or write to:

Luis Garcia
 1345 Edith Ln.
 Colo. Springs, CO. 80909



Congratulations to NFSS' Top Recruiter!

NFSS sends a BIG thanks to **Julie R. Duimstra** of Corvallis, Oregon for bringing to NFSS six new members during just the last quarter of 1994. Julie is receiving a copy of the NFSS video *The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction* for her extra efforts.

Twenty-eight other NFSS members recruited one or more new members during our membership drive — warmest thanks to each of you, and *Welcome!* to our new members.

Invite your friends to join NFSS!

At this unique period in finch and softbill aviculture in the U.S., and indeed around the world, *there is no better place to be than here with NFSS!*

Finch Medicine Update

Part Two

by Louise Bauck
Hagen Avicultural Research Institute
Montréal, Canada

VIRUS DISEASES

In Canada (and in many parts of the U.S. and elsewhere), two important viruses of finches are paramyxovirus type 3, sometimes known as Twirling Syndrome, and polyoma virus, sometimes known as neonatal feather dystrophy ("newly born with defective feathers"). In Europe, a herpes virus affecting the Gouldian has also been reported, causing conjunctivitis (eye problems). This type of clinical sign (conjunctivitis) is usually associated with pox virus in canaries and other birds. Pox virus infections in the finch are poorly described or unreported. Reovirus infections in the finch have also been reported from Europe, causing liver inflammation, diarrhea, and death. Other less well-known viruses also presumably affect finches.

According to Dr. Helga Gerlach in Ritchie and Harrison's new avian bible (*Avian Medicine: Principles and Application*, W.B. Saunders, 1994) Twirling Syndrome, which is manifested by typical middle ear and brain signs - tilted head, circling,

etc. - is most likely to be associated with paramyxovirus type 3. Additional information needs to be collected. In the United States, the National (poultry) Diagnostic Laboratory in Ames, Iowa (518-239-8551) will accept out-of-state samples and attempt to give you an exact diagnosis. Your veterinarian

Twirling
Syndrome...is
most likely to be
associated with
paramyxovirus
type 3.

must contact the laboratory to make arrangements (usually with the federal veterinarian located in each state) and a modest fee is charged. Freshly dead (on ice) carcasses are required. This is an important and widespread problem, particularly in the Gouldian and the Silverbills, and further publications are needed.

Our own experiences with the Silverbill suggest that some of the affected birds recover, some die, and some are left with a permanent disability. However, these birds appear strong enough after the acute phase has passed, although they are at risk for drowning as they easily become disoriented. Our suspected outbreak occurred in a group of recently stressed (shipped) Silverbills. Several Zebra finches that were in contact

with the group may also have been affected.

Polyoma virus experience

Polyoma virus was seen in our research collection in the summer of '93. Zebra finch chicks, society finch chicks, and Gouldian chicks were all present and in close quarters within a single flight when mortality was noted in the 3rd successive clutch of one Gouldian (normally successive clutches are discouraged). Several Gouldian chicks were found dead (pitched) and the chicks that did fledge (3) took longer to exit the nest than usual.

When they finally appeared, they had many missing or shortened wing and tail feathers. Hemorrhage occurred frequently from the tail. One of these affected birds did not appear vigorous and eventually died. The other two survived and slowly grew back some of the affected feathers. They appeared fairly normal except for their inability to fly. Close examination would show the fragile or missing wing and tail feathers, together with the overgrown tubular lower beak that has been associated with this disease.

Feather pulp DNA probes were attempted but it is now known that finch polyoma is not similar enough to psittacine polyoma to yield a positive result (Ritchie, personal communication May 1994). Diagnosis is difficult because your pathologist **MAY OR MAY NOT** be able to see

it on microscopic examination of the tissues (inclusion bodies). Submission of whole, formalin fixed (opened) carcasses/chicks is strongly recommended whenever chick mortality is a problem. Secondary bacteria may complicate the picture, so their recovery does not rule out polyoma virus. And for this reason, sickly chicks should be treated with antibiotics if possible. (Yeast or parasite problems should be ruled out.)

Part Two in a continuing series. Dr. Bauck was a speaker at the 1994 AFA Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the information here is included in the A.F.A. Annual Conference Proceedings 1994, reprinted here with her kind permission. Part One appeared in the Jan/Feb 1995 issue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A breeder who had a *suspected* outbreak of the paramyxovirus in the bird room, even after carefully quarantining newly acquired birds for 30 days, reports symptoms of nervous system disorder (twirling and lack of balance) and respiratory problems, and a devastating impact - 100% mortality of all the nestlings in the bird room and losses of some adult birds. This breeder encourages buyers and sellers of birds to take a more cautious and responsible approach to their transactions, supports a longer quarantine period of 60 days, recommended also by Steve Hoppin in his President's message this issue, and earnestly reminds us all -- *we can't replace these birds!*

Breeding Cuban Melodious Finches

Tiaris canora

by *Lainey Claffin*
Grasslands Exotic Finches
 226 Ash Street
 Weston, MA 02193
 (617) 891-4056

Like the bright, sharp coloration of the male Cuban Melodious finch, the personality of both the male and female is quick and alert. These birds are always flitting somewhere with some kind of urgent-seeming business. They are exciting and striking to watch. The down side is that the males are fatally aggressive to each other, even when they are not breeding. Male Cubans should never be put together even for a few seconds, or they may kill each other. They should not even be allowed to see each other or they will spend all their time trying to get to each other to fight. As soon as a male chick begins to color in, he should be separated from his father to prevent his father from killing him. In Cuba, where this species originates, the natives place bets on Melodious cocks and let them fight to the death as a sport.

If you are prepared for the inconvenience of keeping the males separated at all times, the Cuban Melodious is a fun, feisty little bird that can be kept with other finch species in a mixed collection. Technically, the Cuban is not a finch, but a serin,

which makes it a relative of the canary. For this reason, Society finches will not raise Cuban chicks, as the chicks do not beg like finches, but like canaries. Cubans can, however, be fostered to canaries.

Luckily, most Cubans make excellent parents, breeding readily in 3' by 2' by 2' cages or in large aviaries with other species of finches. Dense foliage in the cages or aviaries is not as important to our Cubans as it is to our waxbills, but they do appreciate some cover. They tend to nest in small wicker nests or in open canary nests which they cover with a dome of nesting material. Our Cubans also build nests in forks of pine or bamboo branches. They prefer coconut fiber as nesting material, as well as grasses and burlap strands. Cuban eggs are large and speckled, and the parents don't seem to incubate them at all. But somehow the eggs hatch anyway!

Our Cubans do not eat quite as much as our other finches do. They prefer seeds, spray millet and oranges to most other foods. We give them protein foods as well — sprouted seeds, worms and eggfood — but they only take small amounts of these foods.

One of the great myths about the Cuban Melodious is that it has a melodious song. The song is actually just a set of a few notes which they repeat ceaselessly throughout the day. But if you don't expect a docile little songbird, you will find the Cuban quite endearing in its own right.



All About Feeding Seeds, Plants and Supplements

by Linda Oja
Newport News, Virginia

In order to properly nourish a particular species one should re-search its natural eating habits. Some species have a highly insectivorous diet while others feed on a particular type of seed. We often have to find acceptable substitutes as the natural food source may not be available. When species information is not available, we are forced to resort to trial and error.

Seed still continues to be the basis for most finch diets. Some aviculturists have been successful in converting their finches to a pellet or crumbled diet for more complete nutrition. Again, one must remember that the various finch species have different nutritional requirements which vary during their life cycles. Pellets and crumbles may provide a superior substitute for seed but they should not be fed that exclusively. We have yet to learn all the nutritional requirements of every species of finch and until we do, we need to offer variety,

In studying the seed diet of many species, you will note that some such as the Goldfinch show a strong preference for thistle while waxbills relish the small millets. You can either purchase a good quality finch mix or mix up your own.

Experimenting may be necessary for newly imported birds that are not familiar with the seed offered. It is important to read up on the species and try to offer seed that they would recognize as a food source. I find that many of the birds will accept seeding grass heads gathered from the backyard. Just be sure the grass has not been treated with chemicals or contaminated. When in season, my birds also enjoy dandelion leaves

A Suggested Staple Diet for Finches (varying according to species)

- white millet
- yellow millet
- red millet
- canary seed
- thistle seed (niger)
- Cut oats or safflower may be added
- Oily seed may be increased in cold

and seed, marigold seeds, chickweed, crabgrass and other grass seed heads. *See picture identifications on following page.*

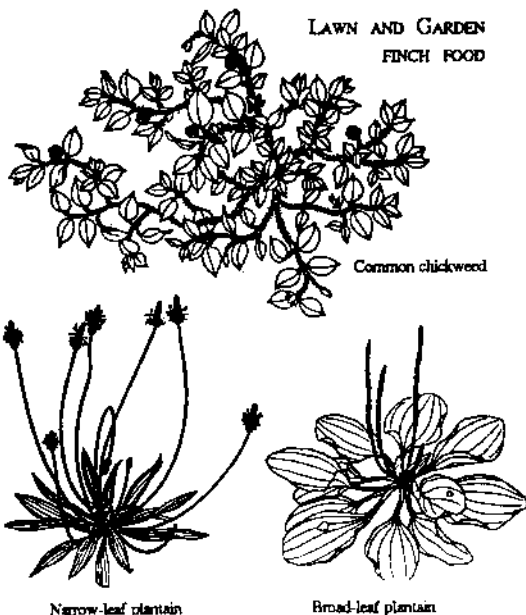
Freshly sprouted and soaked seeds are also accepted and have a higher nutritional value than dry seed. With Societies that are

fostering waxbills I provide only soaked seed and egg food. No hard seed is given as young waxbills are unable to tolerate it in their first few weeks.

In addition to seed, fruits and vegetables should be offered frequently and in various forms. I have experimented with fruits and berries and found that most of my finches will accept apple slices. The Green Singers would zero in on the Pyracantha berries, grapes and wild strawberries. I have also tried pears and citrus fruits. Vegetables offered include many of the dark green, leafy types, corn, grated carrot, and cucumber. You can experiment with other "veg-gies" as well. In the summer the birds love to pick through the grass clippings and weeds I pull from the garden. They also like to pick at the roots and soil on the plants. I've tried to grow honeysuckle in my outdoor flight but the birds strip the leaves before the vine can bloom. Because of this I haven't been able to find out if they would eat pollen from the flowers. Please make sure aviary plants are non-toxic. Also remember that birds can eat some berries that are toxic to humans.

Supplements

The most common deficiencies found in avian species are protein and Vitamin A. Since I can't be sure



that my birds are getting balanced diet, I add a vitamin-mineral supplement, in powdered form to the moist food. If you want to make sure your birds will get the full vitamin intake, only offer a small portion of their favorite soft food sprinkled generously with vitamin powder. If they find the vitamins distasteful, try another brand perhaps with fruit flavoring.

I prefer not to add vitamins to the water as they become diluted and encourage bacterial growth in the water. Many birds restrict their water intake when they detect an unusual flavor. I also add extra calcium during breeding season in the form of crushed egg shells, cuttlebone, mineral block and crushed calcium tablets. Please remember that some vitamins can be detrimental when given in large doses. I would

strongly recommend reading Robert Black's *Nutrition in Finches*.

Food and breeding

It is known that the proper foods presented at the proper time can stimulate breeding. Usually birds will begin to breed when insects and new green grasses become abundant. At other times food sources may become scarce and the birds must sustain themselves on a meager diet. Some aviculturists have tried to duplicate these conditions. Still others feel that birds should not have food available all day long since in the wild they must search for food. Finches have a very high metabolism and could not sustain themselves for very long without food. It would be better to have seed available part of the day then replace it with another type of food.

When attempting to introduce an unfamiliar food, egg food or crumbles, it may be necessary to remove the familiar food (seed) part of the day and introduce the new food hoping that hunger will motivate the birds to try it. This should be done with caution to ensure the birds will not starve themselves. Sometimes mixing the unfamiliar food with their regular food helps.

Aside from breeding time, finches require extra protein during stressful periods such as when molting or recovering from illness. Some more recently recommended nutritional supplements include:

* **Lactobacillus** — Which introduces beneficial bacteria to

improve health and reduce susceptibility to infection.

* **Spirulina** — An algae product rich in protein, essential amino acids, trace minerals, Vitamin B12 and Vitamin A. It is also a natural color enhancer.

* **Kelp** — A rich source of all trace minerals and iodine.

* **Bee Pollen** — High in protein, including all essential amino acids, Vitamins A, B, C, D and E, and trace minerals.

These additives should be combined in a soft or dry mix for best results. For more information, read Edward Czarnetsky's article "Feeding for Health" in the April 1992 issue of *American Cage-Bird Magazine*. As new discoveries are being made in avian nutrition, we need to keep up by learning and sharing information.

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This article originally appeared in the Virginia Finch Forum, Finch Circle of Friends, Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Virginia, April 1992, and is reprinted here with their kind permission.

The Trembling Perch

A Judge's Cautionary Tale

*by Martha Wigmore
Elk River, Minnesota*

Sometimes an NFSS Judge can be a bit uncertain visiting a club and judging their show for the first time. But here's a show manager who is telling me exactly what to expect. . .

"Yo Martha,

"Thought I'd better drop you a line since I just mailed our affiliation fee in for our 1995 show. And, since I wrote your name down as our judge, I thought I should find out what kind of arrangements you would like. I talked to Mark on the phone (you were gone one evening) and he said you don't like to be cooped up in a hotel by yourself. Since our show is not held in a hotel (it's at the fairgrounds), I'd like to invite you to stay with us.

"My wife and I would love to have you and we are in the process of re-doing some things in case you decide to stay. Hopefully, by June we will have installed electricity and inside plumbing in our house; that is, if the city will finish running our water lines! The City is having trouble because of the toxic waste dump next door to us. We've been trying to put up a fence between our house

and the toxic waste dump, but every bird that lands on the fence or every animal that touches it starts glowing in the dark. We had a H--- of a crowd here last Halloween because all of the parents brought their kids here to touch the fence. That way, they didn't have to buy those glow in the dark costumes or they didn't have to carry flashlights!

"The open sewer on the other side of us is also supposed to be closed up by June. They've been slow with that because they are still trying to find the UPS man who fell in it last October. He was delivering a package to me and since we weren't at home, he was just going to leave it in the garage. Evenings get dark earlier in October and as he came around the back of the house he just didn't see the open sewer. When we got home, we just found his UPS truck parked in our driveway — it was still running. Surely, they will find him before June.

"I've talked to our neighbors about our having visitors in June and they promised to not let their pigs out until after the show date. Shouldn't be much of a problem unless the temperature gets above 60 degrees and we have a breeze from the west. Then again, if there's a breeze from the east — well, that open sewer could cause a problem.

"We promise to have the abandoned cars hauled off our property by June, but we plan to keep them a few more months. The winds who moved into them seem to keep any undesirables away from our

property, so we promised them we wouldn't move the cars until Spring.

"That north wall of the kitchen seems to be one of our biggest problems. Since Jane got a nice picture to hang on the kitchen wall, we've decided to go ahead and put a wall in. We'll probably start this project once we find another place to park the car.

It sure was nice waking up on cold winter mornings

and just going to the kitchen to get into the car. Didn't have to warm it up much and there certainly wasn't much ice to scrape. BUT — since we are used to frying our bacon on the exhaust pipe, we might have to buy a stove now.

"Our daughter Lori has already graduated from college and has a teaching job, which means she has her own apartment. But, our son, Toni, will graduate in May. He'll probably be home in June, but he promised not to bring any of his lab experiments home with him. Most of them know the family members, but there's a couple of them still frightened of strangers. I don't think he can have them re-programmed by June. No major problem, though. We've made plans for them to stay at the maximum security prison just across the street.

"The Orkin Man and the Terminex Man both promised to be here

by June, once they get their new heavy duty equipment in. The samples they sent off to their federal labs should be back by then, so we'll know more about solving our little problem. Too bad about our cat though. . . . Those experimental radar sprays do seem to work!

"The neighbors with the 11

kids are planning a trip about the time of our show, so they probably won't bother us. I certainly hope they take the 19 year old along. One more conviction for window-peeping and he might have to go to jail. At least he can visit his

I've talked to our neighbors about our having visitors in June and they promised to not let their pigs out until after the show . . .

3 other brothers and his Uncle Earl there. The 12 year old who was accused of arson is back home now pending his trial. The 3rd degree burns on his hands and feet are healing nicely. The first trial was thrown out for lack of evidence.

"If we have time, we'll take you out by Lake Shelbyville; it's only about 2 minutes from us. June is a very busy month around our lake. The park rangers are taking the pollution signs down about that time making ready for the Senior citizens Nude Beach Races. They asked me to be a judge again, but I'm still on medication from last year. Divers promised to find the 2 dozen piranha that were let loose in the lake last spring. But if not, those state

Trembling Perch, continued

biologists promised that the escaped gator would take care of them. Hey, do you like to swim??

"Well, think it over and let us know what arrangements you'd like. We'd love to have you. Do you like good Bar-B-Que? With or without sauce? Should you decide not to stay with us, I'll get you a room at the hotel. that. is providing it's built by then.

Take care.

Friend,

Tom

Tom Rood

Illini Bird Fanciers

Shelbyville, Illinois"



Moving?

Change of address notices from the Post Office now cost NFSS 50¢ each.

Please let NFSS know first of your move!

Use the form below.

Changing Your Address?

Let NFSS be the first to greet you at your new address!

Please send this form or this information to

Lynda Bakula
NFSS Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 3232
Ballwin, MO 63022

Club delegates should also send their change of address

separately to
Ginny Allen
NFSS Liaison Officer
307 Brookwood Court
Opelika, AL 36801-3657

Name _____ # _____ **Membership**

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Awarding Points at NFSS Shows

From The NFSS Handbook

Exhibiting NFSS members and the birds they have exhibited automatically receive points at a show where an NFSS judge is judging. These points are determined by the number of birds shown in the division. All points are awarded in accordance with the schedule below and are not official until the official show report is received and the points are recorded by the NFSS Points Director.

National Finch and Softbill Society POINTS SCHEDULE										
<i>Entries</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>20-29</i>	3	2	1							
<i>30-39</i>	4	3	2	1						
<i>40-49</i>	5	4	3	2	1					
<i>50-59</i>	6	5	4	3	2	1				
<i>60-79</i>	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
<i>80-99</i>	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
<i>100-119</i>	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
<i>120-139</i>	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<i>140-159</i>	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
<i>160-189</i>	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
<i>190-219</i>	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
<i>220-259</i>	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
<i>260-299</i>	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
<i>300 ></i>	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

Note: In order for a softbill, finch, or dove to attain points, it must have been judged against all the birds in the Finch and Softbill Division. Points will not be allowed in a specialty show where finches are not judged against softbills or other birds within the division.

Top Ten NFSS Shows in 1994

*All points summaries by Dr. Al Decoteau
NFSS Points Chairman*

We have received reports from 69 NFSS shows in 1994, with entries from 7 to 189. There were a total 4,238 finches and softbills exhibited with the average show size being that of 60 entries. The top ten shows (twelve actually as there were two ties) were:

- 1 - **Aviary & Cage Bird Society of So. Florida**, Margate, FL - **189 entries**
Judge Martha Wigmore
- 2 - **Canadian Avicultural Society**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - **160 entries**
Judge Bill Parlee
- 3 - **The National Cage Bird Show**, Manchester, NH - **158 entries**
Judge Daren Decoteau
- **Durham Avicultural Society**, Ontario, Canada - **158 entries**
Judge Conrad Meinert
- 4 - **New York Finch & Type Canary Club**, Franking Sq., NY - **149 entries**
Judge Daren Decoteau
- 5 - **Florida State Fair (Day 1)**, Tampa, FL - **125 entries**
Judge Earl Courts
- 6 - **Kaytee Great American Bird Show**, Des Moines, IA - **121 entries**
Judge Martha Wigmore
- 7 - **Missouri Cage Bird Assn.**, Eureka, MO - **120 entries**
Judge Tom Rood
- 8 - **Florida State Fair (Day 2)**, Tampa, FL - **110 entries**
Judge Dr. Al Decoteau
- 9 - **Golden Gate Avian Society (Day 2)**, Tracy, CA - **104 entries**
Judge Clayton Jones
- 10 - **Essex-Kent Cage Bird Soc.**, Windsor, Ontario, Canada - **103 entries**
Judge Patrick Vance
- **Golden Gate Avian Society (Day 1)**, Tracy, CA - **103 entries**
Judge Hal Koontz



Editor's Note:

Congratulations to all the exhibitors and sponsoring club members who, again made this show season special!

A reminder to exhibitors, judges and show secretaries to fill in all your show forms this year legibly, accurately, and completely. If you find an error in the

show results or point totals, please send a written note to Dr. Al Decoteau this spring.

And a BIG thank you to every breeder who made these wonderful birds available!

Martha

1994 Exhibitor Awards

The winner of the **Exhibitor of Excellence** award in 1994, accumulating 207 points to date is Dennis Burhans.

Achieving **Champion Exhibitor** in 1994 are:

Alvin & Dixie Lea	130 pts
Patrick Vance	99
Dale Laird	96
Gene & June Miller	81
Pat & Mary Krichten	76

John Dapas	59
Frank & Sandy Hudson	57
Dennis Burhans	56

One bird achieved **Champion Bird** status during 1994, a Fawn Diamond Sparrow (band NFS D 87 (92)) owned by Gene & June Miller. The bird finished with 61 points.
Congratulations to all!



1994 Individual Bird Points Records

Here are the finches and softbills of NFSS that have accumulated 20 or more points toward their championship:

• Jacky Eckman	46 pts
Common Starling SPBE-BRA15(93)	
• Ellen Buchanan	44 pts
Shafttail NFS C 1552 (93)	
• Patrick Vance	42 pts
Cinnamon Java NFS K 58 (93)	
• Dennis Burhans	39 pts
Cherry Finch NFS D 4948 (92)	
• Virginia Patrick	38 pts
Green Singer NFS C 511 (91)	
• Tom Rood	38 pts
CFW Zebra NFS C 3126 (91)	
• Pat & Mary Krichten	34 pts
Fawn Parsons NFS C 215 (93)	
• Kris Kroner	33 pts
Bronze-wing Mannikin NFS D 7216(89)	
• Steve Hoppin	32 pts
Pintailed Nonpareil NFS D 3649 (91)	
• Jerri Wiesenfeld	30 pts
Normal Java NFS K 463 (90)	
• Pat & Mary Krichten	29 pts
Cordon Bleu NFS B 268 (89)	

• Rick Szlachta	27 pts
Scif Society NFS D 1963 (91)	
• Pat & Mary Krichten	24 pts
Parsons NFS C 197 (93)	
• Pat & Mary Krichten	23 pts
Red Head Gould NFS D 2312 (90)	
• Dennis Burhans	23 pts
Dilute Society NFS E 446 (93)	
• Gene & June Miller	23 pts
Fire Finch NFS B 123 (87)	
• Gene & June Miller	23 pts
Yellow -face Star NFS C 192 (89)	
• Jan Thomas	22 pts
Shafttail NFS C 2951 (92)	
• Tom Rood	22 pts
CFW Zebra NFS C 3159 (91)	
• Steve Hoppin	21 pts
Black Crested Finch NFS E 2331(92)	
• Gene & June Miller	21 pts
Fire Finch NFS B 2 (92)	
• Pat & Mary Krichten	21 pts
Crimson-winged Pytilia NFSC463(91)	
• Patrick Vance	20 pts
Shafttail NFS C 35 (92)	



Capital City Bird Society, Placer County Fairgrounds, CA, October 22, 1994
Judge: Clayton Jones — 12 Exhibitors, 90 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
8	Ken & Katherine Provins	Black-headed, white chested Gouldian	
7	Cathy Knight	Chocolate & White Society	
6	Dare Cagle	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	
5	K. & K. Provins	Orange-headed Dilute Gouldian	
4	Ed & Sharon Johnson	Rock Bunting	
3	Ranny Adeel	Cuban Melodius Finch	
2	Mariana Mejia	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	
1	R. & J. Pizzurro	Painted Finch	

Colorado Cage Bird Association, Colorado Springs, CO, October 22, 1994
Judge: Earl Courts — 13 Exhibitors, 66 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Anna Sinclair	Silver Zebra	D 5423 (93)
6	Teri McAuliff	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
5	Luis Garcia	Red-headed, White breasted Gouldian	DP 247 (90)
4	Glenda Pullum	Green Singing Finch	
3	Cari Morton	Pr. White Java Rice Birds	
2	Glenda Pullum	Star Finch	
1	Teri McAuliff	St. Helena Waxbill	

CT. Assoc. for Aviculture Cage Bird Show, Manchester CT, October 22, 1994
REGIONAL SHOW: Region #1 - Northeast
Judge: Stephen Hoppin — 10 Exhibitors, 40 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Chuck Galusha	Shafttail	C 474 (94)
4	Chester Kolodzieczyk	Napoleon Weaver	
3	Chuck Galusha	Gold-breasted Waxbill	A 265 (92)
2	Sally Underhill	Pr. Red-headed Parrot Finches	
1	Chris Voronovitch	White Java Rice Bird	K 05 (91)

Heartland Canary and Finch Club, Lawrence, KS, October 22, 1994

REGIONAL SHOW: Region #4 - Midwest

Judge: Clarence Culwell — 5 Exhibitors, 30 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
4	Jim & Theresa Pickel	Fawn Zebra Finch	
3	Bonnie Curtiss	Red-headed Gouldian	
2	Jim & Theresa Pickel	Normal Pied Zebra	
1	Nita Haas	Chocolate & White Society	E 569 (94)

Central Kentucky Cage Brd Society, Lexington, KY, October 22, 1994

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 6 Exhibitors, 18 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Steve Brown	Grey Singing Finch	D 4782 (92)
	Ken Stubbart	Crimson Piliated	
	Bill Mullins	Red-headed Gouldian	

Motor City Bird Breeders, Detroit, MI, October 22, 1994

Judge: Tom Rood — 7 Exhibitors, 61 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Karen Kaninc	White Java Rice Bird	
6	Patrick Vance	Cherry Finch	C 74 (94)
5	Marylou Terwilliger	Pr. Pied Zebras	4857 (91) 6356 (93)
4	Patrick Vance	Star Finch	C 3351 (94)
3	Patrick Vance	Chocolate & White Society	D 1766 (94)
2	Patrick Vance	Orange-headed, Lavender breasted Gouldian	
1	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)

Oklahoma Cage Brd Society, Tulsa, OK, October 22, 1994

Judge: Laura Bewley — 7 Exhibitors, 47 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Gene L. Miller	Fire Finch	B 14 (94)
4	Douglas Parris	Shafttail	
3	Gene L. Miller	Cordon Bleu	C 9 (93)
2	Gene L. Miller	Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	E 112 (94)
1	Gene L. Miller	Bicheno Finch	

Badger Canary Fanciers, Oak Creek, WI, October 22, 1994**Judge: Martha Wigmore — 7 Exhibitors, 57 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Sue Feldstein	Fawn & White Society Finch	
5	Bill Eastlund	Black-headed, White Breasted Gouldian	
4	Liana Lada	White Java Rice Bird	K 204 (89)
3	Liana Lada	Pr. Fawn Zebras	3116 (94) 3118 (94)
2	Frank Ormelas	Yellow Star Finch	
1	Bill Estlund	Orange-headed, White-breasted, Yellow-bodied Gouldian	

Fresno Canary & Finch Club, Madera, CA, October 29, 1994**Judge: Hal M. Koontz — 11 Exhibitors, 102 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Bishop Weaver	
8	Alvin & Dixie Lea	White-hooded Nun	
7	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Red-eared Waxbill	
6	Richard Pizzurro	Timor Sparrow	
5	Cathy Knight	Society Finch	# 1585 (93)
4	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Fawn Zebra	
3	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
2	Richard Pizzurro	Bicheno Finch	
1	Alvin & Dixie Lea	African Silverbill	

**Canadian Avicultura Society 100th Anniversary, Toronto, Canada,
October 29, 1994****Judge: William G. Parlee — 24 Exhibitors, 160 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
12	Mike Manley	Painted Finch	
11	Ron Francis	Red-headed, White-breasted Gouldian	
10	Mike Manley	Fire Finch	
9	Jim Depatrillo	Diamond Sparrow	
8	Jak Horstra	Self Chocolate Society Finch	
7	Mike Manley	Hecks Grassfinch	
6	Bonnie Van Erp	Cinnamon Diamond Sparrow	
5	Kario Coniglio	Blue Gouldian	
4	John Jassik	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
3	M. West	Red-headed Gouldian	

Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Cocoa Beach, FL, October 29, 1994
Judge: Conrad Melnert — 7 Exhibitors, 66 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Ellen Buchanan	Shafttail	C1552 (93)
6	Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye	
5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Normal Java Rice Bird	K 493 (94)
4	Dale & Eileen Laird	Yellow-winged Pytilia	
3	Steve Hoppin	Black Crested Finch	E 2331 (92)
2	Steve Hoppin	Dilute Fawn & White Society	E 1252 (93)
1	Steve Hoppin	Black-headed Gouldian	

Maryland Cage Bird Society, Baltimore, MD, October 29, 1994
Judge: Tom Rood — 6 Exhibitors, 25 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson Finch	C 215 (93)
2	Jacky Eckman	Common Starling	SPBE BRA 15 (93)
1	Pat & Mary Krichten	Black Crested Finch	E 1753 (88)

Society of Canary & Finch Breeders, Livonia, MI, October 29, 1994
Judge: Roddy Gabel — 11 Exhibitors, 70 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Mary Lou Terwilliger	Pr. Pied Zebras	
6	Patrick Vance	Lavender-breasted Gouldian	
5	Karen Kanine	White Java Rice Bird	
4	Patrick Vance	Red-faced Star Finch	C 3351 (94)
3	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
2	Mary Lou Terwilliger	Green Singing Finch	
1	Patrick Vance	Cuban Olive Finch	

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club, Nashville, TN, October 29, 1994
Judge: Cecil Gunby — 9 Exhibitors, 22 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Sarge & Eva Duffey	Black-eared Waxbill	
2	Bill & Jackie Hite	Cuban Melodius Finch	
1	Bill Mullins	Red-headed Gouldian	

Honolulu Canary & Finch Club, Honolulu, Hawaii, October 30, 1994
41 entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	Fred & Lorraine Chang	Orange-headed Gouldian	
	Fred & Lorraine Chang	Yellow-headed, White-breasted Gouldian	
	Fred & Lorraine Chang	Salmon-headed, Blue-bodied Gouldian	

Central California Cage Bird Club, Turlock, CA, November 5, 1994
Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld — 78 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Red-eared Waxbill	
6	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
5	Alvin & Dixie Lea	White-hooded Nun	
4	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
3	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Orange Weaver	
2	Katherine Provins	White-breasted Gouldian	
1	Katherine Provins	Red-headed Gouldian	

San Diego County All Bird Club, Del Mar, CA, November 5, 1994
Judge: Cecil D. Gunby — 7 Exhibitors, 21 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Bryan Maple	Shaftail	
2	Larry Buzan	Emerald Toucanette	
1	S.C. Huntington	Pair Chestnut-flanked Zebras	

Georgia Cage Bird Society, Atlanta, GA, November 5, 1994
REGIONAL SHOW: Region #2, Southeast
Judge: Conrad Meinert — 10 Exhibitors, 56 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Dale & Eileen Laird	White eye	
5	Dale & Eileen Laird r	Java Rice Bird	K 493-(94)
4	Philip Barth	Masked Grass Finch	
3	Philip Barth	Black Crested Finch	
2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Yellow-winged Pytilia	
1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pagoda Mynah	

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Chicago, IL, November 5, 1994
REGIONAL SHOW: Region #3 - Mid-Central
Judge: Charles Anchor — 15 Exhibitors, 77 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (94)
6	Patrick Vance	Yellow-bodied Gouldian	
5	Pat Brusk	Chocolate & White Society	D 12965 (94)
4	John & Jane Muscato	White Java Rice Bird	
3	Moss Aviary	Mynah	
2	Stephan Hopman	Society Finch	
1	Patrick Vance	Pair Cinnamon Java Rice Birds	K 28 (94) K 61 (93)

Mid-Michigan Bird Club, St. Johns, MI, November 5, 1994
Judge: Martha Wigmore — 8 Exhibitors, 42 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Mary Lou Terwilliger	Pair Pied Zebras	4857 (91) 6356 (93)
4	Karen Kanine	White Java Rice Bird	
3	Trish Rees	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	
2	Karen Kanine	Common Starling	
1	Yan Wan Saunders	Orange-headed, Yellow-backed, White-breasted Gouldian	

Missouri Cage Bird Association, Eureka, MO, November 5, 1994
Judge: Tom Rood — 15 Exhibitors, 120 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
10	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	E 446 (93)
9	Robin Herrin	Orange Weaver	
8	Dennis Burhans	Parson Finch	C 525 (94)
7	V. & P. Patrick	Ringneck Dove	
6	R. & R. Dickman	Blue Gouldian	2525 (94)
5	Betty Brandt	Fire Finch	
4	Nita Haas	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	D 4360 (93)
3	Betty Brandt	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	816 (94)
2	Dennis Burhans	Normal Gray Zebra	
1	Dennis Burhans	Spice Finch	792 (94)

Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association, Killeen, TX November 5, 1994
Judge: Clarence Culwell — 4 Exhibitors, 20 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Laurie Suomala	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
2	Jim Hulsey	Parson Finch	
1	Laurie Suomala	St. Helena Waxbill	

Texas Canary Club, Houston, TX, November 5, 1994
Judge: Paul Williams — 9 Exhibitors, 60 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	F. & S. Hudson	Lilac-breasted Roller	
6	H. & M. McBrayer	Black-headed, White-breasted Gouldian	
5	F. & S. Hudson	Pied Zebra	
4	F. & S. Hudson	Shafttail	
3	F. & S. Hudson	Spice Finch	
2	F. & S. Hudson	Masked Grass Finch	
1	Kathy Gethedu	Black-headed Gouldian	

Golden Gate Avian Society, Saturday Tracy, CA, Nov. 12, 1994
REGIONAL SHOW: Region #6 - Pacific Coast
Judge: Hal M. Koontz — 10 Exhibitors, 103 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Rufous-backed Masked Weaver	
8	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Cherry Finch	
7	Alvin & Dixie Lea	White-hooded Nun	
6	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Red-eared Waxbill	
5	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
4	Ed & Sharon Johnson	Rock Bunting	
3	Cathy Knight	Chocolate & White Society	
2	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
1	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Fawn Zebra	

Golden Gate Avian Society, Sunday Tracy, CA, Nov. 13, 1994

REGIONAL SHOW: Region #6 - Pacific Coast

Judge: Clayton Jones — 10 Exhibitors, 104 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
9	Alvin & Dixie Lea	African Silverbill	
8	Steve Payne	Green Singing Finch	
7	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
6	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
5	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pied Zebra	
4	Cathy Knight	Chocolate & White Society	
3	Richard Pizzurro	Bicheno Finch	
2	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Five-color Nun	
1	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Orange Bishop Weaver	

Capital Area Avicultural Society, Baton Rouge, LA, November 12, 1994

Judge: Charles Anchor — 5 Exhibitors, 25 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
3	Margie McBrayer	Gouldian	
2	Gloria Posten	Parrot Finch	
1	Pat Hamrick	Pekin Robin	

Delaware Valley Bird Club, Ft. Washington, PA, November 12, 1994

Judge: Steve Hoppin — 12 Exhibitors, 57 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Sally Underhill	Pair Red-headed Parrot Finches	
5	Pat & Mary Krichten	Blue-eared Starling	
4	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson Finch	C 215 (93)
3	John & Mary Dunn	Black-headed. White-breasted Gouldian	E 219 (93)
2	Pat & Mary Krichten	Melba Finch	D 7631 (94)
1	Rick Szlachta	Fire Finch	

**NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW, Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society
Manchester, NH, November 18, 1994
Judge: Dsren Decoteau — 30 Exhibitors, 158 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
11	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson Finch	C 215 (93)
10	Pat & Mike Donnelly	Silver Zebra	
9	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K 58 (93)
8	Patrick Vance	Yellow Gouldian	D 1771 (94)
7	Wayne Davis	Grey Trepie	
6	Pat & Mary Krichten	Normal Parson Finch	C-197 (93)
5	Steve Hoppin	Black Crested Finch	E 2331 (92)
4	Jacky Eckman	Common Starling	
3	Pat & Mary Krichten	Melba Finch	D 7631 (94)
2	Bob & Veta Hollaway	Red-eared Waxbill	

**Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club, Los Gatos, CA, Nov. 26, 1994
Judge: Brian Manderich — 4 Exhibitors, 16 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
	E. & S. Johnson	Ring-Neck Dove	
	E. & S. Johnson	Dilute Silver Zebra	
	E. & S. Johnson	Spice Finch	

**New England Finch Fanciers, East Hartford, CT, November 26, 1994
Judge: Daren Decotesu — 9 Exhibitors, 65 Entries**

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Pat & Mary Krichten	Fawn Parson Finch	C 215 (93)
6	Chuck Galusha	Shaftail	C 474 (94)
5	Pat & Mary Krichten	Indian Silverbill	C 142 (92)
4	Alfredo Robles	Orange-throat Bunting	
3	Pat & Mary Krichten	Melba Finch	D 7631 (94)
2	Diana Smith	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	D 4317 (94)
1	Chuck Galusha	Paradise Whyda	

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries, Elk Grove Village, IL, Nov. 26, 1994
Judge: Ray Johnson — 11 Exhibitors, 47 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
5	Bob & Sue Rahe	Violet eared Waxbill	
4	Moss Aviary	Mynah	
3	Bob & Sue Rahe	Self-Chocolate Society	E 3713 (94)
2	C. & D. Wiegale	Normal Java Rice Bird	K 333 (90)
1	John & Jane Muscato	White Java Rice Bird	

Aviary Association of Kern County, Bakerfield, CA, December 3, 1994
Judge: Brian Mandarich — 7 Exhibitors, 51 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
6	Alvin Lea	African Silverbill	
5	Sally Huntington	Pekin Robin	
4	Alvin Lea	Pekin Robin	
3	Alvin Lea	Shafttail	
2	Alvin Lea	White-hooded Nun	
1	Sally Huntington	Chestnut-flanked Zebra	

Puerto Rican National Show,
Organizacion Puertorriqueña de Aves Exoticas, Inc. Bayamon, Puerto Rico,
Dec. 3, 1994

Judge: Daren Decoteau — 17 Exhibitors, 71 Entries

Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band # (Yr)
7	Alfredo Brugueras	Yellow-backed, Red-headed, White-breasted Gouldian	C 2488 (94)
6	Julio Mateo	Light-green-backed, Dilute Gouldian	1121 (93)
5	Alfredo Brugueras	Fawn & White Society	C 3968 (94)
4	Rafael Echevarria	Diamond Sparrow	
3	Wayne Davis	Grey Tree Pie	
2	Eliseo Cruz	Spice Finch	
1	Hector Delgado	Pied Java Rice Bird	

Insecticides and Your Birds

by R. B. Wangler
San Antonio, Texas

The information discussed in this article is in no way intended to down-rate or give any indication of defect in the products in general. To the best of my knowledge, the insecticides and pest control agents referred to are doing what the manufacturer designed them to do, and their use by breeders in exposing their birds to the materials is the responsibility of the breeder.

During the past five years I have worked with birds that were reported to be weak from in-breeding overseas, and were not predicted to survive the stress of molting from baby feathers to adult feathers. Some of the birds responded to medication while others did not. Those birds that were lost were sent to Texas A & M for pathological and bacterial analysis in an effort to determine the cause of their death. The report on several of the birds was that they had a reduced immune deficiency (AIDS) type of condition. *"No pathology present severe enough to cause their death."*

I continued to request guidance from Dr. Vice in an effort to locate the problem. Have I had other birds with the diagnosis of an immune deficiency? YES. Were the birds in-bred? No!! Have I found the source

of the problem? I can only say that I am no longer losing young birds going into their adult molt. The following is the result of my observations.

No-Pest and the birdroom

A number of my fellow breeders use and continue to use *No-Pest* strips in their bird rooms to control flying insects. This it does very well, as it is a good killer of insects. A couple of my friends tell me they even use the *No-Pest* strips to treat their birds for air sac mites. They remove the strip from the package and allow them to air out for several days, and then place them in the bird room.

When these losses occurred among my birds, I too was using a *No-Pest* strip in the birdroom. My observations have led to the conclusion that what I was experiencing were the effects of pesticides on the birds. On one occasion, one of the rare birds showed signs of illness and a culture was taken for analysis. While awaiting the report the bird was placed on oral Baytril for 10 days.

The bird seemed to improve and the culture showed a normal flora for the intestinal tract. About a week later the bird again looked ill and a second culture was taken, showing no pathology for the bird. The day following the receipt of the test results, the healthy bird died.

During this period the other birds were showing health problems

and I decided to remove the pest strip from the breeding room.

During this period I also had a new *No-Pest* strip hanging on the side of the heater vent in my bird holding room which contained two cages of young Gouldians, Heck's Grass Finches and Diamond Fire-tails. There were also two pair of Scarlet Chested Parakeets in breeding cages in this room. We had a cool spell and the furnace in the bird holding room came on to maintain the temperature at 80 degrees. About a week later I began losing birds and immediately took four of them to Dr. Vice for analysis at Texas A & M.

The results showed that the birds were essentially not sick. I removed all the affected birds to an isolation area, ran cultures and treated them in the meantime with different antibiotics. Some of the sicker ones were given injections, with the same result, in that they did not respond to medication. The Heck's Grass and Diamond Firetails did not die, but to this date are sterile along with the Scarlet Chested. Some of Heck's came down with an infection and when treated the first time cleared up, but in about 30 days a second illness occurred and they did not respond to treatment and died. Since removing the pest strips I have lost

no birds from this type of condition and the problem seems to have disappeared.

The *No-Pest* strips were removed from all of the bird areas as soon as the first report was received from Texas A & M. The affected Goulds gave the appearance of being poisoned, and within 6 weeks most of them had died. The doctors at Texas A & M indicated they had seen this type of effect in other animals but not birds and suggested additional birds be sacrificed to study the condition further.

I, too was using a No-Pest strip in the birdroom. My observations have led to the conclusion that what I was experiencing were the effects of pesticides on the birds.

I did not have any left, except my breeders outside.

Summary

The birds when affected seem to be lethargic, slowly lose weight and finally die. In the case of the Gouldians, some reacted very rapidly and died while in good body weight. Other Goulds went down slowly, and of that group, one is still alive and I will see if she will be fertile. This bird has taken nine months to come into adult feather. The Goulds are normally slow but not that slow.

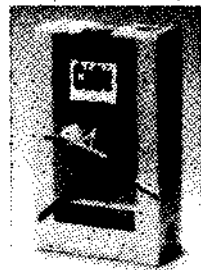
Note that pesticides are designed to kill insects under various mechanisms of reaction on the insect. Some poison, others attack the reproduction system of the insects, and others

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paralyze to control the presence of insects in the home. Some have delayed killing power, with one common purpose - to kill insects.

I have received additional information on the pest strips from a friend of mine in the business of pest control. The pest strips' emission of chemical vapors varies under certain conditions. The strip is designed to emit a certain level of insecticide at 70°. with increasing dispersion of the chemical as the temperature rises in the room. This design is based on studies of insect activity with ambient temperature. The warmer the area, the more active the insects and reproduction rates increase: thus the need for more insecticide to be available. Air movement and air exchange rates will also affect the concentrations of the chemical in a room.

I use NO pesticides of any type in the bird rooms now except

Camicide, and it VERY CAREFULLY to be sure none of it gets in the cages or on the birds. I have been told that it is non-toxic to birds but I still use care and extreme caution.

My suggestion is to be very careful when using any chemical around your birds, especially if it is sprayed or dusted in the air of the bird room.



Mr. Wangler noted last August a television news report with a related theme. The story was about the requirement that jet airliners, on their return to this country from foreign countries have their interiors sprayed with insecticides. The news report featured an interview with an airline stewardess whose health condition was reported to have been severely damaged from the exposure to the various insecticides.

Mail Your Birds!

by Dale Laird
Winter Park, Florida

Mail your birds through the U.S. Post Office! You can do this *CHEAP* -- and on the same airplane you would *pay* the airlines over \$100.00 to ship your birds.

I learned about this from a friend of mine, Frank Vazquez who works at the Post Office located at the Orlando International Airport. And both Cecil Gunby of Sharpsburg, Georgia and Conrad Meinert of Warsaw, Indiana have been using the Post Office for some time. For me, to send a shipping container of finches weighing 4 pounds from Orlando to Conrad in Warsaw on one of the airlines the cost is \$132.00. The Post Office will do it for **\$13.05**. *They fly anywhere in the continental U.S and Puerto Rico for this price!*

Of course, we have the same shipping container requirements with the Post Office as the airlines; i.e., strong enough to prevent escape, provide ventilation, food, moisture, and perches.

You cannot just carry in a cage and tell them deliver it. You have to first decide among several options:

AIRPORT TO AIRPORT —

This requires a major airport with a post office located nearby. Almost

every medium to large city in the United States has one. You just take the birds to that Post Office and mail them Airport to Airport. You can call the Post Office ahead of time, find out what time the next flight with mail on it is leaving for the area you are shipping to, arrive 45 minutes ahead of the plane's departure and mail them. Very easy. 4 pounds cost \$13.05.

STATION TO STATION —

This is the same as Airport to Airport except you mail them from a Post Office close to you. They take them to the airport for you. This will add a few hours to the shipping time. 4 pounds, \$16.35.

COURIER PICK-UP —

If you want the Post Office to come to your house and pick up the birds for you, they will do that also. For \$4.50 they will send a courier to your house, pick up the birds in time to get them on the plane for the birds' destination. Frank could not give me an exact mileage they will pick up from but said that in the Orlando area this is very liberal.

ANY COMBINATION —

You can also do any combination of the above options you desire, such as Airport to Station or Station to Airport. The Post Office will also call the person receiving the birds and tell them they are in.

This sounds like an inexpensive, convenient way for us to send our birds across the country and to Puerto Rico.



Handfeeding Finches

by Nita J. Haas
Raymore, Missouri

I qualify as a semi-novice bird person. I bought my first bird, a Cockatiel, in February 1992. Shortly after that, I purchased my first two pairs of finches; a pair of self chocolate Society finches and a pair of English Zebra finches. My two pairs shortly expanded to three pairs when both of my Societies turned out to be males.

That first spring the parents raised about 15 youngsters. I was hooked. But, I was also dismayed to find a few dead chicks left in the nests or thrown out onto the floors of the breeding cages.

I read a lot of magazine articles and books on finches and breeding, spoke to several local breeders and decided that some chicks just didn't make it. Either the parents hadn't figured out what to do with the first chick or two, or the dead chicks represented "weak" ones who just weren't fit enough to survive.

My finches had been converted before the breeding set-up to the Kaytee Exact Canary/Finch extruded diet and I also offered a "Universal" mixture with insects that the parents loved. I also provided 'greens' every couple of days. I felt I had a good breeding season and through further

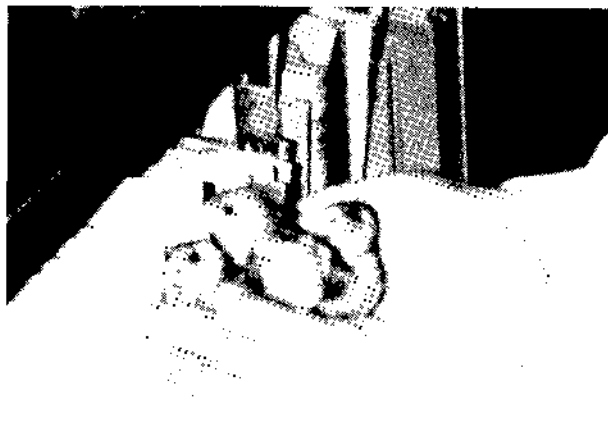


Photo by Gene Miller

June Miller's hand-fed Cuban Melodious Finches.

purchases and breeding, my clan increased to 45 finches.

During the winter between breeding seasons, I vacillated between a "seed plus extras" diet and pelleted diets. I tried Lafabers, Roudybush, & Harrisons in addition to the Kaytee. (My birds actually liked the Roudybush the best, but it is only available by mail order in my area). The "seed plus extras" diet was a nightmare at cleaning time.

I kept my finches in an extra bedroom in all-wire cages with pans and the seed hulls were scattered everywhere! I finally couldn't take it anymore and put all the finches back on Exact. Everyone was soon eating the Exact with great relish.

I paired up my breeders

I paired up my breeders, when the time came, and waited with great anticipation. I waited ... and waited ... and waited. I got nest after nest of infertile eggs, dead in the shell eggs, hatched but dead in the nest, hatched and thrown out of the nest, and no eggs at all. I couldn't believe it: this debacle even included the three pairs I began with the year before. Infertile eggs were the biggest problem: after that it was lack of feeding by the parents. I was horrified to find all these unfed, dried up little bodies in my breeding cages.

I was providing the birds with everything I could think of to feed their babies—Universal mix, Canary egg-food with hard-boiled egg greens, plus the pellets. The parents were getting fat, but they weren't sharing with their babies. (In retrospect, I see that they wouldn't feed pellets to their babies.)

Out of ten breeding pairs, five babies survived. I was heart broken. With more fertile eggs being incubated, I was panicking. I watched and fussed over this nest as hatch dates approached. When the first egg hatched under a pair of Zebras, who had previously let their clutch starve, I watched nervously for a couple of

hours. I'm sure these little Zebra parents were even more nervous than I was with all this attention.

I decided not to wait any longer. I removed the tiny, pink chick from the nest and placed him in a small Tupperware container with a dish towel covering an individual-serving size plastic orange juice bottle filled with hot water. He was cheeping pitifully.

I had some Kaytee Exact hand-feeding formula on hand and mixed up a tiny amount with warm water in a shot glass. I also had sterilized syringes and catheter type feeding tubes stored in my cupboard from my days as a dog breeder. (I was quite experienced with tube feeding puppies as I once had to feed pups from day two until weaning.)

I drew the watery mixture into my syringe, opened the baby's beak, slid the syringe down the right side of the mouth, into the crop. Because the baby's skin is nearly translucent, the tube was easy to see. I depressed the plunger and watched as the formula filled up the tiny crop and spilled out of his mouth. I immediately turned the chick upside down in my hand and wiped his beak with a dishtowel. He stopped gagging and settled down. I decided not to put him back with his parents and take on the responsibility for this tiny life myself.

I continued to feed the chick

I continued to feed the chick every 2-3 hours as his crop emptied.

I fed at 10:30 p.m. and got up at 2:00 a.m. for a nighttime feeding. My husband and I get up at 5:00 a.m. to get ready for work and I fed the chick again at that time. Of course I had to take him to work and continue to feed him every couple of hours.

When I returned home that afternoon, another Zebra baby was discovered in the same nest. I took this one out and fed him as I had the first one, but this one I put back in the nest to see if the parents would take on their duties. Before I went to bed, the baby's crop was empty, and I removed him from the nest again and fed him. I did not feed him at 2 a.m. like I did his elder sibling, and didn't feed him the next morning, hoping the parents would get the idea and take over. I left for work with my first chick; when I returned home that night, the second chick was dead in the nest. There was one additional egg which did not hatch and was dead in the shell. I was disappointed.

When I arose at 5 a.m. the morning of the fourth day, my chick's crop had not emptied from his 2 a.m. feeding as it had after each feeding previously. I went with my baby to my avian veterinarian, before going to work. Dr. Swanson was amazed that I had kept the little guy alive for four days.

He advised me to buy some Pedialyte, a human baby preparation with electrolytes and sugars intended to combat dehydration. The Pedialyte should be substituted for the formula until the crop emptied. He also

advised me to add humidity to my baby's environment.

When I got to work I put hot water in the cap from a bottle of iced tea in the bottom of my Tupperware container and re-draped the dish-towel over the top. The humidity inside the plastic carrier was apparent when I later fed the chick. I was amazed at the growth rate of the baby. I didn't have a scale, and (dunmy me) I didn't take any pictures. At birth, the baby was no larger than my little fingernail (I have small hands even for a woman). Now, four days later, he was almost to the second joint of my little finger! He was doing great! I began to feel confident that the little guy would make it. When I went to feed him his 7 p.m. meal on the fifth day, he was dead.

I was devastated! How could he have been fine at 5 p.m., and gone at 7 p.m.? I didn't even think to have a necropsy done.

One week later

One week later eggs under a pair of Society Finches who had not fed their first clutch started hatching. I tried to leave the pair alone thinking I had them worked into a frenzy with all my worrisome activity. One chick died at 24 hours of age. I pulled two hatchlings from the nest and became their mother.

At 12 hours of age I fed each chick 1 cc of Pedialyte and watched the yolk sac which was clearly visible on the abdomen of the chick. As long as the yellow sac is visible DO

NOT OVERFEED. (If you aren't privy to bird anatomy, have your vet point out the organs on a newborn chick.) I continued with the Pedialyte every 2 hours until the chicks were 24 hours old. At this time I mixed a minute amount of Exact HandFeeding Formula with the Pedialyte and continued this procedure for another 24 hours.

The chicks were being fed about every 2-3 hours except at night. I feed them at 10 p.m. 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. At three days of age the chicks were fed straight Exact with boiling tap water. (I have since installed a hot water dispenser at the sink ... such a luxury not having to boil the water!) Of course the mixture was allowed to cool. The amount of formula made at each feeding was less than 1 teaspoon and cooled rapidly.

I took two more chicks to hand raise when my original ones were about one week old. All four were doing fine. I tube fed these chicks all the way to weaning. I didn't know how to do anything else. The little guys eventually grabbed the tube and sucked it down, so feeding was very quick and easy. At the age of 10 days, I stopped the middle of the night feeding. I was very proud of myself ... Heck, this was easy!

Then came weaning

Then came weaning. The little suckers did not like the idea of having food in their mouths. They were used to having food deposited directly into their craps. At this point, they didn't like wet formula squirted

in their mouths. They did like canary nestling food! I was using Kellogg's "Peep" for my canaries and just papped some into the gaping, screaming baby Society mouths and they swallowed! That was the beginning of the weaning process. Eventually I dropped Exact pellets into their

*They fly to us, and
snuggle next to our
necks, sit on top of our
heads, pull our hair*

mouths and they soon began eating on their own.

These finches are adorable pets. I kept two and gave two to a good friend who had parrots but never thought much of finches. She is 'stuck' on her tame finches as am I. These tiny birds have so much personality! And each one is a different little life with its own traits, intelligence, inquisitiveness, and sense of humor.

Yes, sense of humor. They love to play tricks on Mom and Dad ... like staying just beyond the fingertips when Out Time is over and it's time to go back in their cage. You might not believe this ... but one even says his name! During his male 'display' with fluffed out feathers and perch dancing he says "Hi Cleeeb." He really does. None of the other males make this kind of sound. The bird's name is CHIBI which is Japanese for "little one." (How the name came about is another story!)

I have raised to weaning a total of 10 birds; all Society finches except for two Goulds. One Gould died at about two months of age, but I still have the other. They are allowed 'free flight' around the living room most every day for about 1/2 hour. They fly to us, and snuggle next to our necks, sit on top of our heads, pull our hair, tug on ears (which hurts!), play tug of war with the Kleenex box, and sometimes get 'lost' in a strange room during an excited 6 bird flight around the house. They are always glad to be 'found'.

I took my youngest baby "Chocko" to my niece's kindergarten class for 'Show and Tell.' This four month old bird let every child hold and pet her. I took other birds, including a Cockatiel and a Quaker parrot but Chocko was the star of the party. She was just right to fit in their little hands and her diminutive size didn't scare even the most squeamish child.

I have never been able to hand raise a Zebra finch baby, even though I've tried a couple of times. I have given up ... they are just too tiny.

For Societies and Goulds I would go through this all again, rather than lose a whole nest of babies. With some diet changes, (I provide a good finch seed mix now with all the extras as the basic diet and use pellets as a supplement), and less 'puttering around' on my part, my birds have become good parents and good feeders.

But I'm always ready to step in and take over if I need to. I have many people who want a tame finch from me, but it's a lot of work and, sometimes, a lot of heartache. Maybe, if the situation arises someday, I will have some very special finches for some very special homes.

If the parents do not feed

If the parents do not feed the chicks I remove them and tube feed 1/2-1 cc of warm Pedialyte. I use a small syringe with a shortened red catheter tube attached. The skin on tiny chicks is so thin you can easily see the tube and fluid entering the crop. It has been my experience that the baby will not always open his mouth when you tap his beak with the tube, especially if he is weak. Sometimes you must pry open the tiny mouth with your fingers or lift up the upper beak with the end of the tube. It may be scary in the beginning, but remember, the chick will certainly die without your intervention.

Constant warmth and humidity are very important with newborns. When the chicks start to feather out, their need for external heat soon ceases. Don't tube feed the chicks all the way through weaning if possible. I now tube babies until about 5-7 days of age. At this time the chick is usually large enough to accept formula directly into his mouth. Then I use a plastic pipette for feeding. Weaning becomes much easier.

More About "Pairs"...

Establishing a line

by Armando J. Lee
Miami, Florida

I find Martha Wignmore's (Sep/Oct '94) point of view regarding the exhibition of pairs quite interesting and certainly worth discussing, but I agree with Clayton Jones (Jan/Feb '95).

Besides finches, I also breed colorbred canaries. Our shows have basically the same format, i.e., class, section and division. We have "team of four" instead of "pairs". "Teams" are judged by awarding points to every bird individually, and the final score is composed of the sum of the points *minus* the difference of points between the highest and lowest individual. This is called Harmony (note: it is a *minus*, therefore penalizing for non-harmony).

For example: Team "A" scores 91, 89, 88 and 88. If you add these scores you get 356. Then subtract 3 for harmony (the difference between 91 and 88) and the final score is 353 points.

Team "B" scores 90, 90, 89 and 88. Adding these scores you get 357. Subtracting 2 for harmony give the final score of 355. Team "B" is the winner! If there is a tie (very rare), then the team with the highest scoring individual wins.

The reasoning behind this is that almost any breeder can get "lucky" and bring to the show *one* winner, but only the breeder who has a successful breeding program can come up with at least four winners. This last breeder has established a *line* of birds. In his aviary the majority of his birds are identical in conformation, condition, color, feather and of the highest quality. Here, as in Europe, it is the highest honor to win with a *team*.

To win with *teams* the breeder must specialize in one class of bird. Instead of breeding ten birds of each of ten classes for a total of 100 birds, he must breed at least 100 birds of the same class. Once this breeder has established his *line* and has made his mark as a *master breeder* he may choose to continue, or if there is no more challenge he may change his collection to a different class. Space and time permitting, he can also add more classes.

Like Mr. Jones said, if we called "two matched birds" or perhaps a "duo" then two cocks or two hens could be shown. Otherwise it is my opinion that only a cock and a hen should be shown in the "pairs" division. And this pair should be the best male that you would mate with your best female, same conformation, condition and color.

I believe this is what was intended when the "pairs" division was created. If it is not so then NFSS should make it clear in order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding at the show bench.

Ms. Wigmore, our views are different about "pairs" but I certainly congratulate you as the Editor of the *Bulletin*. For the better of all the members please keep up the good work.



A response to the pairs "differences"

*by Martha Wigmore
Elk River, Minnesota*

Armando, I'm not too certain that our views on pairs exhibiting are different at all. The spirit I bring to pairs judging is the same that our friends, the canary judges bring to *teams of four* competitions. Although NFSS judges do not assign points, we mentally weigh the strengths and weaknesses of each bird separately in the show cage, and then "add" the two birds' evaluations together for the "sum total" of the pairs exhibit.

The most common remark we hear about showing pairs is that the exhibition pair is only as good as the weakest bird. It is true that the weaker bird in a pairing contributes to the "non-harmony" of the two birds which is, in practice, the weakness of the *match* of the two birds. NFSS exhibition pairs should be identical in conformation, condition, coloration and markings (therefore of the *same* color mutation), and show similar and complementary demeanor

and deportment in the cage. Any weaknesses in the match, any non-harmony, is "subtracted" (again, mentally) from the combination of the two birds for an overall "score" for the exhibit.

Pairs exhibits, like *teams of four* exhibits, highlight the successful breeding program and definitely draw attention to the importance of establishing a strong *line* of birds. This is one reason many NFSS judges encourage entries in this section.

In my Sep/Oct '94 article I did not address whether my ideal *exhibition* pair should be male and female, but yes, for sexually dimorphic species and color mutations I do feel that pairs should consist of a cock and a hen. And I also *prefer* exhibition pairs of crested birds to be comprised of *two* crested birds, again to evaluate the consistency and the *match* of the birds.

Perhaps some of the disagreement on this topic would be eliminated by changing the Section title in the NFSS Show Classifications from "Pairs" to "Exhibition Pairs" or "Show Pairs", as our friend Tom Rood suggested recently.



Flocking Together...



A reader has the following question for the NFSS membership:

❖ I have two female birds that resemble Green Singers somewhat. They are the size of a small canary, yellow rump, yellow eye stripe and yellow on the breast from the throat on down to the tail region. The back, head, tail, wings and sides of breast are *heavily streaked*, brownish olive green. Their beak is light colored and like a canary / finch. The sound they make and their mannerisms remind me of a green singer. Both birds are aggressive towards each other and are kept separate. Both have laid pale blue eggs, usually 2-3 in their seed cups and have sat tightly allowing me to touch them as they sat on the eggs. They usually lay in late summer / early fall. From what reading I have found, I feel they are St. Helena Seedeaters, but am not sure. Am I right? **Does anyone have any or know where some can be purchased?**

Patricia Wall
116 Fletcher St.
Horsehead, NY 14845
(607) 739-6250

Great description! Yes, you have St. Helena Seedeaters. Ed.

In response to the question last issue about dove societies, we have the following from a member:

❖ There used to be an International Dove Association but it disbanded. The only dove association now is the American Dove Association, P.O. Box 21, Milton, KY 40045. Many local or state clubs have dove breeders in their membership and allow doves to be shown at their shows.

Candice Patrick
Madison, Tennessee

For more about doves, see Candice's article in this issue.

Want to correspond with fellow NFSS members who share your interest in a particular species or who may have met a challenge in their bird room similar to the one you are facing? Use the NFSS **FLOCKING TOGETHER** column to send a call out to the membership. Mail your request to the Editor, *The NFSS Bulletin*.

Readers who can help an inquirer can write directly to the individual if their address is provided, or to the Editor for forwarding. If you wish, send a copy of your letter to the Editor for publication in the *Bulletin* where your ideas will reach many others with the same or similar needs.

Learning About Ringneck Doves

By Candice Patrick
400 Forrest Park Rd. B307
Madison, TN 37115
(615) 868-8840

I got into doves by being in the right place at the right time. While at a pet store, a young man beside me in line asked if I would like a free

baby dove. He described what it looked like and said it would be ready for me to take possession in about a month. This was in late 1991. Around November, I took

home a baby Ring-neck dove. The day before, I had made a trade with another bird breeder. He needed a few adult male parakeets (which I had) and I needed a nice roomy cage (which he had). I went everywhere trying to find a book on doves. I found only one. It told of the many different varieties of doves and soon I was totally confused on exactly what kind of dove I had. I was told I had a Collared Dove. After locating a few people in the dove fancy, I found out I had a fawn Ringneck Dove.

After a few weeks, I got a call from the young man who gave me the dove. Would I like to buy out all of his dove stuff and the parents of

the baby? Sure! By this time, my cat Spookers was getting very interested in all these feathered things. When I brought home the parent birds in January of 1992, my cat circled the cage. Ah, lunch! Suddenly the cock bird started to coo. Spookers' eyes got as big as saucers and she took off like a scared rabbit. Ever since then she won't have anything to do with the doves.

My membership in the Tennessee Pigeon and Dove Club and also the American Dove Association would prove to be very beneficial. I contacted breeders who helped me learn colors and the basics of breeding these gentle birds.

At the bird fairs, I picked up a few more doves. Some of my early purchases included Snowfire's Queen Elizabeth, an unbanded fawn hen and her mate, Snowfire's Sir Lancelot, also a fawn. The leg bands referred to here are the birds' leg bands. I decided that my babies were going to be banded with a closed band.

While my record keeping wasn't all that great back then, it has steadily improved. I learned also that chicks will die in the shell just prior to hatching. Or that parents will sit on their babies too hard and the babies get squashed. (This is usually from a first time parent). Also, birds that go to nest for the first time may go a few rounds of infertile eggs. I learned how to candle eggs. It still

Finally I decided that if I was going to show good birds, I would have to do what horse breeders do

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Prepared and narrated by
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Much more than an introduction, this video looks at dozens of varieties of finches and softbills.

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fascinates me to candle an egg and see a tiny heart beat inside.

While at a bird meeting, I acquired temporary ownership of a pair of cream doves. These doves were formerly owned by country music star Lee Greenwood as they were a wedding present. These birds are white with just a touch of pinkish brown on their feathers (which can be seen if you are in very good light). They have red eyes but can be distinguished from an albino which has pinkish red eyes and is snow white. My cream doves which I named Snowfire's Flame and his mate Snowfire's Moniet produced SF Ghost and two other babies all of which have been sold. One of the babies which I showed for two years at a pigeon and dove show consistently won first place and Best Hen but

when she laid eggs, she would never lay them in the nest and would never sit on them. Some doves do that.

Finally I decided that if I was going to show good birds, I would have to do what horse breeders do ... keep pedigrees and super good records. I would also have to cull out the not-so-good birds from all the rest. So with friendships acquired from bird meetings and shows, I set up my foundation. By late 1993, I felt I had just enough experience to get in trouble! I still had a lot to learn, but now I was ready to begin. I wanted to breed a winning bird. Little did I realize what I would end up breeding.

Candice, in only her second year of showing Ringneck Doves, came away from the National Young Bird Show in 1994 (at which there were over 6,500 pigeons and doves shown) with a Champion Best Silky dove trophy. She promises to send us a note on how you can raise a champion and live in an apartment, and will answer many questions that first time dove breeders have.

She adds, "I am working toward my Master Breeders Certificate in the American Dove Association (ADA). There are only three point shows approved by the ADA, one in Ohio (held in the winter) one in Kentucky (the Nationals, held in the Fall) and one in Tennessee (also held in the Fall). It takes a person about 5 to 7 years to get their Master Breeders. I have big goals for 1995."

NFSS Classified Ads

Classified ads (except *FINCHSAVE* ads) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

FOR SALE

Mynahs, hand-fed rare Java Hill and Greater Indian Hill babies. European Starlings, hand-fed, must pre-order in spring. Will ship. Lynda Scott (FL) (813) 353-1073 ma

Lonely Male Red-eared Waxbill seeks female companion. Your nest or mine. (NJ) (908) 689-6788 ma

For Sale: Mannikins: Bronze Wings. Most cage bred. Looking for someone seriously interested in breeding this species. Pictorella finches, very rare and beautiful. Waxbills: Orange Checks. Cage Bred, Parent reared, unrelated, now available. Levin H. Tilghman. 6419 N. 15 St., Phila., PA 19126 (215) 924-6252. ma

Blue Gouldians. out of 1st place show birds. Other mutations available. Kyle Bolton, 535 W. Broadway, Redlion, PA 17356. (717) 246-0936. mj

Gouldians: Diamonds, Strawberries, Painted, Blue Caps, Gold Breasted, Peter's, Dybowski, Parrot Finches all types, and more. For price list send envelope (no stamps) - Joseph Azzopardi, 616 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada M5S2R1 - Fax/Phone (416) 536-2912 so

BIRD BANK NEWS is a monthly newspaper dealing exclusively with captive birds. Get 12 issues of the latest news and events for \$16. Write or call AIM, 1115 Fern Ave., Felton, CA 95018 (800) 246-5577. ja

For Sale: NFSS Show Cages. All three sizes. Call (804) 599-0370 (VA) after 6pm daily. ja

For Sale: GOULDIAHS—NORMALS AND ALL MUTATIONS, NFSS banded, show line. A.J. Lee (FL) (305) 270-1000 or S.A.S.E.: 6811 S.W. 89th Ct., Miami, FL 33173. ja

EXOTIC BIRD PRODUCTS INC., offers free brochure about Bag O'Bugs insect formula, nestling food, 11 kinds of calcium blocks, toys and more! Highest quality guaranteed direct to you—fast and ppd. from **P.O. Box 128, Newberg, OR 97132.** 1-800-441-1157. ma

WANTED

Twin Cities area - assistance with mailing *The NFSS Bulletin* - bi-monthly 10-15 hr. effort. Volunteer should be careful, able to provide quick turn-around, & have good sense of humor. Contact Editor.

FINCHSAVE Classifieds

FINCHSAVE classifieds run FREE of charge to FINCHSAVE participants. All readers are welcome to respond to FINCHSAVE ads.

For Sale and/or Trade: Cuban Melodious and Olive Finch pairs, extra males available, need hens for breeding program. (305) 270-1000, A.J. Lee, 6811 S.W. 89th Court, Miami, FL 33173. ma

For Sale or Trade: FINCHSAVE close-banded Gold-breasted Waxbills, hatched 11/01/94. Mary Cahow (WI) (715) 344-6117 evcs. ma

For Sale: Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu males. All related. Lynda Bakula (MO) (314) 394-3530 ma

NFSS Panel of Judges 1995

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FOR INFORMATION ON
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PANEL
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DR. AL DECOTEAU
PANEL CHAIRMAN

1995 Chronological Show List

There's a NFSS Show for Everyone!

February

- 2/18 FL
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 1
(Conrad Meinert)
- 2/19 FL
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 2
(Clarence Culwell)

June

- 6/03 IL
Illini Bird Fanciers
(Martha Wigmore)
- 6/24 WI
WINGS's Bird Society
(Charles Anchor)

September

- 9/09 NH
Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
(Miki Spartzak)
- 9/16 MI
Mid-West Cage-Bird
Club, Inc.
(Charles Anchor)
- 9/23 CN
Durham Avic. Society
of Ontario
(Tom Road)

October

- 10/07 FL
Sunshine State Cage
Bird Society
(Martha Wigmore)
- IA
Mid-America Cage
Bird Society
- TX
Fort Worth Bird Club
(Tom Road)
- 10/14 IN
Indiana Bird Fanciers
(Patrick Vance)
- KS
Kansas Avicultural
Society
(Tom Road)
- 10/21 CA
Capital City Bird
Society
(Tom Road)
- MD
Baltimore Bird
Fanciers
(Miki Spartzak)
- MO
Greater Kansas City
Avic. Society
(Martha Wigmore)
- 10/28 CT
Connecticut Assoc.
for Aviculture
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- KS
Heartland Canary
and Finch Society
(Tom Road)
- NC
Smokey Mtn. Cage
Bird Society
(Ray Johnson)

- WI
Badger Canary
Fanciers
(Martha Wigmore)

November

- 11/04 CN
Cage Bird Society of
Hamilton
(Steve Hoppin)
- FL
Exotic Bird Club of
Florida
(Tom Road)
- OR
Rose City Exotic Bird
Club
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- PA
Greater Pittsburgh
Cage Bird Society
(Miki Spartzak)
- 11/11 LA
Capital Area Avicul-
tural Society
(Miki Spartzak)

December

- 12/02 CA
Aviary Assn. of Kern
County
(Hal Koantz)
- PR
Organización
Puertorriqueña de
Aves Exóticas, Inc.
(Miki Spartzak)

NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of February 15, 1995)

ALABAMA

Rocket City Cage Bird Club
Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

CALIFORNIA

American Family Bird Show

Aviary Assn. of Kern County
Willis & Velta Baker (805) 765-6110
Show December 2, 1995
Bakersfield, CA
Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Capital City Bird Society
Darc B. Cagle (916) 452-4526
Show October 21, 1995
Sacramento, CA
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Finch Society of San Diego County
Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

Fresno Canary and Finch Society
Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Golden Gate Avian Society
Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.
Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

**Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic
Bird Club**
Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association
Teri McAuliffe (719) 576-9009

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture
Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture
Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220
Show October 28, 1995
E. Hartford, CT
Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

New England Finch Fanciers
Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

FLORIDA

**Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South
Florida**
Phil Barth (305) 931-3468

Central Florida Bird Breeders
Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami, Inc
Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Exotic Bird Club of Florida
Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498
Show November 4, 1995
Palm Bay, FL
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Gold Coast All Bird Club
Len Brower (305) 931-3468

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.
Russ Blagg (813) 689-0692

Gulf Coast Exotic Bird Club
Diane Pittman (813) 772-1150

Sun Coast Avian Society
Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989
Show October 7, 1995
Orlando, FL
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society
Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club
Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Jane Muscato (708) 305-9043

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

Show June 3, 1995

Shelbyville, IL

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

**National Institute of Red-Orange
Canaries (NIROC)**

Stephan V. Hopman

Springfield Pet Bird Club

Tom Rood (217) 774-5265

INDIANA**Indiana Bird Fanciers**

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

Show October 14, 1995

Ft. Wayne, IN

Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

Rhoda L. Shirley (515) 243-1511

Show October 7, 1995

Des Moines, IA

KANSAS

Heartland Canary and Finch Club

Shirley Landkamer (913) 594-6795

Show October 28, 1995

Lawrence, KS

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Kansas Avicultural Society

Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

Bird Fair April 22, 1995

Wichita, KS

Show October 14, 1995

Wichita, KS

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society

Steve Slates (606) 223-2600

LOUISIANA

Capital Area Avicultural Society

Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579

Show November 11, 1995

Baton Rouge, LA

Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

Jacky Eckman (410) 485-7842

Bird Mart April 22, 1995

Severna Park, MD

Show October 21, 1995

Baltimore, MD

Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

Maryland Cage Bird Society

Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association

Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Show September 16, 1995

Detroit, MI

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

Motor City Bird Breeders

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avic. Society

Jamie Jackson (913) 268-3209

Show October 21, 1995

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch
Society**

Mose Linn (816) 523-4661

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES &
CORRESPONDENTS**

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Finch Society
Gavin Dietz, P. O. Box 1600,
Coorparoo DC 4151
Queensland, Australia

CANADA

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Canada**
Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton
Show November 4, 1995
Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Steve Hoppin

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**
Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978
Show September 23, 1995
Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398

GREAT BRITAIN

The Estrildian
Ian Hinze, 20 Lancaster Avenue,
Whitefield, Manchester, M45 6DE
England

Zebra Finch Society, England
Margaret Binns, 97 Bent Lanes,
Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester,
M31 8WZ England

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.
293 Albany Highway
Albany, New Zealand

Missouri Cage Bird Association
Richard & Rose Dickman
(314) 928-3444

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society
Show September 9, 1995
Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club
Janet Greenlee (609) 228-4738

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association
Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

New York Finch & Type Canary Club
Marie Grein (718) 468-0881

Power City Bird Society
Maria Gleason (716) 282-2944

Rochester Cage Bird Club
Patrick Guonan (716) 288-5633

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society
Karen Whitlow (919) 557-0450

Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society
James Cody (704) 686-5157
Show October 28, 1995
Morgantown, NC
Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

OHIO

Classic Feathers
John Neff, Jr. (419) 782-3121

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club
of America**
Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma
Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society
Laura Bewley (918) 366-7427

OREGON

Rose City Exotic Bird Club
Susan Akins (503) 630-2877
Show November 4, 1995
Portland, OR
Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society
Pat Krichten (717) 632-8092

Chester County Bird Breeders

Delaware Valley Bird Club
Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143
Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society
Dr. Lindsay Claek (412) 363-6438
Show November 4, 1995
Pittsburgh, PA
Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

Seven Mountains Exotic Bird Club**PUERTO RICO**

Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves Exoticas, Inc.
Rafael Echevarria (809) 795-5718
4th Puerto Rican National Show
Show December 2, 1995
Bayamon, PR
Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club
Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club
Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

TEXAS

Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club
Karol Deem (409) 737-1557

Fort Worth Bird Club

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
Show October 7, 1995
Fort Worth, Texas
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association
Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

VIRGINIA

National Capital Bird Club
Deborah Goodall (703) 471-1231

Peninsula Cage Bird Society
Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

WISCONSIN

Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.
Patrice (Ripple) Brusk (414) 785-8988
Show October 28, 1995
Milwaukee, WI
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

WING's Bird Society
Show June 24, 1995
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates
New rates effective 1/01/95

Display (camera ready) Ads:

Full page \$50/issue: \$200/year
Half page \$30/issue: \$120/year
Qtr. page \$20/issue: \$80/year
Inside cover \$70/issue: \$300/year

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FINCHSAVE: free to participants
Others: \$.15 per word, per issue

Deadlines

12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1, 10/1
for next bi-monthly issue.

Send ad and payment (payable to NFSS) to

Martha Wigmore
NFSS Bulletin Editor
18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(612) 241-0071





THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is for twelve months
and includes six bi-monthly issues of
The NFSS Bulletin.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ New _____ Renew _____
Member? _____ NFSS # _____

CHECK ONE: Single \$20 _____ Dual \$25* _____ Junior
(under 16 yrs) \$12.50 _____

* 2nd name for dual membership _____

U.S. (and Puerto Rico) 1st class mailing, add \$5.00.

Canadian & foreign subscriptions are mailed 1st class. Please send US funds.

Canadian, add \$5.00 Foreign, add \$10.00

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOU!

Species of finches and softbills you are interested in:

Check the topics that are of most interest to you in *The NFSS Bulletin*:

Nutrition _____ Breeding _____ Husbandry _____ Classifieds _____

Conservation _____ Exhibition _____ Census _____ NFSS News _____



MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT

(payable to NFSS) TO:

Ms. Lynda Bakula

NFSS Membership Services

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022

FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

ITEM	QTY	SIZE/ STYLE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL AMT
NEW T-Shirt for 1995! 10 Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass w/NFSS		M/L/XL/XXL (circle size) All 50/50 White	\$18.00	
Video "The Wonderful World of Finches and Soft- bills: An Introduction"		Members & Affiliates: Non-Members:	\$17.00 \$22.00	
Show Cage Plans (see sizes below)			\$4.00	
All 3 Show Cage Plans			\$10.00	
NFSS Plastic Water Bottle			\$6.00	
NFSS Zebra Pin			\$5.00	
NFSS Gouldian Pin			\$6.00	
Eric Peake Lithograph The Diamond Firetails Signed by the artist		Now lower price:	\$35.00	
Name Badge (members only)		Print name at bottom of form.	\$5.00	
Past Bulletin Issues-1994 and later issues			\$4.00	
-1993 and earlier issues			\$3.00	
1992/93 NFSS Handbook		Look for new 1995 Handbook in the May/June 1995 Bulletin	\$12.00	

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS - updated in '93

- # 1 Cage Finches up to and including Zebras
- # 2 Cage Finches larger than Zebras
- # 3 Cage Softbills

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____ Member # _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Mail form and payment
(payable to NFSS) to

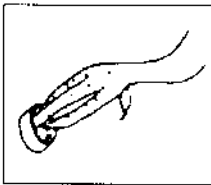
FINCHSHOP

c/o Pat & Mary Krichten
419 Third St.
Hanover, PA 17331

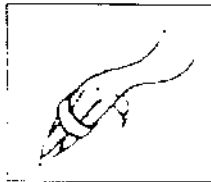
For more information call
(717) 632-8092

LEG BANDING PROCEDURE

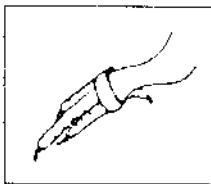
courtesy of
The National Finch and Softbill Society



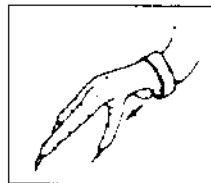
The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



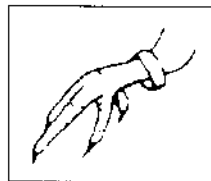
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



The band is generally placed on the bird's right leg. Banding just before the parents go to roost in the evening will prevent them from picking at the band. By the next morning they will have forgotten about it.



Hold the chick firmly but in such a way as to not cut off its breathing and so that you don't harm it. Remember, their bodies cannot tolerate compression. Put a little bit of lubricant on the chick's foot and slide the band over the three front toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be gently pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band now should be in the proper location between the ankle and the elbow joints.



Check on the chick the next few days to be sure that the band has not slipped off and that there are no scrapes or irritations on the foot or leg.

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide. Contact the home office.

size "A"

Small Waxbills
Gold-breasted Waxbill
Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Bicheno (Owl) Finch
Quail Finch
Red-eared Waxbill
Strawberry Finch

size "B"

Black-cheeked Waxbill
Cordon Bleu Waxbill
Cuban Melodious Finch
Fire Finch
Lavender Finch
Olive Finch
Rufous-backed Mannikin

size "C"

Black and White Mannikin
Blue-capped Waxbill
Bronze-winged Mannikin
Cherry Finch
Green Singing Finch
Grey Singing Finch
Heck's Shaftail
Painted Finch
Pileated Finch
Pytilias
Red-headed Parrot Finch
Shaftail Finch
Silverbills
Star Finch

size "D"

Blue-faced Parrot Finch
most other Parrot finches
Chestnut-breasted Finch
Gouldian Finch
Pictorella Finch
Pin-tailed Nonpareil
Yellow-rumped Finch
Zebra Finch

more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins
most Twinspots

size "E"

Black-crested Finch
Diamond Sparrow
Golden Song Sparrow
Nuns
Peter's Twinspot
Siskins
Society Finch
Spice Finch

size "G"

European Goldfinch
Magpie Mannikin
other large Mannikins
small Tanagers

size "J"

Pekin Robin
Silver-eared Mesia
other small softbills

size "K"

Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

BAND ORDER FORM

NFSS offers to members only closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFSS color of the year, the bands are engraved with the initials *NFSS*, size code, year and number. No choice of numbers.

NO RUSH ORDERS!
Allow 30 days from receipt of your order for delivery.
Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order.
Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent re-orders.

All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving membership number. Write "New" for membership # on order form.

BAND SIZE	# OF STRINGS	PRICE/ STRING	TOTAL AMT
A		\$2.75	
B		\$2.75	
C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
G		\$2.75	
J		\$2.75	
K		\$2.75	
L		\$2.75	

POSTAL INSURANCE:

Under \$50 - \$.75

From \$50 to \$100 - \$1.60

Over \$100 - \$2.50

If you choose not to include this sum NFSS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SUBTOTAL _____

INSURANCE _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail form and payment payable to **NFSS** to:

Ms. Eileen Laird
NFSS Band Secretary
1166 Village Forest Pl.
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 657-7989

The EXACT™ FACTS On Avian Nutrition

The fact is, when it comes to seed diets, most birds are selective. Some will nudge through the millet to snatch the sunflower seeds. Others prefer sunflower.

It's also a fact that different seed types possess nutrients in varying quantities. Key nutrients found in the neglected seeds are omitted. Even a diet of seeds, fruits and vegetables does not possess all of the nutrients a bird needs.

The best way to insure that a bird's primary diet meets its exact nutritional needs is to make each bite count. That's exactly what the Kaytee nutritional

team had in mind when it developed Exact and Exact Professional Diets.

Kaytee Exact combines wheat, corn, oats, eggs, vitamins and minerals into a crunchy, seed-shaped nugget. Each nugget contains the correct proportion of all nutrients for each bird type.

Avian-tested over a five-year period, breeders and researchers found Exact to be a nutritionally superior, complete diet. Birds will no longer leave important nutrients unmet because each nugget is Exact.

Everyone will love Exact's no-mess appeal too! There are no seed hulls or spit-over from hunting for favorite seeds.

And with Kaytee's tested approach and tips on converting to Exact, even the pickiest eaters can be converted in under 30 days.

Offer your birds exactly what they need in any stage to be healthy and live longer.

Exact Daily Feeding Formula - A nutritionally complete bird food designed for birds in all stages of adult life. Available in convenient

containers with formulations for Parrot, Cockatiel, Parakeet and Finch-Canary.

Exact Professional Diet - Maintenance Formula - Developed for use by professionals, this nutritionally complete bird food is designed for birds in all stages of adult life, with formulations for Parrots, Cockatiels, Parakeets and Finch-Canary.

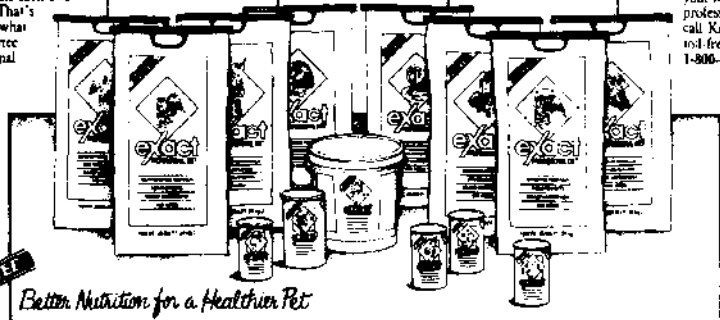
Exact Professional Diet - Breeding Formula - Developed for use by breeders and designed specifically for birds in the breeding and chick rearing stages

with formulations for Parrots, Cockatiels, Parakeets and Finch-Canary.

Exact Hand-Feeding Formula - A convenient, nutritionally complete formula for all hand-feeding has been tested by leading breeders across the country. It's simple and effective - all you add is water. Available in convenient buckets and 20 lb. buckets.

Meet your birds' exact needs with nutritionally superior products from Kaytee, America's nutritional experts. For more information contact

your local pet professional or call Kaytee toll-free 1-800-669-9580.



exact™ Formula	For Finch/Canary	For Parakeets	For Cockatiels	For Parrots
DAILY FEEDING	16 oz. Canister	16 oz. Canister	16 oz. Canister	12 oz. Canister
PROFESSIONAL DIET-MAINTENANCE	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper
PROFESSIONAL DIET-BREEDING	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper	25 lb. Paper

HAND-FEEDING FORMULA For Baby Birds: 22 oz. Canister & 20 lb. Bucket

Kaytee exact™ Exact nutrition, no mess.

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