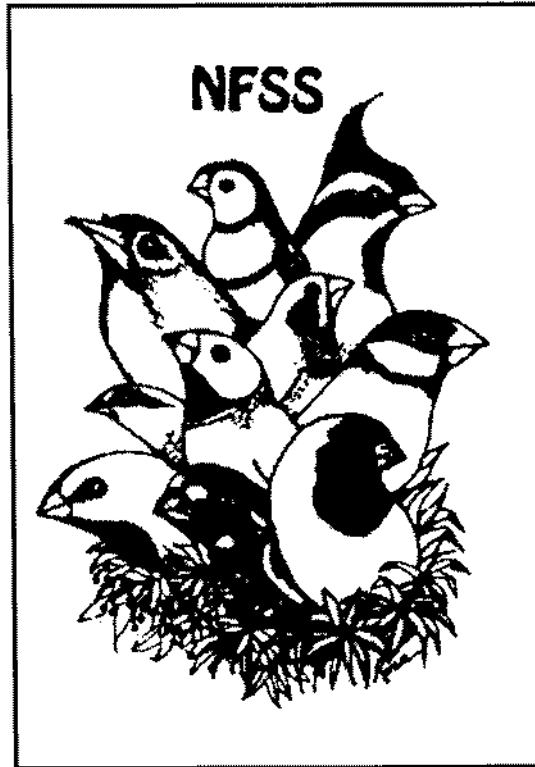


Sep/Oct  
2000  
Volume 17,  
No. 5

National Finch and Softbill Society



Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Pekin Robins (*Sally Huntington*)
- ◆ Serins, Ideal Cage Birds (*Ian Hinz*)
- ◆ Turkey Anyone? (*Sally Huntington*)
- ◆ Color Mutations (*Mary-origiana and Conlita*)
- ◆ Finches Play with Toys (*Diane Hardman*)
- ◆ Hand Rearing Eskikids (*Glen Holland*)

Coming Next Month

- ◆ Avian Conversations (*Liam Kigg, A Ross Bishop*)

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## The NFSS Bulletin

Home Office  
4310 Ascot Road, Hephzibah, GA 30815  
<http://NFSS.net>

Publisher: The National Finch and Softbill Society  
Editor: Steve Poc

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The NFSS Bulletin is published bi-monthly by the National Finch and Softbill Society. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the Bulletin:

Issue	Deadline for Submissions	Mailed (Target Date)
Volume 1. January/February	January 1st	February 1st
Volume 2. March/April	March 1st	April 1st
Volume 3. May/June	May 1st	June 1st
Volume 4. July/August	July 1st	August 1st
Volume 5. September/October	September 1st	October 1st
Volume 6. November/December	November 1st	December 1st

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## President's Message

These past couple months have been very busy for NFSS and for me personally. On a personal note, I started a new job a couple months ago that has required a considerable amount of training and study. Six weeks after I started we left on a two-week trip through Washington and Idaho. Very enjoyable and restful. Eileen might tell the story different when it comes to climbing Mount Rainier. Other than that, she had a good time!

For NFSS, the high point was NFSS's representation at the AFA convention. Our AFA representative, Vince Huntington and Regional Vice President Sally Huntington gave a well-received presentation on Hand Fed Finches and Quail. I look forward to reading about this in an article in the Bulletin. They also presented a "Lifetime Membership" award to Robert Black for his significant contributions to NFSS through print media. His well written, superbly edited books are valuable references to all aviculturalists who keep and breed Finches.

I am proud to announce that Darla Dandre will be assuming the duties of Awards Manager for NFSS commencing January 1, 2001. I want to thank Kerri McCoy and Ginny Allen for keeping everything together through 2000.

We do have two elected positions on the Board that are either open or soon will be. Jim Norman is relocating to a city outside Region 5. Dianna Rubly is getting married soon and starting a new life. She will be leaving the position of Liaison Officer December 31, 2000. Both positions are open for nominations to fill these valuable slots. Please send all nominations to me at Dale Laird, PO Box 2459, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or e-mail me at [dalel2@prodigy.net](mailto:dalel2@prodigy.net). The election for both positions will be by special ballot in the Nov/Dec issue of the bulletin.

I have formed a new committee headed by Daniel Almaguer to evaluate the Finchsav Committee and report back to the Board any recommendations for improvements.

As of this writing we are currently conducting the 3rd Quarter Board meeting. The minutes will be posted in the next issue of the Bulletin. Finally, the show season is well underway with shows happening all over the country every weekend. While it is nice to show birds, these events can be valuable to network for new blood-lines, breeding tips, and the opportunity to converse with your peers in aviculture. Take the time to check out a show in your area. You may find it to be considerably more than just a bird show. Until next issue, happy breeding and share the knowledge.

Dale Laird  
President NFSS

**ATTENTION!**  
**Nominations for Liaison Officer and  
Regions 3 & 5 Vice President are now open.**

The position of Liaison Officer is open effective January 1, 2001. Since this is an elected position, I will be accepting nominations for the position effective immediately. Nominations will close October, 30, 2000. Send nominations to the address below.

Due to personal reasons, Nita Haas and Jim Norman have tendered their resignation as Regions 3 & 5 Vice President, respectively. Again, I will be accepting nominations for the position effective immediately. Nominations will close October, 30, 2000. Send nominations to the address below.

Dale Laird  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL 32733  
dalel2@prodigy.net

## NFSS Awards Lifetime Membership

On August 5th, 2000, at the AFA convention in Los Angeles, Vince Huntington (NFSS representative to the AFA) presented the first ever *Lifetime Achievement and Membership Award*. In one of the closing ceremonies of the AFA convention, Vince presented the award to the author and long time bird antiquarian, Robert G. Black. Mr. Black is the internationally respected speaker and author of *Problems with Finches* (1980, 2nd Edition 1999), *Establishing a Strain in Aviculture* (1987, 2nd Edition 1998), and *Avian Nutrition* (1981, 2nd Edition 1999).

After gaining near unanimous NFSS support to make this unique presentation to a non-NFSS member, Vince Huntington spoke for the NFSS in front of over one hundred aviculture partisans. "Regarding 'expectations', if any," Vince declared, "NFSS requests nothing more of Mr. Black than he continue his great research and work..."

This impartial support for Mr. Black's research received a standing ovation. Afterward, Vince reports he received 'countless' hand shakes and congratulations to and for NFSS.

Below is an excerpt from a subsequent letter our Membership Director received from Mr. Black:

"I was presented with an appreciation plaque and a lifetime membership to NFSS at the 2000 AFA convention. I certainly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the club members who participated in the preparation for this presentation, and I hope my writings will continue to assist finch and softbill breeders for many years to come. I wish you the best of success with all of your birds! "

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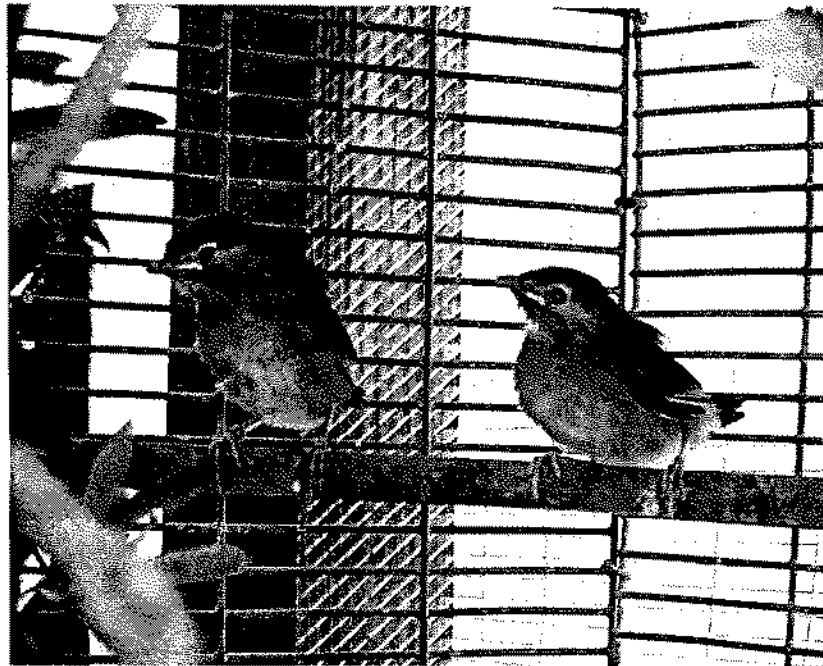
**Pekin Robins (*leiothrix lutea*)**  
Sally Huntington

We often say "what you see . . . is what you get." Some times that is true, sometimes not. With Pekin Robins - - it is all too true. There will be no more Pekin Robins brought to our shores. Also known as the Japanese Nightingale, Chinese Nightingale, Pekin and Redbilled Nightingale, this delightful bird, (which is neither a Robin nor a true Nightingale) is strictly written off the import list to America.

I am fortunate enough to have a great breeding pair in my San Diego aviary. I've learned some important idiosyncrasies of these birds which, if we expect to see more of these great birds in years to come, we must pay attention to. The most important lesson learned regarding Pekin Robins is that it takes a breeding pair 3 to 4 years to settle in before they produce young. Mine took 4 years, but now they give 3 to 4 clutches of 3 to 4 chicks every spring, beginning late March. My Robins live year-round outside in a covered, unheated, planted aviary about 2 miles from the ocean. Temperature averages 68-72, seldom below 40, and reaches the high 90's for only a few days in late summer.

Pekin Robins are a delight in a spaeious, planted flight. Mine is 8' X 5' by 6' tall. They are very gregarious, always curious and on the move. The cock has a charming song. They usually are not aggressive (allowing for the exception) so one pair can be kept in a mixed flight of finches. I've housed mine with Afriean Red-headed finches, Bar-throated Minlas and, of course, Zebras. They have lived with 2 pair of Timor sparrows and pair of button quail for the past 18 months, producing clutches both spring seasons.

Another idiosyncrasy of the Pekin Robins is that their chicks regularly fledge too early, 10-13 days (barley feathered) and many injure themselves or become chilled on the aviary floor. To prevent this, I have set up an "howdy-cage" which is a Brazilian cardinal breeding practice ala Edith Pendleton of Southern Florida. A standard breeding cage is fastened about 4' from the floor of the flight, its door tied open. This appears to give the Robins a sense of seclusion. and keeps the eager fledging chicks from falling from a high nest before they are strong enough to go. For the privacy or secluded feeling, the top of the "howdy-cage"



is covered with greens or shade cloth. They re-use a canary cup-nest which they arranged with coconut fibers the first year, and which they keep immaculate. The 3 to 4 pale blue-green speckled eggs, hatch in 12-13 days. I close-band them at 4 days.

While the robins are great bathers, jumping in and out several times a day, the story circulating that they need fresh running water before they'll breed, has not been true with my birds. I give them fresh bath water daily and drinking water from a *Lixit* bottle. I keep dry *ZuPreem Avian Breeder Diet* (Fruit-blend: cockatiel) colored pellets (Item #7750) always available. Daily, I feed *Zupreen* primate biscuits soaked (overnight) in (powered) *Gatoraid*, (blend as directed with water and water-soluble vitamins). In addition, I feed mealworms mixed with dry *Cede* egg-food. I feed some fresh grown seasonals - apples, mangos, and corn on the cob. Beginning in March, I increase mealworms from 20 per pair per day, to approx. 100 per pair. When the eggs are due to hatch (12 - 13 days' incubation) I increase the amount of worms to 300 per day, or more if they are eating them all. Parents initially feed only worms to the new hatchlings. After a few days they gradually begin feeding some of the

soaked biscuit. The parents continue to feed 3 weeks or so after the birds fledge. The first thing the babies seem to eat on their own is the soaked biscuit.

I have hand-raised two Pekin robin babies (a female 1<sup>st</sup>, and a brother from a clutch a year later). They initially imprinted on me as any bird might. The male compliments me by imitating (exactly) my poor version of a Pekin Robin song. In addition, he has the correct song, which he uses to call his sister and other Robins in the outside aviary. When I put the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand-raised bird in with the first, they seemed to imprint on one another and have become inseparable. This pair has now lived indoors for 2 years. I have not set them up to breed.

Sally Huntington



## Serins, the Ideal Cage Birds

by Ian Hinze

Like so many other early breeding successes that of the Yellow-crowned or Cape Canary (*Serinus canicollis*), first bred in Britain by P. W. Teague in 1927, has proven to be short-lived. Why is this? Is it because breeders feel the greatest prestige is with a first breeding and, therefore, once achieved it is imperative to move on to a fresh "challenge"? Surely the greatest challenge (and thrill!) of all is to breed to successive generations! I strongly believe that this is the answer. Instead of "gold" medals or first awards going to a new breeding they should go, instead, to successive generation breedings.

The domesticated Canary, derived from the wild type (*Serinus canarius*), as well as regular breeding successes with the Green Singing Finch (*S. mozambicus*) and Gray Singing Finch (*S. leucopygius*), have proven how only too willing the Serins are to breed. Indeed, this extremely homogenous genus possesses species ripe for domestication - and yet aviculturists have failed to take up such a worthwhile venture.

Although performances are very variable between the species Serins are noted for their accomplished singing and the Yellow-crowned Canary is no exception. Its song is likened to that of the Canary and is particularly reminiscent of that of the Roller Canary, with its series of rolling trills and warbles.

The species has a very pleasant appearance with the six races of South and East Africa divided into two principal types: males of the southern races have a pale gray hindcrown, nape and sides of the neck, while those of East Africa have the forehead and crown bright yellow with a dull green nape and mantle.

The nominate race, *S. c. canicollis*, from South Africa is the most familiar to aviculturists so, for the purpose of this article, I shall concentrate on it. It is around 13 cm (5-5¼ in) and the adult male has the forehead, crown, sides of the head and the chin to the under tail coverts of yellow. The neck and nape are of pale gray and the rest of the upperparts are of olive yellow streaked with gray, apart from the rump which is without streaks. The female is duller than her mate, the gray extends to the crown and the mantle is gray and duskily streaked. Her underparts are of a duller yellow and the gray on the sides of her neck extends across the breast and may meet, otherwise she is like the male. The juvenile resembles the female but is gray to buff on the head and throat and is streaked with dusky.

It is a common bird of open country or woodland and may occur in pairs or small family groups when breeding, otherwise it is found in flocks which sometimes consist of hundreds of individuals. Large numbers are especially seen at a concentrated food source, such as ripe sunflower. Foraging for food is usually done on the ground or by perching on the stems of seeding plants.

In captivity, like all Serins, the Yellow-crowned Canary must be housed one breeding pair to their own cage. I have experimented with various cages and aviaries over a long avicultural career and have concluded that for lightness, ease of cleaning, stackability and (of especial importance for me these past five years due to two quick house moves) the wooden box-cage is the best. I have recently designed my own (contact Daniel Alma-guer for illustrations), which are long-lasting and, being virtually maintenance-free, provide real cost-effectiveness.

Some Yellow-crowned Canaries have proven to be delicate on arrival so it is vital to at first house them in temperatures above 15° Celsius (60°F). Once settled, however, they become cheerful and very active, the male's delightful song indicative of his contentment. The staple diet for my own Serins consists of 50% Foreign Finch mixture and 50% British Finch mixture. Apple cores are much appreciated, as is broccoli. When available I also provide handfuls of natural seeding grasses.

During the breeding season a Canary nest pan, complete with nest-felt, should be screwed to the back of the cage and, until one's pairs are proven breeders, it may be necessary to drape a light cloth over the front of the cage opposite the nest-site to afford the sitting female privacy. Nesting materials should consist of dried grasses (including fine), small narrow twigs, moss, leaves, rootlets and wool, etc. If all goes well, 3-4 eggs will be laid and these will be incubated by the female alone for up to 16 days. The male regurgitates food to the female while she is sitting on the nest and the young, which are fed by both parents, fledge after 15-19 days.

Prior to and throughout the breeding season eggfood should be provided along with plenty of natural ripe and half-ripe grass seeds. It is also important to offer white skinned mini-mealworms, waxworms and other soft-skinned insect larvae until one can be sure that one's birds are able to rear their young on a completely inanimate diet. Once independent the youngsters must be removed and may be housed in a spacious flight cage together.

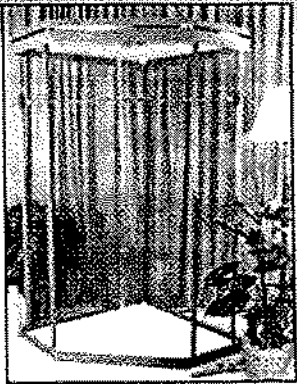
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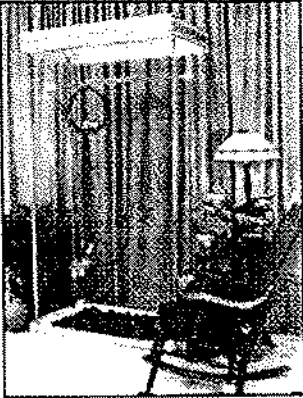
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## Turkey anyone?

(NFSS at the AFA convention)

By Vince Huntington

On Saturday, August 5th, at the AFA convention in Los Angeles, Sally Huntington (NFSS 6th regional vice president) and Vince Huntington ("Sallys Husband") presented an NFSS sponsored one hour workshop entitled - Hand Raised, Hand Fed Finches and Soft-bills As Companion Birds.

A group of about 30 AFA conventioners gathered at the NFSS presentation that found the Huntingtons sitting inside a 12 by 8 foot netted enclosure made especially for the presentation. Surrounded by small cages which faced away from their audience, the Huntingtons introduced, one by one, several hand raised and hand fed birds. . . to the pleasure, entertainment and education of everyone present.

When introduced, the birds sat on fingers or shoulders, or made their way calmly around the enclosure as Sally delivered a brief history of each bird. including how it was hand fed, on what, and for how long. The hero of the show was to be a male Red Headed Finch who was hatched on Thanksgiving Day 1999, thus named Turkey. Turkey was to show off how Sally had experimented with the brief song & language-window that is opened for many finches within a few days or weeks after hatching. Turkey, was to speak out and say "Oh Turkey" and "Turkey, out, Turkey, Turkey"

Well, as expected, Turkey did not utter a word.

Vince and Sally continued their presentation. They brought forth - Who - a 5 month old Bicheno (Owl) Finch who was colony bred in a flight that included African Mouse-birds. Who was joined by a 2 inch long Yellow-legged Honeycreeper named Gem. Gem (and a nest mate) had been parent hatched in a 2-1/2 by 2-1/2 by 4 cage in their living room in San Diego. They had been provided 15 hours of vita lighting, plenty of tiny mealworms, 24-hour heat lamp and a cape honeysuckle plant to hide in. Sally took Gem to raise and study, and left the mate with the parents.

Bucket and Squeegie. joined Who and Gem. Squeegie, an Orange Cheeked Waxbill had been neglected by parents in an outside flight. Bucket, an Orange-Breasted Gray Zebra Finch, when a week old, was brought in to provide Squeegie with a "warm-friend". As expected. Bucket and Squeegie are fast friends.



While new birds were brought forth, including Marty, a Blue-Gray Tanager, Fernando, a Brazilian Red Crested Cardinal, Hershey, a chocolate Self-Society Finch, Stilton, their 4 year old Blue Nape Mousebird, and Kuchuing, a two week old Pekin Robin, wouldn't you know, Turkey remained mute.

While everyone waited for Turkey to speak his name, Sally brought forth Paul Williams, a Blue Button Quail (named after a button quail fancier), and Fluffy, a 4 year old silver Button. Contrary to all expectations of the usually panicky and quick-to-fly-straight-up-and-bust-their-heads Button Quail, this pair sat calmly while Vince scratched their necks and explained - though Buttons appear to be self reliant when born, they are actually much like baby chicks. They mimic their mother's eating behavior, which, Sally discovered, is duplicated by letting the baby-button peck egg-food from a fingertip. They then imprint, and remain calm birds. Paul Williams and Fluffy spent the rest of the presentation calmly walking about the table and floor of the enclosure.

Turkey, however, remained silent as Sally answered numerous questions about hand taming and making companion birds out of Finches and Softbills. Regarding Turkey, there were a few looks of: "yeah-sure-he-says-his-name" on some faces as the meeting adjourned, but most seemed to understand oppositional kid-like behavior when they saw it. .

Time between presentations did not permit taking down the netted enclosure so the hand-raised birds were left in the room. While Vince and Sally took their turn working at the NFSS booth, Jan Beatrous, (sponsored by the African Parrot Society) used the room to make her well-prepared presentation on Pet Bird Theft Prevention.

Afterward, for a roundtable discussion of the day's presentations, the Huntingtons returned to the room to discover that throughout Jan's lecture, Turkey, perhaps bored, perhaps regretting having let Vince & Sally down, perhaps cautious as Jan spoke of bird's being stolen, began announcing. . . loud and clear, "Turkey, Turkey. Hey, Turkey . . . Turkey out."

To the Huntington's chagrin, Turkey would now not shut up. Brought out of the netting to sit on fingertips and shoulders, he loudly and proudly repeatedly announced his name. . . proving to everyone's satisfaction that the late Luis Baptista's research had been correct. There is a window for language learning in most of these small birds.

Let us learn more.

## Sex-linked color mutations in the Society Finch (*Lonchura striata*)

by Michael Marcotrigiano and Garry P. Landry

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\* \* \* \* \*

The society finch has been cage bred for a longer time than any other finch species. Yet, until the mid 1980's there were no recorded sex-linked mutations. This seems amazing since sex-linked traits existed in so many other cage birds for so many years. But low and behold, on two different continents and at about the same time, two separate and very unique sex-linked mutations appeared in *Lonchura striata*. In Europe, the lovely ino or "creamino" mutation was discovered. This mutation is a single gene recessive sex-linked trait. Creamino changes the eye color to ruby red and turns the typical dark society finch into a much paler creamy color. In the chocolate background, (or European black brown) the ino mutation makes for a lovely deep creamy color with pinkish overtones. Although the gene works in combination with the color mutations "chestnut" and "fawn", it is not commonly bred into a double mutation with either chestnut or fawn since all that is accomplished is an overdilution of pigment resulting in a faded fawn color. Ino is sometimes combined with the modifying gene "gray" in a chocolate or black brown background to produce a very light gray rather than a cream color. This combination is called "grayino". The ino hens and males appear identical in color and sexing society finch inos is accomplished, as usual, by behavior rather than appearance unless the correct crosses are performed as you will see later.

The second sex-linked mutation was found in Japan. Among a group of chocolate pied birds in a pet shop, a notable Japanese breeder saw a chestnut-colored pied bird with the chestnut interrupted by patches of gray/silver sheen. The bird was purchased and was later determined to be a hen. With careful record keeping, the silvery trait was discovered to be, like creamino, a sex-linked recessive mutation. The mutation was worked into a chocolate self background for over ten years. With each generation, birds with increasing amounts of silver color were saved and paired to the darkest of chocolates. The new mutation was called the "pearl". Like the ino, it was discovered that in the pearl, a single gene controls the trait but unlike the

ino the expression is extremely variable and somewhat unpredictable. It is by far the most unique pigment mutation in the society finch. It not only changes the dark chocolate color to a chestnut color but it also silverizes distinct portions of the bird classifying the mutation as a patterning gene. In modern pearls, the head is striking silver (especially impressive in crested birds), the wings and tail have a strong silver sheen, and if you are lucky the chest patch is dotted with a pearl necklace. We have noticed that with some of the better pearls (those expressing lots of silver), the hens tend to have a more washed out color with regard to the chestnut, and the silvering tends to blend into the background with less contrast. This is possibly caused by the fact that the male bird has two doses of the gene since it is sex-linked and the hen has only one dose. But this is just a thought and with time it may turn out that both sexes express the trait equally. Unlike creamino, where all inos are essentially alike, pearls are very variable ranging from hardly silver to almost completely silver. This can make for frustrating times when a nest box contains all "bad" pearls hardly distinguishable from chestnuts. But when a great one is seen in the nest box, you get goose bumps.

Pearl has been combined with the recessive gray gene to make gray pearls. These look like chestnut gray birds with a pearl silvery sheen. Several of these have been produced in Japan and a few of these have been produced in the USA. Both of us feel that the concept of this combination is more intriguing than the outcome. We both prefer a highly contrasting normal pearl to the gray pearl.

Having sex-linked color traits is a treat in a species where males and females are difficult to tell apart. By performing the correct pairing it is possible to sex babies in one specific case as will be seen later. Keep in mind that with sex-linked traits hens are either mutant or normal while males can be mutant, split, or normal.

Those with years of experience recommend not to breed creamino to creamino. Pearl to pearl can be done but eventually quality is lost. Lost quality can be regained by crossing pearls to very dark chocolates. It is important to understand the outcome of crosses using these sex-linked mutations. Remember that calculated ratios are for the "ideal" case and it would take many many offspring for the numbers to fall into place. After all, we all know human couples with three or four boys and no girls or vice versa when ideally it should be one to one.

The following pairings with their results are presented (note: the word 'pearl' can replace 'ino - they work the same since both are recessive sex-linked mutations).

1) normal hen x normal cock yields - 1:1 normal hens: normal cocks

2) normal hen x split to ino cock yields - 1:1:1:1 normal hens: ino hens:  
normal cocks: split to ino cocks

The above pairing results in some ino hens even though both parents look at face value to be normal chocolates. However, the male offspring will all look normal but half will actually be splits making it impossible to tell which of the males is split without doing more pairings to ino hens.

3) normal hen x ino cock yields - 1:1 ino hens and split to ino cocks

The above pairing let's you sex the all babies in the nest box and results in only one type of male!

4) ino hen x normal cock yields - 1:1 normal hens: split to ino cocks

5) ino hen x split to ino cock yields - 1:1:1:1 normal hens: ino hens: split to  
ino cocks: ino cocks

Just a few years ago there would have been no discussion in the society finch community in the USA about sex-linked traits. But then came the recent importations from Europe (Bob Rittmann) and Japan (Michael Marco-trigiano, Garrie Landry, Shempei Tauguchi). Now we are having a ball doing the pairings and obtaining beautiful offspring. Gee, I wonder what an ino pearl would look like?

Note: This article was written while MM was visiting GPL for Mardi Gras at an hour when only the insane are awake. We are in no way responsible for its contents since we were waited down by fried food and Mardi Gras beads and had been drinking tall glasses of fermented plant products.

For pictures of inos and pearls see our web pages at [exoticfinches.com](http://exoticfinches.com) and [societyfinches.com](http://societyfinches.com)

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**ATTENTION!**  
**Nominations for Liaison Officer and**  
**Regions 3 & 5 Vice President are now open.**

**See page 6 for details**

## **Finches Play With Toys, Too**

by Diane Hardman

Most of the people I know who keep and/or raise finches don't provide them with toys other than perhaps a swing. However, I've found that finches can and will play with appropriately sized toys, especially when exposed to them at an early age.

When I raised zebra finches I found toys particularly helpful in the breeding cages, as the cocks would take out any frustration and aggression on the toys instead of the hen or chicks. Only once did I have a cock that plucked his hen and he was a purchased bird who had never been exposed to toys and didn't know what to do with them.

My favorite toy for the finches is called a "G-swing". It is made of plastic and shaped like a "G" with a bell hanging on the open side. There is a straight wire across the top with several colored beads on it. It's just the right size for most finches. I've also found that they will play with small hanging toys with colorful beads and small bells, although the "G-swing" has always been their favorite (and the cheapest, too!). Hanging toys must be close to the perch and hung low so that the birds can reach them easily. I usually hang mine so that the bottom of the toy is about even with, and almost touching, the perch.

I've found that you have to search for the smaller toys, since most of those in pet stores seem to be made for Cockatiel/Conure size birds and larger. However, you can add a little variety to your finches' lives and I think you'll make them a bit happier, too, if you go to the trouble to find the right toys for them.

End

### **Continued from page 13, Serins, the Ideal Cage Birds**

Keepers of Foreign birds that like to house a mixed collection are likely to be put off Serins because of their aggressive nature at breeding time. However, when housed in their separate cages there are few birds to match them. Male Serins, generally, have captivating songs and will increase their proficiency through competing with one another. Also, Serins have attractive plumage which, in the main, is yellow or yellow-to-white and marked or streaked with black and various shades of green. They are also capable of living for over 10 years, with 20 years and more being achieved. All things considered, Serins are the ideal cage birds.

End

## **HAND REARING ESTRILIDS**

**by Glen Holland**

If Bengalese (society) finches are available they can be used to foster these chicks. With species such as the Aurora, which is larger than the Bengalese, two chicks should be fostered or three with birds of the same or a smaller size than the Bengalese. Successful rearing will depend on the willingness of the Bengalese to take and feed a high protein diet to the chicks. They usually feed their chicks on little other than seed and this will not suffice for most Estrilids.

For hand rearing very young finches the opening of the syringe is decreased by using a tom cat catheter which can be cut at the appropriate length/thickness. Crop needles are not recommended. Chicks can be hatched in an incubator set at 37.2 °C (99 °F) with a humidity of between 60 and 65 %. Eggs are turned three times per day and chicks seldom need any help when hatching. Newly hatched birds remain in an incubator at the same temperature and are placed in a small tissue paper towel lined bowl.

Those species that sway their heads while feeding are best restrained with the spare hand while feeding. If the food is allowed to cool, the chicks will immediately cease feeding (feed food at body temperature). While feeding, allow the chick to swallow completely and resume begging before attempting to feed the next portion. These newly hatched chicks are fed hourly from 6 am to 10 pm. Chicks which are initially too small to receive the tip of a syringe can be fed with the flat tip of a toothpick. The entire tip of the toothpick with a little rearing food is placed in the mouth and, once the chick begins to swallow, the toothpick is gently removed, allowing the chick to swallow the food.

At this stage a full crop will appear as a fat neck. Some chicks even when the crop is full will continue to beg, and care should be taken not to over feed. As newly hatched chicks are extremely susceptible to bacterial and other infections, cleanliness is extremely important. Always refrigerate any unused portions of formula in a covered container. Unless it is kept frozen, do not keep food overnight. After the

final feed at night the chicks should be left in darkness because in the light the crop will empty more quickly. The first week of hand rearing Estrildids is the most difficult and if you get past this point you can start to feel a little more confident. After the third day the temperature is decreased by 1 °C (1.8 °F) per day until a temperature of 25 °C (77 °F) is reached. At this point the chicks should be well feathered.

At a week old the chicks are separated into groups of two to three birds of similar size and each group placed in a teff grass lined plastic container. This teff grass is replaced every three days. A bowl of water to avoid dehydration was included in the brooder. Once the chicks reach a week old they are fed every 1 & 1/2 hours between 6 am and 10 pm. Within an hour of being placed in the brooder the chicks begin to beg for food when any vibration occurs at the nest. Cries from the first chick soon stimulate all the others to begin soliciting for food. This food is fed warm (not hot) and the mixture must have a loose porridge consistency. Newly hatched chicks require a more liquid diet than older chicks. The first 2-3 feeds can be for hydration only and should consist of either ringers lactate, gastrolyte or vitrate.

The rearing food I prepare should consist of the following: -

Tablespoon of Kaytee hand rearing

Three drops of sunflower oil.

Sufficient boiled egg yolk to just cover the tip of a teaspoon and an equal amount of peanut butter are added.

Hot water is added to the peanut butter and boiled egg yolk and then, once dissolved, a heaped teaspoon of dry rearing food and the remainder of the ingredients are added.

Two drops of liquid multivitamin such as Vidalin is added once a day.

Other than the fact that the chicks need for some fat in the diet, a further advantage of a little vegetable oil was found in that it lubricates the syringe alleviating the problems of a jammed stopper. The food is best prepared fresh at each feed. Ensure food is never fed too hot as this will burn the chicks crop. The entire tip of the syringe is placed well into the chicks gape when feeding. Each bird is given

one short gentle squirt into the back of the gape and feeding rotated amongst the group, thus giving each bird a chance to swallow the food properly. At a week old the small chicks take about 1 ml of food - 0,35 ml at a time as they are not capable of swallowing the full 1 ml in one feed. Birds of an estimated 10 days take 1,5 ml per feed and 2 ml (0,5 ml at a time), by 14 days.

Some Estrildids such as parrot finch chicks beg with the head and neck pointing directly upwards, not twisted down and backwards as with many of the Estrildids including the mannikins. Small mannikin chicks beg with the head pointing upward but once well feathered their posture changes to a head down position with the neck twisted so that the beak faces upwards. Once this head down posture is adopted, with the African mannikins, their habit of lifting one wing vertically into the air also begins. The wing lifted is usually the one on the opposite side from which food is being offered. This is done to exclude siblings and ensures that the individual covering the others is fed first. This habit makes it essential to separate the chicks. Feeding a group larger than four birds is made difficult as they all lift one wing and clamber over one another. Most Estrildid chicks make a similar "chit-chit-chit" call when soliciting for food.

At the age of 7 - 9 days the chicks are fitted with close rings. A word of warning with the rings is to keep an eye on them in case the ring slips forward locking all four toes in the forward position. By 12 days of age this can no longer happen. At two weeks the temperature in the brooder should be dropped to 25 °C (77 °F). At this stage feathers begin to show well and they are fed every two hours. I once had to leave chicks for four hours without a feed but this would prove fatal if done on a regular basis.

The bright tubercles of some Estrildids are still obvious at 18 days old, at which time the chicks are ready to fledge and they begin to jump out of the containers. For the two days previous to fledging the chicks become extremely alert and also begin to mandibulate on the coarse pieces of food in their mixture. Immediately after fledging their demands for food decrease for a while but they soon begin to make up for this. They are then placed together and after about five days they begin to peck at the food and they also attempt their first bath. At this stage the fledglings can be offered dry and sprouted



seed with a little moistened softfood and a bowl of water. By twelve days they are eating well enough to slowly reduce feeds to three per day and then to two. They are then placed in a cage, which has a source of warmth, and a nest receptacle is also made available, with all the birds usually sleeping in this at night. Often one or two birds sleep on top of the rest of the group in the nest. Green grass seed heads are also scattered on the cage floor and the birds enjoy not only the seeds but also they "chew" on the stalks and feed on the juice from these as well. The floor of the cage is covered in teff grass, the seeds of which they also feed on.

Once the chicks are feeding well they lose interest in the syringe and can then be weaned over a period of a few days. As a word of warning it takes longer than two weeks (as many popular books will tell you), to wean many of the Estrilids. It is also advisable not to be in too much of a hurry to either remove the extra warmth or to keep them too warm, both of which will result in soft chicks which will never adapt successfully to aviary life. While rearing the chicks, I regularly had to travel and even overnight away from home. On these trips the chicks and their nest were placed in a small cooler box which contained a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel. A cloth covered the entire nest as well.

Three weeks after fledging they are placed, together with their nest, in an outdoor suspended cage of 1,2 square meters. Seed is initially scattered on the aviary floor to ensure the birds do not struggle to find food. Softfood is supplied in the bowl with which they are familiar. As with adult birds, the soft food mixture and seeding grasses are favored over the dry seed mix. Most species are fully colored by 4 months of age.

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The ESTRILDIAN is produced for the purpose of relating the most up to date information on all species belonging to the family Estrildidae both in the wild and in captivity. Within its 124 species are all of the *Waxbills*, *Parrot Finches*, *Mannikins* and *Australian finches*. The aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world. The magazine is sent to 13 different countries ranging from Australia to Puerto Rico and has many leading Zoo's, Aviculturists and Researchers as both members and contributors. With well over 100 members in the USA, we have now been able to reduce our overseas subscription rates.

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Show:	Sep 30	Badger Canary Fanciers	Appleton, WI
Judge:		Tom Rood	
Show:	Sep 30-Oct 1	Toledo Bird Association	Toledo, OH
Judge:		Charlie Anchor	
Show:	Oct 1	W.I.N.G.S. Bird Society	Appleton, WI
Judge:		TBA	
Show:	Oct 7	Fort Worth Bird Club	Colleyville, TX
Judge:		Charlie Anchor	
Show:	Oct 7	The Finch Connection	Colleyville, TX
Judge:		Charlie Anchor	
Show:	Oct 7	Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Society	TN State Fairgrounds
Judge:		Ken Gunby	
Show:	Oct 7-8	Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida	Miramar, FL
Judge:		Steve Hoppin 1st day; Cecil Gunby 2d day	
Show:	Oct 7-8	Society of Canary & Finch Breeders	Livonia, MI
Judge:		Conrad Meinert	
Show:	Oct 13-15	Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society	Windsor, Ontario
Judges:		Vincent Moase and Sam Crabbe	
Show:	Oct 14	Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma	OKC, OK
Judge:		Laura Bewley	
Show:	Oct 14	Essex-Kent Cagebird Society	Windsor, Ontario
Judge:		Vincent Moase and Sam Crabbe	
Show:	Oct 14	Massachusetts Cage Bird Society	Bellingham, MA
Judge:		Nizam Ali	
Show:	Oct 14	Mid America Cage Bird Society	Des Moines, IA
Judge:		Tom Rood	
Show:	Oct 21	Baltimore Bird Fanciers	Parkville, MD
Judge:		Miki Spartzak	

- Show: Oct 21 Capitol City Bird Society Sacramento, CA  
Judge: Julie Duimstra
- Show: Oct 21 Great Lakes Avicultural Society Rockford, MI  
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- Show: Nov 25-26 Natl Inst of Red Orange Canaries Elk Grove Village, IL  
Judge: Dale Laird

Show: Nov 25 Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club  
Judge: Steve Hoppin Santa Clara, CA

Show: Dec 1-3 Colorbred Canary Club of Miami No location/judge listed

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 Groton, MA 01450  
 Phone: 603-672-4568  
 Fax: 603-672-3120  
 Email: spbel@aol.com

**Daren Decoteau**  
 89 Pleasantview Avenue  
 Stratford, CT 06497  
 Phone: 203-377-2049  
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**Julie Duimstra**  
 4201 NE 125th Place #163  
 Portland, OR 97230  
 503-261-8788 Email:  
 julie.duimstra@gte.net

**Cecil Gunby**  
 8121 Route 1, Hwy. 54  
 Sharpsburg, GA 30277  
 Phone/Fax: 770-254-1261

**Sally Huntington**  
 5634 Carnegie Street  
 San Diego, CA 92122  
 858-452-9423  
 Email: huntington-center  
 @worldnet.att.net

**Ray Johnson**  
 175 Stoneridge Way  
 Fayetteville, GA 30214  
 770-461-8675

**Clayton Jones**  
 P. O. Box 266  
 Soquel, CA 95073  
 Phone: 831-728-8676

**Hai M. Koontz**  
 2604 Auburn Ct.  
 Bakersfield, CA 93306  
 Phone: 805-872-1063  
 Fax: 805-634-1147  
 Email:  
 Hkoontz@atsecure.net

**Joseph Krader**  
 2910 Alps Road  
 Corona, CA 91719  
 Phone: 909-272-6525

**Dale Laird**  
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 Phone: 407-657-7989  
 Email: dalel2@prodigy.net

**Armando Lee**  
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 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net

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 7446 Glasgow Road  
 Brooksville, FL 34613-7466  
 Phone: 352-596-3376  
 Email: doveart@atlantic.net

**Brian Mandarich**  
 4743 E. Hedges Avenue  
 Fresno, CA 93703  
 Phone: 209-255-6508

**Teri McAuliffe**  
 269 Thames Drive  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 80906  
 Phone: 719-576-9009  
 Fax: same  
 Email: jnglp:ds@aol.com

**Tom Rood**  
 313 N. Broadway  
 Shelbyville, IL 62565  
 Phone: 217-774-5265  
 Email:  
 tjrood@bmmhnet.com

**Christine Voronovitch**  
 38 Liberty Street  
 Manchester, CT 06040  
 Phone: 860-649-8220

**Conrad Meinert**  
 1212 E. 300 South  
 Warsaw, IN 46580-8736  
 Phone: 219-269-2873  
 Fax: 219-269-3142  
 Email: BirdmanofWar-  
 saw@kconline.com

**Marion Miki Spartzak**  
 517 Old North Point Road  
 Baltimore, MD 21224  
 Phone: 410-282-9233  
 Email: spbe2@aol.com

**Martha Wigmore**  
 18913 Boston St. NW  
 Elk River, MN 55330-1155  
 Phone/Fax: (763) 241-0071

**William G. Parlee**  
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 Vernon, CT 06066  
 Phone: 860-569-0200  
 Email: bilhftdet@aol.com

**Patrick Vance**  
 18175 Avilla  
 Lathrup Village, MI 48076  
 Phone: 248-443-0643

**Paul S. Williams**  
 703 Donegal Drive  
 Papillion, NE 68046  
 Phone: 402-592-5488  
 Email:  
 RolTide@ix.netcom.com

### Changing your address?

Allow NFSS to be the first to greet you at your new home!

Be sure to notify:

Club Delegates also notify:

NFSS Membership Director  
 Eileen Laird  
 P.O. Box 2459  
 Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459

NFSS Liaison Officer  
 Dianna Rubly  
 525 Pottsville Street, PO Box 52  
 Wiconisco, PA 17097-0052.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

**2000 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT**

The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00. Make check payable to NFSS.

Mail to: Dianna Rubly, Liaison Officer  
525 Pottsville Street, PO Box 52  
Wiconisco, PA 17097-0052.  
Phone/Fax: 717-453-9095

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_  
NFSS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*NFSS may use this information in the NFSS Bulletin and on the web site.

Delegate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Show/Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Panel Judge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Show Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send NFSS Bulletin to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list other fairs or events hosted by your club for listing in the Bulletin. Please include dates, locations, and a contact member with phone number and/or email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AWARD ORDER FORM FOR SHOWS/EVENTS

Award order forms for shows and events will be sent to each affiliated club as soon as possible after the affiliation papers are processed by the Liaison Officer, Dianna Rubly. Allow a minimum of eight weeks before the actual show/event to process the order. The form and fee *must* accompany the order.

The prices remain the same, however, we have added a new rosette. Many clubs have indicated a desire to have an official Novice rosette with the NFSS logo. These have been designed and will be available for \$5.00. There are no NFSS rules regarding this award. Each club will set its own standard.

These are the 1999 awards available:

Ck Box	<b>PLAQUES</b> All plaques are \$25 each. They are walnut finish with the engraved NFSS logo on brass over black plate on one side and the club information on brass over black plate on the other side of the plaque. They can also be customized by each club.	Cost
	Service/Breeder Award Plaque (6"x 8")	\$25.00
	"Best in Show" Plaque (6"x 8")	\$25.00
	"Second Best in Show" Plaque (6"x 8")	\$25.00
	"Third Best in Show" Plaque (6"x 8")	\$25.00
	"Best Softbill in Show" Plaque (6"x 8")	\$25.00
	<b>ROSETTES</b>	
	The basic set consists of ten 15" long rosettes for the ten best finches or softbills, plus one best unflighted rosette. Unflighted birds are those banded with 1999 bands.	
	Basic Rosette Package	\$35.00
	Unflighted 2nd and 3rd place rosettes	\$7.00
	Novice Rosette	\$5.00
	<b>Total amount of check payable to NFSS</b>	

For more information on awards, contact the Awards Manager:

Ginny Allen  
307 Brookwood Court  
Opelika, AL 36801  
Phone/Fax: (334) 749-7168  
Email: gndallen@earthlink.net

**The National Finch and Softbill Society  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Renew NFSS#? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Dues:

Single: \$25  Dual: \$30  Junior (under 16) \$12.50

\* 2nd name for Dual Membership \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. & Puerto Rico 1st Class mailing add \$5.00  
Canadian add \$5.00, Foreign add \$10.00 (Please send US funds)  
Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1st Class.

NFSS thanks you for your support!

Mail application and check or  
money order payable to NFSS:  
Eileen Laird  
Membership Secretary  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459  
(407) 657-7989

<p><b>The National Finch and Softbill Society</b>  <b>FinchSave Application</b></p>
---

Interested in joining FinchSave? Please fill out the below preliminary information and send to the FinchSave Manager, Mr. Daniel Almaguer. Upon receipt of this form, you will receive a complete information package outlining all aspects of the FinchSave Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS# \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to accomplish through FinchSave?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

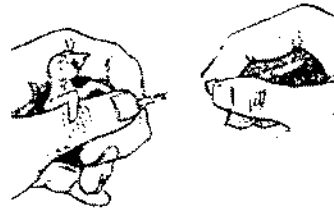
\_\_\_\_\_

<p>Mail this completed form to:          FinchSave Manager          Daniel Almaguer          P.O. Box 535015          Orlando, FL 32853-3015          Phone: (407) 894-3808          Fax: (407) 894-6400          Email: DRAFinch@aol.com</p>
---

**Thank you for supporting aviculture's foremost  
 cooperative breeding program.  
 You CAN make a difference!**

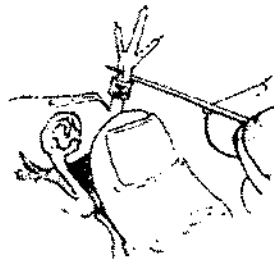
## The National Finch and Softbill Society Banding Procedures

The 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 help 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 should now be in the proper location between the ankle and the elbow joint.



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 Band Order Form

Mail form and payment payable to NFSS:  
 Carol Heesen  
 NFSS Band Secretary  
 P.O. Box 752  
 Riverbank, CA 95367

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 NFS, size code, year and number. There is no choice of numbers. All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number.

Write "New" for membership number on the order form. Orders processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures. **\$1.00 handling fee effective 3/1/99.**

Band Size	# of Strings	Price per string	Total Amount
A		\$3.25	
B		\$3.25	
C		\$3.25	
D		\$3.25	
E		\$3.25	
G		\$3.25	
J		\$3.25	
K		\$3.25	
L		\$3.25	
M		\$3.25	
R		\$3.25	
S		\$3.25	
T		\$3.25	

**Postal Insurance:** Under \$50 = \$.85  
 From \$50 - \$100 = \$1.80 Over \$100=\$2.75  
 If you choose NOT to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handling **\$1.00**  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**The National Finch and Softbill Society  
Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands**

Bird Species	Size	Bird Species	Size
Aracaris	S	Gouldian Finch	D
Black & White Mannikin	C	Green Singing Finch	C
Black Cheeked Waxbill	B	Green/Purple Starlings	R
Black Crested Finch	E	Grey Singing Finch	C
Blue Capped Waxbill	C	Heck's Shaftail	C
Blue Head Parrot Finch	D	Hornbills (small)	T
Bronze Wing Mannikin	C	Indian Hill Mynah	S
Cherry Finch	C	Java Mynah	S
Chestnut Breast Finch	D	Java Rice Bird	K
Cordon Blue Waxbill	B	Lavender Finch	C
Cuban Melodious Finch	B	Leaf Birds	M
Diamond Dove	L	Magpie Mannikin	G
Diamond Sparrow	E	Mannikins (most smaller)	D
Dove (other small)	L	Mannikins (other larger)	G
European Goldfinch	J	Nuns	E
European Greenfinch	E	Olive Finch	B
Fire Finch	B	Orange Cheeked Waxbill	A
Gold Breasted Waxbill	A	Owl Finch	A
Golden Song Sparrow	E	Pagoda Mynah	M

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide.  
Contact the Home Office

Bird Species	Size	Bird Species	Size
Painted Finch	C	Silverbills	C
Parrot Finch (most other)	D	Siskins	E
Pekin Robin	J	Society Finch (Bengalese)	E
Peter's Twinspot	E	Softbills (other small)	J
Pictorella Finch	D	Softbills	L
Pileated Finch	C	Spice Finch	E
Pintailed Nonpareil	D	Star Finch	C
Plush Capped Jay	T	Strawberry Finch	A
Pytilias	C	Sunbirds (large)	M
Quail	L	Superb Starlings	R
Quail Finch	A	Tanagers (small)	G
Red Crested Cardinal	K	Toucanettes	S
Red Eared Waxbill	A	Toucans (small)	T
Red Head Parrot Finch	C	Touracos (small)	T
Ring Neck Dove	S	Twinspots (most)	D
Rufous Backed Mannikin	B	Waxbills (small)	A
Saffron Finch	K	White Tailed Jay	S
Shaftail Finch	C	Yellow Rumped Finch	D
Shama Thrush	K	Zebra Finch	D
Silver Eared Mesias	J	(intentionally left blank)	( )

ITEM	SIZE/STYLE	EA.	Q T Y	TD L
New NFSS T-Shirt – Ten Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass, White Only, 50/50 Blend	Circle Size: M L XL XXL	\$18		
Video: “The Wonderful World of Finches & Softbills: An Introduction	Members/Affiliates Non-Members	\$17 \$22		
NFSS Show Cage Plans	Circle Size: #1 #2 #3	\$4		
All Three Show Cage Plans	Save \$2 by ordering all three	\$10		
Eric Peake Lithograph <b>The Diamond Firetails</b> Signed by the Artist		\$35		
New Video! Finch Husbandry	Add \$3.20 S&H	\$25		

NFSS Plastic Water Bottle		\$6		
NFSS Zebra Pin		\$6		
NFSS Gouldian Pin		\$6		
NFSS Name Badge (Members Only) Comes with one line of engraving. <b>Print name clearly.</b>	Second line of engraving add \$1. For magnetic back, add \$1.50	\$7.50		
Past bulletins, 1994 and later issues		\$4		
Past bulletins, 1993 and earlier issues		\$3		
1998 NFSS Handbook Membership Yearbook		\$4		
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards	<b>NEW AND AT A LOWER PRICE!!!</b>	\$10		

**FINCHSHOP**  
**The National Finch and Softbill Society Store**  
**ORDER FORM**

NFSS Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping & Handling:**

**Total**

Orders \$10 and under add \$2.00,  
 orders \$10.01 and over add \$3.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment  
 (check or money order payable to NFSS) to:

**FINCHSHOP**

Attn: Annette Howard

P.O. Box 404

Salem, OH 44460

**NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS**

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

## Horizon Micro-Environments

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Lets heat rapidly escape and  
prevents CO<sub>2</sub> build-up.  
Over 15 times more ventilation  
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**1-800-443-2498**

<http://www.negia.net/~horizon>

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And yourself some piece of mind.

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And we still pay the freight\* on all orders over \$98.00  
Call for details and our free color brochure.