

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

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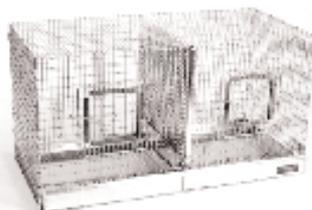
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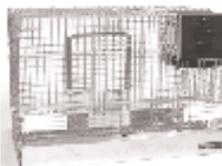
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The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

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On the Cover

This issue's cover is a beautiful photo of Lady Gouldian Finch taken by NFSS Member Christine Kumar

Photo Courtesy © Christine Kumar

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We are still looking for a dedicated individual to now fill the position of NFSS Editor. Anyone interested in this position should contact the 2nd Vice President/Editor, Harry Bryant at 37212 Butternut Ridge, Elyria, Ohio 44035; Email: utuweb@aol.com

It is also with regret that I must announce the resignation of Brenda Josselet, Advertising-Promotions Manager. Bob French has now been appointed pro tem to fill the Advertising-Promotions Managers position. Please note that all advertising inquiries should be sent to his attention at: 100 Myrtle Ave #204, Whitman, MA 02382, (phone) (781) 630-3334, email: bobfrenchnfss@gmail.com

This seems to be the time of the year that many of us experience problems with seed moths in our birdrooms. So we asked the members of the NFSS Forum how they dealt with the problem and received the following suggestions:

- Use Seed moth traps
- Freeze the seed
- A sock with mothballs
- Free flying waxbills
- Use Air tight seed containers
- Vacuum visible moths and eggs
- Use Sevin dust or other insecticide
- Hang a "No-Pest Strip" in the birdroom
- Buy fresh seed from a reputable dealer.

Please consider sharing your knowledge and experience with others by submitting an article for publication in our Journal. The growth of NFSS over the past 20 years has been nothing short of spectacular and owes a great deal to our membership contributions.

On page 55-56 of this issue, you will find the listing of our various officers and department members. If you have any questions or suggestions on ways to improve the NFSS, please contact the appropriate officer or member.

Remember, the Journal is your magazine and the "mouth" of the NFSS, so please let me know what you think of it, especially any changes that you would like to see, the types of articles that you would like to read, and sections that you would like to add.

Until next issue

Harry Bryant
NFSS 2nd VP/Editor
email: utuweb@aol.com



NFSS President's Message May, 2005

Interests vary, interests diminish, and come back.

That husband of mine (Vince Huntington, the guy at the bird shows carrying the Chihuahua) has always offered that 'people raise birds for several reasons', usually have a primary reason, but that 'reasons come and go'. I agree with hesitation but do admit that my 'interests' have varied from simply breeding babies, to studying diets, to breeding birds to meet strict standards, to hand-raising finches, to hand-raising softbills, to running for office, to publishing articles and now to my (our) latest interest - improving aviary housing.

In short, I'm currently interested in what aviary or flight (within an aviary) or cage (within a flight) or nest (within a cage or flight) serves the best interests of the birds, AND best serves the aviculturist? Throughout 2005, we are 'work-studying' and mocking up test flights, brainstorming and making 'things' to use within flights to learn all we can learn. When this edition of the journal is received by mail, we will simultaneously invite all NFSS members (by EMail and NFSS Yahoo Group) to offer some help. We want to know what you feel is the first and second "most difficult-to-manage aspect of bird care".

By this time next year we will likely have a completed study, a completed aviary (conservatory?) with the latest in flights (with before and after photos) based on lessons learned.

ALSO. NFSS is looking for a few good people for a few good offices. We want you to help, and we'll help you do so. If you are interested in taking a more active part in NFSS by running for an office contact Carol Johnson, 12048 SE 209th Street, Kent, WA 98031; Phone: (253) 630-3650, or via email at [dncjohnson @ yahoo.com](mailto:dncjohnson@yahoo.com)

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sally Huntington". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society

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Breeding for Quality: Moving towards perfection, one generation at a time.

**by Michael Marcotrigiano,
NFSS Science Editor**

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The previous installments in this series attempted to give you enough information to learn the differences in modes of inheritance for different traits. Remember, most of the traits that lead to good conformation and size are not controlled by single genes but rather by a multitude of genes that act in concert or act to modify the major genes involved. If you want your birds to have rounder heads, smaller beaks, deeper colors, more vertical stance, wings that don't droop, large cobby chests, large size, big eyes, etc., you need to realize these are not traits controlled by single genes. Rather, these are quantitatively inherited. Single gene mutations are more common for color mutations and we become so accustomed to understanding segregation ratios for color we make the false assumption that we can quickly recover all desired traits in nice clean ratios. Unfortunately, it takes many generations of intelligent pairing to achieve results with traits that are quantitatively inherited.

In this, my last in the "Breeding for Quality" series, I will compare strategies that can help a breeder reach his/her final goal – to obtain a uniform flock of superior birds. I'll begin by saying that random matings within a non-selected population rarely improve a flock if your goal is, in essence, to eliminate certain phenotypes and achieve a population of uniformly excellent birds. There is no one correct way of approaching population improvement

but with certain guidelines the art of breeding has elements of science that can greatly assist you in reaching your goal.

There are several strategies for selecting birds to pair. Assortative matings are those where matches are made with a purpose, rather than random. Breeders classify assortative matings as either negative or positive.

With negative assortative mating, opposites are paired (e.g. a cobby bird to a leaner bird). It is important to note that we do not mean that the worst bird (e.g. the leanest) is mated to the cobbiest bird. Rather, among the birds of choice for other reasons (e.g. good color depth, nice wing carriage, etc.), we are mating the birds with opposite extremes for cobby or lean so that we can avoid generating extremes in body types in future generations.

Negative assortative mating tends to reduce the extremes in a large diverse population. This may or may not be good depending on the goal. For example, if optimum size is not yet achieved, this strategy is not useful for leaping forward in size. You would not leap forward in size mating smallest to largest. To leap forward in size one would need to mate the largest to the largest. However, if all your big birds also have a flat head it would be wise to use negative assertive mating to try to correct head shape and not concentrate

solely on bird size.

Negative assortative mating is a great strategy for fine tuning a fairly uniform population of birds. For example, if the only thing that bothers you about your flock is that many birds are too lean and many are too cobby, mating cobby to lean should even off the flock over a few generations.

With positive assortative matings similar individuals are paired (e.g. large bird to large bird). This tends to create "extreme" populations and flattens the normal distribution curve yielding more individuals than usual on each end of the distribution. Once the optimal trait is achieved (e.g. large size, cobby body, etc.) positive assortative mating is not recommended.

It is possible to combine both negative and positive assortative mating. For example, if optimum size is nearly obtained, choosing two birds of good size is a positive assortative mating. But if you have a choice within the population of good sized birds and you feel another trait is present in extreme forms (e.g. beaks too long and beaks too small) choosing one large bird with a long beak and another large bird with a small beak (negative assortative mating) should lead you quickly toward large birds with appropriately sized beaks. In my personal experience this strategy has given me a larger number of decent birds so when show time comes around I do not need to hope that one good bird is in condition for the show.

An actual example of how improper breeding strategy results in dead-end breeding might be helpful here. Long before the appearance of black brown society finches (these are of hybrid origin), I sought out someone with really dark *Lonchura striata* domes-

tica. I obtained three pairs of birds of uniform extremely dark body color from one breeder. Unfortunately, they all had somewhat droopy wings. My guess is that the breeding selection program that resulted in dark body color was one where color was the only thing chosen, i.e. a positive assortative mating for dark color. Since wing department was uniformly bad, I had a feeling it would be difficult to correct. My prediction came true. I was never able to correct wing department without outcrossing to another line. Outcrossing resulted in a huge loss of color depth (a quantitatively inherited trait) and it was looking like it would be years of work to regain that color depth. I eventually gave up on the line and learned a hard lesson – anyone who ignores the entire package when selecting birds will wind up with birds with flaws that are difficult, if not impossible, to correct.

If one chooses to improve one trait until it is acceptable and then move to another trait, this method can be called tandem selection. For example, one might select for bird size for several generations until the desired size was reached and then select for egg size hoping that egg size will be correlated to adult size for future early culling. There are problems associated with tandem selection. First, you need to decide when to stop selecting for trait one. Is a 20 grams zebra finch big enough? Or do you try to push the weight to 25 grams before starting to cull birds for low egg size? In addition, this type of selection works best if the two traits are correlated. If however, the first trait is not related in some way to the next trait, there is a great risk of tapping out the necessary variability for the second trait, making advances difficult if not impossible. While tandem selection may yield the quickest advances for one trait, unless this is a trait so desirable that one is willing to risk overall improvement, it is not

recommended.

A selection method for multiple-trait selection (i.e. improving more than one trait) is known as independent culling level. This method sets a minimum standard for more than one trait and that standard must be met for all of these traits before a bird is kept. With this method a breeder sets an acceptable level for one trait (e.g. 20 gram adult weight in zebra finch). If this weight is not met, the bird is culled even if its other traits rank well above a minimum selection value (e.g. it is a black face with a very dark belly). This method is attractive because the principles are simple and there is no chronological limitation of selection. For example, if the richest colored babies are first selected and the lighter ones culled, one can select the best marked birds from the remaining birds in that clutch. Therefore, you now have the richest color and best markings.

The downside to multiple-trait selection scheme is that we cannot be as "picky" with respect to the value of any given trait. This means that progress improving each trait is slowed as we head toward overall acceptability one small step at a time. If traits are favorably correlated, progress moves more rapidly. Unfortunately, this is often not the case and one must accept that someone else using tandem selection may end up with, e.g., larger birds more quickly. Yet, these large birds may fall short in several other traits. We see that one must set a value to each trait and guide one's breeding program accordingly. Wasting time trying to get the perfect toe length may sacrifice advances in conformation and feather quality, two traits of higher value for show breeders.

By now it should be no surprise that improvements in quantitatively inherited traits can take time. I cannot

overestimate the importance of starting out with the best birds you can obtain. Birds that have been in domestication for a long period of time have had the opportunity to be slowly improved by a good breeder. It can take many generations to achieve a goal and it is foolish not to capitalize on the work of others and make improvements in good stock rather than start out ten generations behind the best available lines. Obtaining one great bird, loaded up with desirable traits can infuse a huge dose of 'good genes' into your gene pool. It is perfectly fine to obtain one great male and have him be the father of your entire flock if you have some unrelated hens to pair with him. This strategy has worked wonders for me with my society finches and more recently with my zebra finches.

I've often been asked what to do if one obtains two lines of birds of very good quality from different breeders. Should they be mixed? It depends. If the "average" phenotype of the two lines is something you think is better than the individual lines, then by all means mix. But keep something in mind. If both lines are somewhat inbred (very likely) then the first generation tends to be uniform and most likely of intermediate phenotype. However, maintaining this intermediate may be more difficult. Let's use dogs as an example. There is a very popular pet dog being sold that is the result of the crossing of Labrador Retriever and Standard Poodle. They are known as "Labradoodles" by owners and followers of the pet dog trade. They are not a new breed. They are a first generation hybrid of two breeds and technically, therefore, they are mutts. Since the parent breeds are inbred enough to breed uniformly typical offspring, the hybrids are intermediate and have good traits from both breeds (while losing some of the negative traits of the inbreds.). However, if one were to mate

Labradoodles (which are highly heterozygous by nature) to each other, segregation of many traits would take place with unpredictable results. The most consistent way to make uniform Labradoodles would be to maintain Labrador Retriever and Standard Poodle lines and cross them every time you wanted the Labradoodle. This is what is being done with these dogs. Theoretically and with enough patience, however, you could cross Labradoodles to each other and eventually fix the phenotype resulting in a new breed that breeds "true". In fact, most new breeds of dogs do not start out with mutts or wolves but rather with two inbred lines. The above dog discussion holds true for finches. If you want to make a breeding line that is the average of two others it can be done with time but the numbers of birds you may need to produce may be high.

Another concern I often hear is that inbreeding may eventually result in offspring that are worse with each generation. We often read about the problems associated with inbreeding. The degree of inbreeding is defined as the probability that identical homozygosity occurs at a locus (e.g. aabbccDdeeffGGHh is more homozygous than AaBbCCDdEeFfGgHh). The term "inbreeding depression" means that a general loss of vigor and fertility occurs as we inbreed and inbreed. This probably occurs because deleterious recessive genes are no longer masked by dominant genes and they express their negative trait. In the United States inbreeding has such a stigma that most breeders go to the opposite extreme which often results in increasing the number of generations it takes to get the desired result or never attaining the desired result. In order to avoid unnecessary inbreeding but still make rapid improvements, line breeding is recommended. Line breeding is a conservative

form of inbreeding which results in slow but steady improvement and limits the risk of producing weaker individuals. Distantly related relatives (e.g. uncle and niece) are mated with sister-brother or father-daughter pairings avoided. The main purpose of line breeding is to transmit a large percentage of an outstanding ancestor's genes into future generation without causing an increase in the frequency of undesirable traits. A tricky balance but very doable.

To my knowledge, no one has calculated the level of inbreeding tolerated by different finch and softbill species, although this has been done in dogs, cattle, and other valuable domestic species. If you feel that you want to calculate the level of inbreeding (i.e. the amount of 'shared' blood between two potential mates) there are many software programs that make it easy. I am not recommending any particular software program but should you choose to buy software to keep pedigrees and calculate the level of inbreeding that would result from your pairings, the following companies offer such a service. Keep in mind that most were developed for dogs or livestock but will work just as well with birds. I found that those specific to birds were sorely lacking genetic analysis and were more for keeping track of dates of birth, etc. The following links were active at the time my article was printed.

<http://www.avimate.com/>
<http://www.tenset.co.uk/>
<http://www.peds.co.uk/kcbs4a.htm>
<http://animalregister.net/index.php>

If you are up for calculating inbreeding rates yourself, here is a web page that shows you how.

<http://www.xprt.net/~pgr Rogers/Wrightf.html>

I would also suggest looking

up pedigrees for champion horses or dogs, where the science of breeding for quality has been around a long time. Studying long pedigrees shows you the relatedness of individuals and can give you a good idea of the level of inbreeding used. I am not assuming that the level of inbreeding that is tolerable is the same for dogs and birds, but it is a good start to look at canine pedigrees to see which pairings are considered acceptable and which strategy has been used.

I hope that my series on Breeding for Quality will help you take a more intelligent approach to pairing your birds. In order to make big gains in your flock's quality I will offer some final suggestions:

- Know what traits are controlled by a single gene and what traits are inherited quantitatively
- Keep pedigrees so that you can track down the birds that are responsible for your greatest advances and your worst declines
- post a standard silhouette for your species and compare birds you are thinking of saving to this standard
- Learn how to line breed and use inbreeding carefully—but use it
- Learn the standards for your species and mutations
- Start out by obtaining the best stock

- Remember, a single terrific bird can go a long way to improving your flock

- Do not obtain a line of birds that is nice, but has one trait that is poor within the entire line

- Balance faults when selecting pairs – in other words never mate two birds with the same fault.

- Breed as many birds as you can handle and care for properly but keep as few as you need to maintain some genetic diversity. Judicious and harsh selection will get you a long way.

- Don't be afraid to sell whole clutches if none of them are better than the parents

- Be patient. It takes many generations to increase the proportion of winners in a flock

- Bring extra birds to shows and ask a judge to tell you which traits need improvement

- Ask judges questions at shows. Find out why the best bird was the best bird and why the others were not in the top ten

The best of luck to all of you.
See you at the show bench!

Reference:

Bourdon, R.M. 2000. Understanding Animal Breeding. 2nd edition. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

NFSS member and Journal Science Editor, Michael Marcotrigiano (www.exoticfinches.com) breeds and exhibits show-quality Society Finches and a limited number of Zebra Finches. He is a faculty member in Biological Sciences and the Botanic Garden Director at Smith College in Massachusetts.



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Keeping Finches in a Basement Setting in the Pacific Northwest by: Raspberry



Here in the Pacific Northwest the skies are gray most months of the year. Traveling low, laden with moisture from the Pacific Ocean, clouds dump over 100 inches of rain annually in the Western mountains of Oregon and Washington. Combine this with moderately cool winter temperatures and the Northwest environment becomes ripe for molds and fungi—two enemies of our avian species.

Many aviculturalists here keep their birds indoors and, like me, some keep them in their basements. This article discusses how I keep my birds in my basement and particularly addresses some of the problems and benefits in doing so.

First, I want to introduce myself, and describe my bird room. I live in Portland, Oregon. My closest neighbor's house is fifteen feet away from my bird room window. I breed mostly zebras and societies for exhibition, but I also work with Indian Silverbills, Masked Grassfinches, Parsons finches, and Diamond Firetails.

The basement covers 644 square feet. The bird room is separated from the rest of the basement by drywall and two open doorways. Not including the laundry sink, drain table, cupboards, and some storage space used for bird supplies, the actual bird room covers about 271 square feet. It is L-shaped.



Located inside the bird room, are three ground-level windows, one useless air vent, a cement floor, crumbly cement exterior walls, and drywall internal walls. Electrical pug-ins are scattered throughout the room along all walls and the ceiling. Since the ceiling is also the floor of the house, electrical wires, phone lines and heating ducts run in every direction.



The windows inside the bird room are rather small and are covered with curtains to give the room privacy from a well-traveled public sidewalk just out-

side the house. Passersby often stop to listen to the sounds coming from the house. One side window, between my house and the neighbor's, opens easily and serves double as a fire escape and ventilation. After a heavy breeding cycle, up to 250 finches have been housed in this space in breeding cages, as well as small and large flight cages; however, the total bird count is usually significantly lower.

The rest of the basement is non-bird space, and houses the gas-fueled furnace and hot water heater, a small freezer, the washer and dryer, a work bench and shelves for storage. The gas appliances have an automatic safety turn off switch in the event the pilot goes out. The dryer is never used. But embedded among everything are crooks and crannies, and other dark spaces—all of which swallow up finches when they have escaped from the bird room. As simple as it may seem, an escapee can be hard to find in such places. I have learned to leave the curtains to the bird room open and let the escapees come back into the bird room on their own. Usually the curtains are closed and prevent such accidents.

Essential to keeping a lot of finches in a basement are: lots of space for cages, a utility sink for washing dishes and cage trays, a window for ventilation, lots of electrical plug-ins for artificial lighting, and most of all, a housemate willing to accommodate a lot of birds.

The latter cannot be under emphasized. This basement setting had all these things, when I considered moving here a few years ago, but I needed to discuss with my housemate (a ten-year friend) what the experience would be like living with a lot of finches. It is one thing for a potential housemate to say, "Yeah, I like birds!" but quite

another to ask a housemate to live with them. While the birds and their responsibility were mine, having this many birds in the house affects the day-to-day life of anyone who lives with them. Mostly, I wanted my housemate to know that birds are not neat, that they scatter seed ten feet across the floor, that mice could be drawn to bird seed, that airborne bird dander settles on every imaginable surface, and that without ventilation, the air would carry a slight smell of uric acid, noticeable by sensitive noses.

While the above description does not paint an idealistic view of keeping finches in a basement setting, I believe it invaluable to emphasize this reality with potential housemates. While many people may appreciate birds at a pet shop in a mall where they do not have to experience them on a daily basis, living with many birds in all their messiness, requires a certain passion for them.



had found a safe sanctuary, but soon after moving in, I came to understand that this house tends to be a bit of a party house. If visitors hadn't already heard about all the birds I keep, they quickly learned of them as they come into the house. Bird calls, distinguishable even by the most ignorant of birds is a hard sound to miss when walking past the steps to the basement. So naturally, most people who come into my home want to see the birds. Since the bird room has doorways but no doors, I cannot just close a door to lock out nosey guests (nor their savage beagles.) I have had to take measures to separate people and their dogs from the birds. Most people never see the birds, or if they do, only once by invitation. I tell them it is best to keep the bird room quiet. A dog gate at the top of the stairs stops the dogs. Curtains hanging from a shower rod over the doorway with the polite but firm sign, "Enter by Invitation Only," stops people who go down into the basement without my knowing. Setting boundaries has been easy enough to enforce but I've had to be, sometimes uncomfortably



Initially, I thought my housemate and I had worked out all the problems before I moved in and that the birds

direct with a few guests. For whatever reason, I view my bird room as space that is as private as my bedroom but visitors see it as something akin to a public zoo.

Another shortcoming of keeping finches in my basement is humidity. While most basements here in the Northwest are notorious for growing molds, my basement is rather dry. So dry, in fact, the humidity runs as low as 45%. Even today, on a rainy cool day in March, the humidity is only 53%. Perhaps the humidity is so low because the double fan pulls air down from the



warm house and out the window. The temperature, too, stays relatively constant between 60-65 degrees throughout the winter. Even mid summer it does not climb above 75 degrees. Many experienced hobbyist report giving birds a wider daily temperature

change than this helps develop strong birds. There is nothing I can do about that.

Finally, the last major problem I face with keeping my birds in my basement is cage cleaning. It is easy enough to pull trays and wash them in the utility sink. I do this weekly. But cleaning the wire of the cage requires carting the cages up the stairs and out the door. Fortunately, I am relatively young and strong and motivated to do this ever so often. I am seriously considering converting everything over to homemade box type cages and flights with removable wire fronts. It will eliminate the need to cart cages up and down the stairs.

I mention all this about my experience with keeping finches in a basement in hopes that others may find the information useful when considering keeping finches in basements. I would like to hear from others who keep birds in basements. So feel free to contact me to discuss your experiences.

NFSS member Raspberry lives in Portland, Oregon and breeds zebra finches, society finches, Masked Grass finches, Parson's finches, Indian Silverbills, and Diamond Firetails. He also serves as Region 6 Vice President and the head of the NFSS Journal's Youth Section. You can reach Raspberry at raspberry@europa.com.



NFSS Online Article Index

Looking for a specific article? The NFSS Web Site has an online article index that covers the last 20 years of NFSS articles. You can find a link on the main NFSS page (www.nfss.org) by clicking on "Journal Index"

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Bird Haven (or the “Ultimate Bird Room”) By: Shelley Ortman



It's 30 degrees out there with a slight wind (about 8 mph). Precipitation will begin first thing in the morning, changing from freezing rain to heavy rain later in the day. The high tomorrow is expected to reach 40°. Am I worried about my birds? NOPE. They're living in a tropical paradise. In a Mid-Atlantic state?

That's right. I've been forced to live out my prime years of life in the world's worst climate. Cold, wet, windy, freezing winters which crash instantaneously into endless super-humid 90° plus days which last for 4 full months. We do get a few gorgeous weeks of perfect fall weather. Then the cold rainy wind sets in for another 5 months and

the cycle begins again. What's a tropical bird-lover to do? The only thing left to do. I've been forced to create my own tropical paradise. Non-bird lovers think I've gone out of my mind, but it makes my birds (and me) happy!

So who needs a formal living room? I enjoy entertaining, but nothing about me is the least bit formal. On the other hand, I did require a large heated space in which to house my bird collection. And upon my husband's request, all the birds were to be kept in one room (preferably as far away from his office as possible). So it was settled to everyone's satisfaction. The former formal living room was slated to become my bird room.

The room itself is actually a lovely space. The dimensions are 12' X24'. The floor is solid polished oak. There is a huge arched window at one end of the room which overlooks the front of the house. The other end of the room is graced by a set of sliding glass doors that open onto the deck. One of the room's best features is the 12 foot tall cathedral ceiling which the birds love, but has proven to make it almost impossible to catch them when I need to. In any case, I had a great space to work with.



I originally started with 2 flight cages which housed some Goulds and African waxbills. I became enamored of Society finches and added a wall rack of six large breeding cages. I needed more space for the waxbills so I built a 6X6X3 aviary from Plexiglas and crab cage wire. The entire structure is fastened with cable ties! I fell in love with Peter's Twinspots. Each pair requires its own separate and spacious cage as they can become very territorial. I

locked into buying a used set of 3 - 2X2

square stackable safeguard cages. I needed a flight cage to house juvenile finches that would give them plenty of exercise, so found a pair of them for sale online. I split the second cage with coroplast (a plastic cardboard product) which has become one of my favorite building materials. One side of the cage houses 2 pair of Timor Zebras. The other side houses a pair of waxbills. At this point I knew I had as many finch species as I could care for.



All those windows lend themselves to another great love of mine: plants. Most tropical plants seem to do very well in the light conditions that are found in my bird room. The arched window provides early morning light, and the glass doors provide direct sunshine all afternoon. I have an enormous ficus tree, several varieties of palms, hanging Boston ferns, Victorian ferns, hanging philodendrons and whatever else catches my fancy. The plants require semi-weekly watering, monthly fertilizing, occasional clean-up, and pruning, and occasional re-potting. They are hardly carefree, but taking care of them is another of my pleasures and I really don't mind. Plus they add beneficial humidity and the birds seem to love the plants. Sometimes loving them too much! Most of the philodendrons now have delicate little nibbled edges.

Then came softbills! I fell in love with a pair of Blue-grey Tanagers while visiting the west coast last year. A friend very graciously bought me a pair from another generous friend and I shipped them home figuring I'd figure out where to put them when I got them. These beautiful birds with their wild yodel captured my fancy and I decided shortly that they would free fly in the bird room. One problem however, since all the birds in the bird room were housed in cages, I never had to worry about the five foot wide entrance that opens into the central hallway. I also have a small lap dog that thinks she's a bird killer. Obviously I needed a way to enclose the space without ruining the appearance of my home's entranceway. I found a really neat roll-away screen door at Lowe's Home Improvement store. It was within my budget, but once I got the door home and re-read the installation instructions several times, I knew I needed help. Gary graciously offered to install it with me as #1 assistant. As usual he did an expert job, and it has worked perfectly ever since. The bird room seemed to suit the free-flying Tanagers well, as they have bred successfully several times since last summer. In fact, I am starting to wonder how I will slow them down. The Blue-greys were soon joined by a timid pair of Silver-billed Tanagers (a birthday gift from a dear friend) that hide all the time, and a pair of pugnacious European Robins: the dictators of the

lower world. I've also released 2 pair of Cherry finches (which promptly built a nest in a fern) and a pair of Pintail whydahs into the bird room. I had no idea the Whydahs were so lovely until I saw the male helicoptering with his long streaming tale to impress his plain-Jane hen in the airspace above me.

Feeding this menagerie of disparate bird species required a bit of thinking. I needed to make sure that all the birds could eat and not be harassed by a competing species. So I set up 4 feeding stations. One station has chopped fruit, chopped veggies, pellets, live food, and nectar. Two other stations have halved soft fruits such as banana and orange along with a bowl of pellets and another feeding station has a big seed feeder. I also have one tiny station with egg food and sprouted millet which to my great surprise is visited and sampled by every bird in the room. To facilitate catching those wily rascals, the main feeding station is located inside of a cage right next to my morning coffee chair. I have found that all I have to do is pick up a net and every bird in the place goes berserk. That certainly isn't appreciated by some of the tiny fussy nesting waxbills. So instead, I just bide my time, sometimes withholding mealies for a short while, then load up the feeding station and when the target bird enters the cage. S/he's mine! This method has worked well for all species, even escapees although it may take a few weeks to catch them. But it's stress free for the birds and I don't have to break a sweat chasing them as they flutter 12 feet above my head.

Water is provided with an old fashioned bird bath. It is labor intensive as it must be emptied, sterilized, and refilled daily, but I am sure it is good for the birds to have a "lake" to bath in. In addition I have several Water buddies



stationed around the room, although I almost never see a free-flight bird using them.

I love my bird room but there are a few drawbacks. Softbills tend to have big sloppy droppings, so I clean weekly (and I always feel that I should clean more). The cleaning entails wiping down literally every surface with a mild hot-water and bleach solution. Even worse, that gorgeous polished oak floor must be vacuumed daily and scrubbed weekly. So far, the floor doesn't show any signs of being worse for the wear, but it sure would be a lot easier if the floor was cement and I could just dump a bale of hay on it! I clean and change bedding in the cages and aviary all the time too. Everything that fits goes in the dishwasher (dishes, perches, hardware), otherwise it's hand scrubbing with hot soapy water and in some cases sterilizing in a mild bleach solution for larger items such as cage trays. Sometimes I feel as though I've been hired as the birds' personal maid and chef, but that's the breaks when the birds are right inside the house with the rest of my family. We may actually live in a zoo, but I sure don't want the house (or me either) to smell like one!

Although the basic set-up is the way I want it, I still experiment with decorating my bird room. Cut, fresh bamboo, pine boughs and phragmites (fluffy water-reeds) are hung on the walls, attached to cages and placed on tops of cages in various locations to mimic the great outdoors. In addition to decorations, I use an oil-filled electric heater to keep the bird room close to 80° all winter long, which is significantly

higher than the rest of the household. I also run a Hepa filter to circulate the air and keep it fresh. The crowning touch is two old comfy wingback chairs slip-covered (in case of accidents) and arranged to allow me to have my morning coffee and observe the birds to see who's nesting, molting, fledging and to get a heads-up on any potential problems developing. It's a great calming way to prepare for what will undoubtedly be a stressful day.

Well that's about as close to tropical living as I'm going to get....unless I can talk hubby into a Florida move. Why not? We're both employable, the weather is bearable most of the year and most importantly, I could build mammoth outdoor aviaries and devote more of my life to the amazing hobby of aviculture. That's not to say that if I do somehow manage to end up in the climate of my dreams, I just may end up with a bird room inside my house anyhow.



Shelley Ortman breeds and exhibits finches & softbills, concentrating on the tiny African waxbills. She was recently appointed NFSS Region 1 Vice-president, and is seeking election to the position for the next term. She has also been appointed Affiliations Manager 2006 and is looking forward to working with clubs, shows & organizations to further the wonderful hobby of finches & softbills. She is also a full-time 7th grade Teacher of the Handicapped.

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AFA IN BRIEF - May-June 2005

Carol Brasaemle, Editor

2005 AFA CONVENTION UPDATE!

Don't forget that your "early bird registration" must be postmarked by June 25, 2005. As an AFA member you will save \$40 by registering early and an additional \$30 saved over a non-member registration. If you are a club delegate or state coordinator, you can save an additional \$15. You can register on line in minutes by going to the AFA website at www.AFAbirds.org and go to the 2005 Convention tab.

Here are a few of the many speakers for the 2005 convention!

Laurie Baker - "The Elements of a High Quality Retail Operation"

Jason Beck - "Barbets in Aviculture" and "Hornbills in Aviculture"

Diane Bock - (Sponsored by The Bird Endowment) "Working Together for the Betterment of Aviculture From the Perspective of a Hobbyist"

Robert Bragg, Ph.D. - "Control of Infectious Diseases in Captive Parrots" and "Increasing Our Understanding of Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease Virus"

Leland Burns - "New Concepts in Aviary Design"

Kashmir Csaky - "Preparing Your Birds for a Future Without You" and "Evaluating Rescue Centers for Your Birds"

Dianalee Deter - "Emergency Bird Care"

Dann Dunst - "Galliformes"

Jay Gonzales - Zoological Manager - Disney's Animal Kingdom - "The Diversity of Ducks"

Kevin Graham - Keeper - Disney's Animal Kingdom - "Remarkable birds - fabled creatures - Inspirational high notes and exasperating challenges"

Steve Hartman - "Fundamental Biology

of Flight"

Marshall Liger - AFA South Carolina State Coordinator - "Young Today, Retired Tomorrow - Preparing the Next Generation"

Greg Matuzak - (Sponsored by Amigos de las Aves USA) "Ecology and Diet of Six Parrot Species in Costa Rica"

Sandee Molenda - "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "Legislative Issues: One Person Can Make a Difference"

Julie Murad - "Parrot Welfare Organizations: An Essential Part of Healthy Aviculture"

Lyrae Perry - "Mutations: Genetics for Smart Breeders" and "Debunking Myths On and Off the Internet"

Matthias Reinschmidt - Curator, Loro Parque Fundacion (Sponsored by Loro Parque Fundacion) "What Now For The Spix's Macaw?", "The Conservation Of Endangered Parrots In Columbia", and "The Loro Parque Parrot Collection"

Grenville Roles - Curator of Birds - Disney's Animal Kingdom - "The value of Diversity in a Zoological Avian collection"

Richard Switzer - "Craters, Creepers & Crows: Conserving the Avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands through Captive Propagation"

Jamie Whitaker - "The Life and Times of the Companion Parrot"

Heather Wilson, DVM, University of Georgia - (Sponsored by the Georgia Cage Bird Society) "Controlling Reproductive Behavior in the Companion Parrot" and "Cancer in the Avian Patient: Diagnosis and Treatment Options"

For complete biographies of most of the speakers and their abstracts, go to the Convention 2005 tab on the AFA website www.AFAbirds.org.



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The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is a non profit, 501C3 educational organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

AFA's primary goals are the education and dissemination of information related to aviculture among pet owners, hobbyists, avicultural societies, zoos, veterinarians, research institutions, the pet industry and government officials. In addition, AFA is concerned about the welfare and humane care of all birds and promotes the establishment of high standards of avian care both in the United States and abroad.

The AFA supports your rights to acquire, keep, breed and sell birds in a responsible manner. The organization monitors proposed laws and regulations at the state, federal and international level that affect your future as an aviculturist and the well being of birds.

The AFA is primarily a volunteer organization. Our efforts to ensure the future growth and development of aviculture are totally dependent upon people like YOU joining and supporting AFA. The AFA believes that aviculture is a valuable conservation tool and that the care and breeding of birds in captivity is an exciting and fulfilling endeavor.

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Revised March 2002

Setting up an Aviary Webcam

by: Vonda L. Zwick



Why a Webcam?

Finches are ideal subjects for a webcam. They are kept in confined quarters so you can point your webcam at an active area – a feeding station, nesting area, or favorite perching spot – and be certain to capture action throughout the day. Because finches do not chew like hookbills, it is safe to install your webcam directly inside the flight for a close-up, unobstructed view (as long as you take precautions to prevent your birds from sitting on the cam and – well, you know).

A webcam allows you to keep your eye on your birds from work, while on vacation, or when away on business. You might want to remotely monitor a pair on eggs to keep track of whether or not they are sitting tight. In fact, you can keep a close eye on sensitive species without causing the slightest disruption. You might want to share your birds with friends and family or even strangers throughout the country. You might just want to do something fun and different.

What Is a Webcam?

The term “webcam” is used to refer to (1) the camera that captures live images and makes them available for viewing online and (2) a web page that displays such live images. For clarity, I will refer to the latter as a “webcam page.”

Most webcams connect to a computer with Internet access, although some can connect directly to the Internet. Webcams usually have a lower resolution than a standard digital camera and their images are inferior (although they

are much improved from the early versions). This keeps the cost down and allows faster transfer speeds over slow Internet connections.

Webcam Basic Specifications

When selecting a webcam you will want to evaluate the following features:

Resolution: Resolution is the size of the picture (in pixels) captured by the camera. A high-resolution image will be larger and clearer, but will also mean slower transfer rates. Most webcam pages use resolutions of 320x240 or 640x480, even if the camera is capable of better. Anything larger usually results in very slow transfer rates.

Picture Quality: Picture quality is a more subjective feature and will never be listed on the back of the box. To evaluate picture quality, you should search the Internet for reviews on the product you are considering. Although picture quality is probably the most important webcam feature, you might need to run at a lower quality setting in order to get faster speeds.

Frame Rate: Frame rate is the number of frames (images) that can be captured per second. Seamless video is 30 frames/second, and many webcams can capture and save video at this rate. However, you will not be able to stream live video over your webcam page at anything close to this. The actual frame rate will be largely influenced by the speed of your Internet connection, the speed of the viewer’s Internet connection, the size (in bytes) of the frame, and how many are viewing the webcam at once.

Webcam Types

Consumer USB Webcams – Most webcams are consumer USB webcams that can be purchased from any computer electronics store. Top-of-the-line models from the leading manufacturers like Logitech and Creative Labs are priced at \$100 or less. If you are willing to sacrifice quality and features, you can get one for as little as \$30.

USB Webcams can be powered via the USB cable and therefore do not need a power cord or a nearby outlet. However, USB cables can stretch no longer than 16 feet without incurring performance problems and signal degradation. To solve this problem, you will need a USB active extension cable (about \$25), which includes a built-in hub to boost the signal. This extension cable can be no longer than 16 feet; however, you can daisy chain up to five active extension cables for a total cable length of up to 80 feet.

Wireless Surveillance Cameras – Wireless surveillance cameras, such as those manufactured by X10, are frequently marketed for home surveillance purposes or as a “nanny cam.” They usually broadcast to a television or VCR, but some models can broadcast to a computer, where you can monitor the feed remotely via the Internet. These wireless cameras can also be used as webcams as long as they can be accessed using a standard web browser.

Wireless cameras have the appeal of not needing to be connected to the computer via a cable. However, most wireless cameras must plug in to an outlet to draw power, and thus are not quite as portable as you might believe. Even those that can use a battery pack will usually only run for a few hours on battery power.

Network IP Camera – Network IP cameras are designed for security purposes. They contain a built-in web server and can connect directly to a network, rather than a computer. Sometimes, they can connect directly to the Internet via a modem without even needing a network. Feed from the network camera can be viewed from the Internet by accessing the network camera’s internal web server with a browser.

Network cameras used to be priced prohibitively (in the \$1000s), but prices have come down and a few low-end models, such as the Axis 205 (\$199 from CDW.com) have surfaced. I use the Axis 205 as my webcam and you can preview its performance on my site (www.finchaviary.com/AviCam/AviCam.htm) (although I do sacrifice picture quality in order to improve transfer rates).

Network cameras connect to the network using a standard network cable and therefore do not have the cable length issues that USB cameras do. Most must be powered via an outlet. However, some models have surfaced that draw power from the network cable instead.

The drawback to network cameras is that you need a home network to connect it to. While home networks are gaining popularity, a majority of home users do not implement such a system. Networking knowledge is also required to get the network camera installed, but if you have enough knowledge to setup the network in the first place, you have enough knowledge to install the camera.

Static FTP vs Streaming Webcam Pages

It is important to understand the difference between a static FTP webcam page and a streaming webcam page. A

static (or snapshot) FTP webcam operates by capturing a picture at a predetermined interval and uploading it via FTP (file transfer protocol) to a web server. The webcam page displays the image.

A streaming webcam captures and saves the images on the local machine. The image is never uploaded to a remote web server. Instead, streaming webcam pages redirect the viewer to your local computer where they can view the image. This is frequently called peer-to-peer broadcasting.

It is important to understand that these are two very different processes. It may seem to the uninitiated that a streaming webcam is just a static webcam that operates faster. This is simply not the case and you will be frustrated and disappointed if you attempt to setup a streaming cam using the static cam method.

Most webcams available today are capable of implementing both a static webcam page and a streaming webcam page.

Static FTP Webcam Page

A static FTP webcam page is the simplest to set up. You will need a webcam, a computer with an Internet connection (even a dial-up connection will work), webcam software, and a website with FTP access. Some free hosting services (like www.tripod.com) will provide you with an account with FTP access.

To setup a static FTP webcam page, your computer must be turned on and the webcam must be connected, usually via a USB cable. You must then start a webcam application. The webcam application will allow you to configure your webcam with the capture rate, resolution, image quality, and perhaps

other features such as brightness, contrast, and saturation. You also configure the software with the FTP settings to use to upload your images to the server – these are provided to you by your hosting service and are identical to those settings used by your FTP upload software. If you are using a dial-up connection, you can configure the software to dial-in whenever an image is ready for upload, then disconnect when done, so your phone line is not tied up unnecessarily.

Once the webcam software is configured, you must tell it to begin running. At this point, it can usually be minimized. If you shut down the software, your webcam page will cease to update.

Sometimes the webcam software will create a web page for you. If not, you can create one easily, displaying the uploaded image file with the `` tag. However, it will not refresh without some additional code. The simplest method is to add the following META statements to the `<head>` block:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh" CONTENT="30">
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Expires" CONTENT="Tue, 01 Jan 1980 1:00:00 GMT">
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Pragma" CONTENT="no-cache">
```

This will cause the entire page to refresh every 30 seconds (the content parameter of the Refresh command indicates the refresh time in seconds). The latter two statements prevent the browser from using a cached copy of the expired image. This will, however, reload everything on the page, a slow process that is subject to flicker.

Because of these limitations, most people use Javascript or a Java applet to refresh the image. Javascript is code that can be copied directly into your HTML. A Java applet is a separate file that can be uploaded to your website and executed by a statement in your HTML. Examples of Javascript that refreshes your webcam page can be found readily on the Internet. Here are a few I have encountered:

<http://cowboyfrank.net/javascript.htm#webcam>
http://m7s02.vlinux.de/mike/webcam_tutorial.html
<http://www.cowboyscripts.org/?page=webcam>

Java applets can also be downloaded from the Internet. A number of sources have referenced the Anfy applet (<http://www.anfyteam.com/ajdownl.html>) but others are out there, too. Your webcam software may provide a Java Applet for you to use (Webcam32 supplies the JavaCam applet).

Because static webcam pages constantly upload and refresh the image from your web server, popular static webcam pages may consume large amounts of bandwidth, particularly if they refresh at rapid rates. If you have issues with exceeding your allotted bandwidth, you may want to consider switching to a streaming webcam, which ironically, does not consume much bandwidth as far as your hosting service is concerned, because the images never reside on the remote web server.

Static FTP Webcam Software

Static FTP Webcam Software is sometimes included with your webcam. Some webcam manufacturers are now supplying webcam software that can only be used in conjunction with a pay

service. If this is the case, I recommend that you find an alternative unless you do not have a website that you can access via FTP. There is no reason to pay for a service when you can use the web hosting service you already have.

Most webcam software developers provide a trial version that can be downloaded for free. I highly recommend trying the free download before you buy. This will give you an idea of what the software can do and how easy it is to operate. I recommend avoiding software that does not provide a free trial. If the author is confident the software works as advertised, they will usually allow you to try before you buy.

ISpy and Webcam32 - ISpy and Webcam32 are sophisticated Windows applications marketed by Surveyor Corp (www.surveyor.com) for \$39.95 each. These products are very well known but are often criticized as being difficult to use and setup. ISpy is designed for those users who are satisfied with a static FTP webcam page. It provides an easier user interface than Webcam32, but has a limited feature set. Webcam32 supports both static and streaming webcam pages – but it has a much steeper learning curve and may not be suitable for beginners. Both software options offer a free trial version - Try before you buy! If you have difficulty getting the demo version to run, try exploring other options.

ConquerCam - ConquerCam is an inexpensive Windows webcam software package that is packed with features. You can download it for \$10 from <http://www.theill.com/conquercam/>; a free trial is also available. This software has been reported by many to be much easier to use than the more expensive packages. If I were going to set up a static FTP webcam, I probably would try this package. Note: ConquerCam

also comes with some sample DHTML scripting examples to get your image to refresh without annoying flickering.

SpyCam - SpyCam is another inexpensive Windows webcam application that is distributed from <http://www.getspycam.cjb.net> as shareware. You can download it for free. The download will have a few features disabled. If you register the software for \$15, all features will be enabled.

EvoCam 3.5 - EvoCam 3.5 is both a streaming and static webcam application for the Mac. I know very little about it, except that it can be purchased for \$25 from this website: <http://www.evo-logical.com/coolcam.html>. I include it here because it was the only software I could find in a brief Internet search that targets the Mac operating system.

Streaming Webcam Pages

Streaming webcam pages attempt to simulate true video by delivering faster refresh rates. The need to FTP to the remote web server is eliminated. Instead, the viewer's browser accesses the images directly from your local computer. Streaming webcam software makes this possible by allowing your local computer to run as a web server directly accessible via the Internet. (In the case of the network IP camera, the web server is built into the camera directly). While streaming webcams are much more impressive than static webcams, they are more difficult to setup and some users may not be able to view them through a firewall.

To implement a streaming webcam page, you must connect the webcam to a computer with Internet access. The streaming webcam software must be installed on the computer. When you execute the software it begins running the web server program and the web-

cam begins capturing video. You can view this video from your local computer, but it will not be uploaded via the Internet until someone visits your webcam page. Thus, no data transfers occur along your Internet connection if no one is watching the webcam (unlike a static webcam which uploads images regardless of whether anyone is requesting to see them).

To allow others to view the webcam, you must create a webcam page that directs traffic directly to the images on your local web server. A java applet or ActiveX control is frequently required to update the video stream.

Doesn't sound too bad, does it? If the streaming webcam software package is first rate and comes with good instructions and assistance getting your web page created, you might have no problem. Of course, if you are running from behind a firewall or router, if your Internet Service Provider (ISP) blocks ports, or if your viewers are accessing your webcam from behind a firewall, all of a sudden you might find yourself with a webcam that just doesn't seem to broadcast outside of your home. In these cases, it is helpful to know a little about how the Internet works. If the following information seems intimidating, don't fret it. You may very well never need to know this. But if you have trouble getting your camera online, it will be very hard to troubleshoot without an understanding of the basics.

IP Addresses and Ports: Every computer connected to the Internet is assigned an IP address. The IP address tells one computer how to contact another (think of it like a street address) and consists of four numbers separated by periods (eg, 12.123.123.12). To get data from a web page, you must know the desired server's IP address as well as the proper

port. Ports are like virtual doorways (if the IP address is like a street address, I guess the port is like an apartment number).

To access data on a web server, we type the IP and port into the URL window of our browser (the "http://" is required): <http://12.123.123.12:80> (80 is the port number in this example).

What's that? Really? You don't surf like this?

Of course not. Because who is going to remember <http://12.123.123.12:80>? Because most of us are not so good with numbers, website administrators register a meaningful domain name that maps to the numerical IP address. Thus, instead of <http://12.123.123.12:80> we can type <http://www.nfss.org:80> and the browser will take us to the right place. Except that we don't really enter the :80 either, do we? This is because port 80 is the default port for World Wide Web HTTP. If you don't enter a port, it will be assumed port 80 is desired. If by chance you ever need to reach a different port (which you may to access your local web server), you must specify the port.

When you connect to the Internet, your computer is assigned an IP address. This IP address is likely dynamic, which means it can change every time you connect, unless you pay the big bucks for a static IP address. (Note: sometimes your service may be dynamic, but you might find your IP address never changes. This is probably some type of cost-saving measure on the part of your provider. However, the fact that it has never changed does not mean it is guaranteed to stay the same forever). To find out what your IP address is on Windows 2000 and XP systems, you can go to the command prompt and type **ipconfig** (on Windows 95 and 98 systems, you can try typing **winipcfg** from the Start->Run dialog). If your computer is in a network or behind a router, the outside world

cannot see your local IP address and instead sees the IP address of the router. In this situation, your web page will have to use the router's IP address rather than that of the local machine. You must tell your router which computer on the network should receive the incoming traffic from your webcam page (more on this in a minute).

When you install your webcam software it will configure the web server using some default port number. You can find out what port the software is using as well as change the port if need be via the software.

So now you know your computer's IP address (eg, 999.99.999.9) and the port that the webcam software is using for the web server (eg, 1024). You can now link to your web server from your web page like this: `View Webcam`

Or you can use an `<iframe>` tag to embed the webcam image in your web page (adjust the size parameters as needed):

```
<iframe name="cwindow"
ALIGN="left"
src="http://999.99.999.9:1024/"
width="100%" height="750"
marginwidth="0" margin-
height="0" frameborder="0"
scrolling="no"></iframe>
```

Usually, the web server software will automatically direct all traffic to some default page that displays your webcam images. However, you can create a different local web page and direct traffic to that page directly:

```
<a
href="http://999.99.999.9:1024/
webcam.html">View
Webcam</a>
```

Sound good? Well, if you were paying

close attention, you may have noticed a problem with this HTML. Most of us have dynamic IP addresses, not static addresses. Thus, today your IP address may be 999.99.999.9, but tomorrow it might be 999.99.999.10. Tomorrow, when people try to access your webcam, they will get a "Page Cannot Be Displayed" error instead of a webcam image.

Static Hostnames: The solution to the dynamic IP address problem is a static hostname. You can register a static hostname with an Internet service. The hostname will map to your current IP address. A small program you run on your computer monitors your IP address and causes a table on the Internet to be updated every time it changes. Thus, you can use your hostname instead of the numerical IP address and it will always direct web traffic to your local machine regardless of the current IP address. I use www.dyndns.org to provide this service (it is free) but there are many other options. The following is an example of linking to your web server using a static hostname:

```
<a href="http://finchaviary.dyndns.biz:1024/">View Webcam</a>
```

Or, if you are using port 80 to run your web server (note: this link will actually connect to my webcam!):

```
<a href="http://finchaviary.dyndns.biz/">View Webcam</a>
```

Firewalls, Routers, and Port Blocking:

After you have done this, your webcam should be operational (note: you must test it remotely as you will be able to view the webcam locally even if web traffic from outside cannot reach your web server). If you cannot view your webcam from anywhere outside your local computer, your ISP may be blocking the port you are using. ISPs commonly block port 80 from receiving incoming traffic

because destructive viruses and worms have targeted this port in the past. This frustrates those who want to host their own websites on their local computers because port 80 is the default port used by the World Wide Web. Other ports may be blocked as well for various security reasons.

If the computer running your webcam is in a network or behind a firewall, the problem may be that you have not configured the router to properly handle your webcam traffic. You must instruct your router to open up the port your webcam web server will be using. Then you must tell the router which computer on the network should receive the traffic destined for the specified port (eg, you must tell the router to send all incoming traffic on port 80 to the local IP address of the machine running your webcam software). It is usually a good idea to assign your local computer a static IP address on your network so that this address never changes (because these IP addresses are hidden from the outside world, you can do this). All routers are different, so you must consult your router documentation in order to figure out how to do this. It sounds complicated, but if you own a router, you should be familiar with these operations, and if you don't, then you don't have to worry about it.

If you can view your webcam from some outside locations but not others, the problem is likely with the viewer's firewall. It so happens that my workplace has installed an extremely paranoid firewall that will block me from accessing any but the most common ports on web servers. I can rarely view streaming webcams from work because of this port blocking. My husband, on the other hand, works for a large company with a lax firewall, and has no problem viewing other webcams. Since you have no control over your viewers' firewalls, the best you can do is try to configure your webcam to appear as inoffensive as possi-

ble. If you run your webcam using port 80, it will be accessible to the largest number of viewers. This is because hardly any firewalls prevent you from accessing this port on other web servers – if they did, you would not be able to access web pages on the Internet, since port 80 is the World Wide Web default port. If your home ISP blocks this port, you are out of luck and must select another port, accepting the fact that those with strict firewalls may not be able to view your webcam page.

Webcam Communities

If this seems like too much, you can try to set up a streaming webcam by joining a webcam community. Camarades (<http://www1.camarades.com>) is one such community. They will provide you with the free TrueTech webcam software and automatically generate a webcam page for you. You might still have issues if your ISP or firewall block the port you are using, but you do not need to know how to access your cam from your web page as this is done for you. Their website is not very intuitive – you must follow the Help link in the top menu to learn about what Camarades is and how it works. You can link to your Camarades page from your web page if you like. The drawback to these services is that because they do some of the work for you, you have less creative control over the appearance of your webcam page. Advertising can be placed on your page. Some services require viewers to log in before being able to view the webcams, which will turn potential viewers off.

Advanced Streaming Webcam Features

Streaming Audio – Many webcams include a microphone, and some webcam software can stream audio along with video. This adds another layer of

complexity and also takes up more bandwidth, affecting video performance. You should carefully consider whether or not the audio adds significant value to your webcam before opting to enable this feature. Also remember that if you enable audio, your webcam may pick up and broadcast private conversations if within range of the microphone.

Pan/Tilt/Zoom – Some more expensive webcams allow you to pan and tilt and zoom the camera remotely, making for a more interactive experience. These features are very cool when they work, but from what I've seen, the implementation is not quite all there yet. There are frequently long lag times between sending a command and the camera responding. If multiple viewers are trying to control the camera at the same time, it can get frustrating. However, when this technology matures it may be very nice. If your camera does not support pan and tilt, you can purchase a TrackerPod (<http://www.trackerpod.com/TCamWeb/products.htm>) – a device some webcams can mount to that will add interactive pan and tilt functionality for you.

Streaming Webcam with Relay – The more people viewing the webcam at the same time, the slower the frame rate will be. This is because your local web server sends the images to each viewer individually. If you want to be able to support a large number of concurrent viewers, you might want to use a remote web server as a relay. In this case, your local web server sends the images once to the relay web server, which then forwards the images on to the interested parties. Be aware, however, that this is an expensive option, as you will now have to pay for all that bandwidth you are using via the relay server. This option is usually only used by big companies that need to broadcast to numerous users simultaneously

on a regular basis.

Streaming Webcam Page Software

If you opted for a surveillance or security camera, it will likely come with streaming software (assuming it supports remote Internet viewing). If you are using a USB webcam, it may or may not come with such software. If it does, try it. If you do not like it, you have other options. I personally would avoid any software that requires you to subscribe to a pay service.

Webcam32 – Webcam32 by Surveyor Corp (www.surveyor.com) was also discussed above under Static Webcam Page Software. This software is very well known, but is criticized as having a steep learning curve. However, there is a lot of Internet support for this software – both on its home site and elsewhere, including this informative tutorial by Robert Wisbey: http://www.robertwisbey.com/how_to_web_cam_wc32.html).

Windows Media Encoder – Microsoft, in its never-ending quest to put everything including the kitchen sink into their operating system, has decided it was necessary to create a utility for delivering streaming video via the Internet: Windows Media Encoder. Windows Media Encoder can be used to run a streaming webcam and also supports streaming audio along with the video. The software can be downloaded for free from Microsoft's website: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/9series/encoder/default.aspx>.

The catch: In typical Microsoft fashion, your viewers must be using a Windows PC with the appropriate version of Windows Media Player installed. Everyone else is just plain out of luck. However, if your target audience (perhaps just friends and family) are all

Windows users, then you might want to give this software a try. Robert Wisbey also wrote a tutorial for Windows Media Encoder that can be found here: http://www.robertwisbey.com/how_to_web_cam_wme.html.

TeVeo Live – TeVeo Live was, in my opinion, the best freeware streaming webcam software available on the Internet. It was relatively easy to set up, it was fast, it was free, and it did not require viewers to install any applets on their computer. It was started as software for TeVeo's webcam community, but Internet savvy fans of the software found ways to access the video feed directly from their own website (using the techniques I described earlier). Unfortunately, TeVeo no longer exists and the website community and software disappeared from the Internet more than two years ago.

I recently discovered that a gentleman setting up a new webcam community has now made this software available again. He claims it is the same software, but no longer requires one to register with TeVeo. You can install the software and join his web community. Or, if it truly is the same software, you should be able to access the feed from your own site. Simply copy the guest.htm file found locally on your computer. Give it a different name with an .html extension (eg, webcam.html) but keep it in the same directory as the original file. Edit the file to suit your tastes – just about anything there can be removed (images, links, controls), but you must keep the Jload applet code intact. This displays the video. Then, link to this page directly or embed it in an <iframe> tag as demonstrated earlier – you will need to explicitly include the name of the HTML file (<http://finchaviary.dyndns.biz/webcam.html>) since you are no longer using the default page. If you are interested in trying this software, it is available from

<http://www.camstreams.net/downloads/downloads.htm>. Remember, TeVeo no longer exists, so you are unlikely to be able to get support for this software.

Aviary Webcam Tips

Keep the Webcam Running Regularly

– Make sure your webcam is either always on, or publishes the hours of operation and sticks to them as much as possible. The problem with most webcams is that they are always offline. Viewers prefer a webcam that is reliable.

Choose the Webcam Location Carefully

– Point the webcam at an area that is sure to see frequent action. The second largest problem with most webcams is that when they are on, nothing is happening. Position the camera so that it is close enough to give a good view of the birds, but far enough away to offer a decent field of view and perspective. Choose a well-lit spot (most webcams perform poorly in dim light), but do not point the camera directly into a bright light or your birds will be dark underexposed blobs in front of an overexposed background.

Protect the Webcam From Droppings

– I shield the top of the webcam with a small piece of Plexiglas. The birds can land and poop on the Plexiglas, but cannot land on or next to the camera itself. The camera stays waste-free, and the Plexiglas is easy to clean.

Take Precautions For Outdoor Aviary Webcams

– If you plan to install your webcam in an outdoor aviary, you may want to invest in an outdoor webcam, but this will add significant cost. Another alternative is to use a glass

globe specifically designed to protect your webcam from the weather.

Consider Turning Off the Camera Light

– Some cameras come with a light that flashes or glows solid when someone is accessing your webcam. Usually, you can turn off this light if you choose. This has never bothered my birds, but if your camera is pointing at the nest of a sensitive pair, you might not want to take any chances with it interrupting their parental duties. If you cannot turn off the light, try covering it with a piece of black electrical tape.

Internet Resources

The best resources for learning to setup a webcam are those found on the Internet. I owe much of what I know to the following websites:

Webcam Lab: <http://developers.webcam-world.com/>

How to Set-up A Webcam, by Cowboy Frank:

<http://cowboyfrank.net/webcams/HowTo.htm>

eSensual Studios' Webcam Tutorial:

<http://www.esensualstudios.com/webcam/camtutorial.php>

Over Now Productions' Webcam Tutorial:

<http://www.overnow.com/camhowto.html>

How to Create a Live Webcam Feed, by Robert Wisbey:

http://www.robertwisbey.com/how_to_web_cam.html

Disclaimer

Many of the products I have mentioned, along with sample code referenced, I know of only via my research and not via personal experience. I do not endorse any of them personally, and only list them here to provide some options for those of you who need a place to start.

NFSS Member Vonda Zwick created and maintains the website "FinchAviary" < www.finchaviary.com > and can be reached at: webmistress@finchaviary.com



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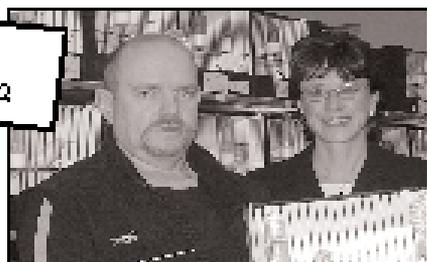
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Outside Flight Aviary

By David Keefauver



An outside flight aviary for your birds can be a simple and enjoyable project. I made one on my back covered patio. It is four feet wide by eight feet long and eight feet tall. It has live plants inside and outside of the flight aviary. There are several web pages that list safe plants 1/ and I chose palms, petunias, and begonias. Finch seed mix was freely spread around these plants and within days they were sprouting and the Gouldians were truly enjoying their fresh sprouts. By having these plants both inside and outside of the aviary I rotate them in and out monthly. It is a pleasure to create an ecologically balanced aviary that naturally meets most of the Lady Gouldian's needs. Yes the finches are hard on the live plants, but it is part of their diet and a monthly rotation shows very little wear on the plants. The planters were hung with simple brackets designed for holding planters.

Fresh spray millet is hung in the middle of the aviary. In three separate feed dishes are other key ingredients for a good diet – one dish has baked crushed egg shell, another dish has grit, and the last dish has Protein 25. One of the palm plants hung in the middle of the aviary is in a coconut plant shell that is sold at Wal Mart and Home Depot. All the plants were planted in plain, generic top soil. Some potting soil is sold with chemicals that will help the plants to grow better, but I didn't know their effect on the Gouldians. The Gouldians really like to spend time in the plants searching for treasure. Sometimes they just sit next to a bright purple petunia and beg you to judge who looks better – of course the Gouldian looks the best.

I chose to place the aviary on my back covered patio because the construction of an aviary is then very simple. My carpentry skills are very limited and I do not know how to construct a durable roof. Everything I read about outside aviaries is that they should get plenty of sun with a place for the Gouldians to find shade. My next aviary will be in my yard. Texas doesn't lack for sun and neither do the Gouldians on my back covered patio.

The wire mesh is a half inch galvanized wire mesh that I used a staple gun to adhere to the outside frame. Zinc covered mesh can be harmful to birds. Each 90 degree corner of the wood frame is strengthened with 90 degree one inch metal bracket. A good quality battery powered hand drill made putting this aviary together even more simple. Wood screws were freely used with the 90 degree metal brackets. My gate for

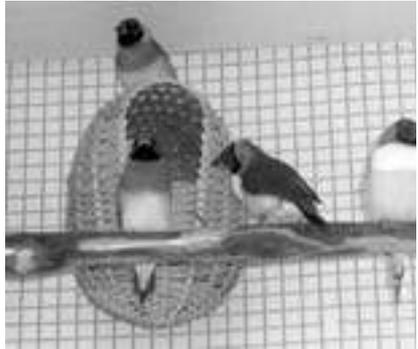
entering the aviary is four feet wide and four feet tall from the ground. When I enter the aviary I simply tap on the wall and they fly away. Some aviaries are built with two doors that allow one door to be shut before entering the bird's habitat.

One of the best things I feel makes cleaning this aviary simple is having the bottom layer of two by fours removable. The bottom of the aviary has two boards that are both 2 inches tall by four inches wide on top of each other. The top row is attached to each of the vertical poles, but the bottom row can slide in and out when I need to hose off the aviary. I have read several articles stating that a dirt floor is just as good if not better than a cement floor aviary. As I mentioned, a free-standing aviary with a dirt floor requires me knowing how to build a roof. Thus I am thankful for the carpenter who built my house with a covered patio.

Outside flight aviaries can attract mice and snakes. We have two outside cats that keep all of these away and yes they do like watching the gouldians. I first put society finches in the aviary to teach the cats they can't enter the aviary. I was hoping they would grow tired and leave the aviary alone. From time to time I still see the cats sit beside the aviary, and they still jump and bat at the wall of the aviary. The gouldians simply fly to the other side or up high. Only if the cats "slap" the wall of the aviary do the gouldians react. The gouldians' behavior does not change if the cats walk by or even sit and look at them. The gouldians still go to the floor of the aviary and peck at loose millet or seed.

Feeders are placed in several locations around the aviary about four feet off the ground. A fellow NFSS member gave good advice and that is to place a feeder and water on the floor of the aviary

when introducing new gouldians to the aviary. By having the feeders and waters in several locations a gouldian can't dominate the food supply.



Within two hours of introducing new gouldians to the aviary the new finches have found food and water. At first they are confused and can fly hard into the wall of the aviary. I have two male gouldians that chase others around to show who is in charge, but even if they were removed another male would take their place. This lasts for brief moments for about three days. I feel the health of the gouldians is much improved then when I had them in a 30 inch cage. Even when they are not breeding I have several nest boxes hung up high. The hens seem happier knowing that they have a home when breeding season comes around. For the majority of gouldians I plan to let them choose their own mates and raise their own young. For my blue back gouldians and white breasted gouldians I plan to place them in a cage to breed and lay eggs. On hand are society finches to raise the young. I may later experiment with these gouldians raising their own young, but for now the society finches are eager to help. I started with society finches in my outside aviary, but a fellow NFSS member advised that the gouldians will live more peacefully if these meddlesome finches are kept separately.

Because they are outside I treat all the finches with Worm Out gel and I treat for air sac mites. There is much discussion on whether to preventively treat for this, but since they are outside I have chosen to do this three times a year.

There is a fountain in the aviary. Large rocks are placed in the aviary to make sure the water isn't too deep. To prevent algae 20 drops of bleach for each gallon of water is placed in the fountain. The water evaporates enough that I need to add water about every 10 days. The fountain is on a basic timer and it comes on for four hours in the morning and four hours in the evening.

We live along the gulf coast of Mexico in Texas and so our winters are very mild. It did snow here Christmas Eve, 2004. That happens once every 100 years. I read where breeder, G.A. Abbatte, Sr introduced his first pair of Gouldians to an outside aviary when the high temperature was 43 degrees and now he has a very productive aviary 2/. This winter I may place some heated perches in the aviary. I already have a heating lamp on a timer and it comes on for a few hours in the morning and a few hours late in the afternoon. With low temperatures in the 50s I am not sure if it is needed, but they really seem to enjoy a few minutes under the heat and then they are on their way. We are about to have consistent high temperatures in the upper 80s and low 90s so I know the heat lamp won't be needed for long. Because Gouldians are native to Australia they really like the warm temperatures. Breeding season will typically start in September. It is my understanding the 90 degree heat is not conducive to new Gouldians, but it makes the parents personal health so much better. If I have Gouldians that want to breed when the temperatures are in the

90s I will probably bring them inside.

With all of this in mind I would encourage anyone to have an outside flight aviary. I feel the health of the Gouldians is much better and I immensely enjoy watching these Gouldians live in a more natural setting. My wife and I enjoy sitting on the back porch watching the Gouldians. I also enjoy standing within inches of these Gouldians when they are sitting on a branch in the aviary and I can see their bright velvet colors. For those who have cold harsh winters I would encourage you to still consider an aviary for spring, summer, and fall. Winter time they can be moved back into a more controlled climate. Even for the summer I have a top corner of my aviary "walled off" so that they can get out of the wind. For Texans we have what is nicknamed "Northerns" in the winter – cold winds out of the North. For the winter I will have plywood covering a corner of the aviary from floor to ceiling on both the north and west side of the aviary.

I someday hope to have an outside aviary in the middle of my backyard that is 8 foot wide by 10 foot in length. I would divide this in half and place the juvenile males in one half and the juvenile hens in the other half. As they become ready to breed they would be placed in a separate aviary or breeder cage. My patio aviary I hope to someday mix in with other birds (no hook-bills) - maybe a pair of Diamond Doves or Button Quail. This has been an enjoyable hobby and I would love to hear from others of what has worked for them.

1/
http://www.ladygouldianfinch.com/features_aviaryplants.mgi

2/
<http://www.abbaseed.com/Breeders/Gouldians/gouldians.html>

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We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July & August) and have a Feather Show in June (for young bred & banded birds) and a large Annual Show in October. Our President is an NFSS Judge and we have many outstanding breeders in our group. For friendship, fun, & education, join us.

**Contact: Stan (718) 967-6899 (barstank@aahawk.com)
Nizam (Pres.) (718) 835-8590**

Youth and Aviculture

NFSS now has a new forum dedicated to the youth. NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups is the brain-child of Mr. Raspberry, Region 6 VP, and our internet wizard Mr. John Wilson. Moderators for this group are Raspberry, John Wilson and Armando J. Lee. Please have your kids visit NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com where they can chat, ask questions, and exchange ideas about the wonderful world of finches and softbills.

NFSS welcomes any and all submissions for the Youth and Aviculture page. Please send your artwork, photos, jokes, riddles and any ideas to the

NFSS Journal Youth Editor: Raspberry, Youth Edito
 NFSS Journal, 535 SE 16th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214
 (raspbery@europa.com)
 or the NFSS Youth Forum (NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com)

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Spring 2005 Finch/Softbill List

Floyd Barnett, College Park, Georgia, 404-768-0637

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Purple Grenadier -----	\$300.00/pr	English Zebra -----	\$50.00/pr
Blue-capped Cordon Bleu -----	\$100.00/pr	Shaft-tailed Whydah -----	\$175.00/pr
Peter's Twinspot -----	\$180.00/pr	White-Headed Nun -----	\$50.00/pr
Star Finch, Red-Face -----	\$110.00/pr	Black-Headed Nun -----	\$50.00/pr
Red Munia (Strawberry) -----	\$100.00/pr	Melba -----	\$140.00/pr
Owl Finch -----	\$190.00/pr	Black-Cheeked Wh:bill -----	\$120.00/pr
Yellow-Bellied Wh:bill (St:ee) -----	\$100.00/pr	European Goldfinch -----	\$79.00/pr
Giant Green Singer -----	\$120.00/pr	Siberian Goldfinch -----	\$99.00/pr
Grey Singer- (Yellow-rumped) -----	\$120.00/pr	European Greenfinch -----	\$99.00/pr
Masked Grass Finch -----	\$200.00/pr	Linnet -----	\$140.00/pr
Grey-Headed Silverbill -----	\$100.00/pr	Chaffinch -----	\$150.00/pr
Silverbill -----	\$60.00/pr	European Serin -----	\$250.00/pr
Red-Face Crimson Wing -----	\$120.00/pr	Rufous-Backed Mannikin -----	\$49.00/pr
Cherry Finch -----	\$140.00/pr	Pintail Whydah -----	\$90.00/pr
Shafttail Finch -----	\$110.00/pr	Red Crested Cardinal (1 male) -----	\$250.00
Isabel Shafttail -----	\$180.00/pr	Paradise Whydah -----	\$20.00/pr
Forbes Parrot Finch -----	\$250.00/pr	Bay-Headed Tanager -----	\$450.00/pr
Blue-Faced Parrot Finch -----	\$225.00/pr	Paradise Tanager -----	\$1,100.00/pr
Red-Faced Parrot Finch -----	\$250.00/pr	Green & Gold Tanager -----	\$400.00/pr
Pintail Non Parrot Parrot Finch -----	\$150.00/pr	Turquoise Tanager -----	\$400.00/pr
Parson Finch -----	\$180.00/pr	Blue-Naped Ch:rophonia -----	\$450.00/pr
Cuban Melodious -----	\$300.00/pr	Blue-Necked Tanager -----	\$450.00/pr
Diamond Firetail -----	\$180.00/pr	Desert Finch -----	\$150.00/pr
Silver Diamond Firetail -----	\$300.00/pr	Trumpeter Finch -----	\$150.00/pr
Zanibar Weaver -----	\$69.00/pr	Red-Fronted Serin -----	\$250.00/pr
Golden Weaver -----	\$75.00/pr	White-Bellied Canary -----	\$100.00/pr
Crimson Rumped Wh:bill -----	\$40.00/pr	Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin -----	\$175.00/pr
Abyssinian Crinsoncing -----	\$100.00/pr	Longtail Rose Finch -----	\$200.00/pr
Goudian Finch -----	\$150.00/pr		
White Breasted -----	\$200.00/pr	SALE:	
Oriole Finch -----	\$250.00/pr	Crested Zebra Finch -----	\$25.00/pr
Mottled Starling (Male) -----	\$400.00/pr	Fancy Zebra Finch -----	\$20.00/pr
Blue-Eared Starling (Female) -----	\$500.00/pr		
Gross Beak Starlings -----	\$300.00/pr		
Green Broadbill -----	\$600.00/pr		
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Black-Red-Capped Cardinals -----	\$300.00/pr		
Blue Tit (1 pair) -----	\$250.00/pr		

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Parrot Finch, Red Head	\$135	Red Ears Waxbill.....	\$35
Parrot Finch, Blue Face	\$120	Spice	\$18
Parrot Finch, Forbes	\$150	Society, Brown or Fawn	\$12
Parrot Finch, Pintail	\$125	Zebra, Gray or Fawn	\$12
Peters Twinspot.....	\$ 95	Normal Gouldians	\$95
Dybowski Twinspot.....	\$ 95		
Blue Cap Cordon Bleu	\$ 60	Canaries	
Red Face Crimson Wing	\$ 95	American Singer (male)	\$80
Shafttail, Gray.....	\$ 65	American singer (hen).....	\$60
Shafttail, Fawn.....	\$ 75	Red Mahogany.....	\$95
Star, Red Face	\$ 65	German Roller.....	\$85
Star, Yellow Face	\$ 75	Red Mosaic	\$85
Silverbill, Grayhead	\$ 70	Yellow Mosaic	\$85
Owl or Bicheno	\$ 80	Gloster.....	\$90
Diamond Firetail	\$ 95	Raza Espanola.....	\$95
Fawn Diamond Firetail	\$105	Scotch Fancy	\$90
European Goldfinch	\$ 75	Red Factor.....	\$95
Orange Cheek Waxbill.....	\$ 25	Lizard.....	\$95

Prices are subject to change.

We accept major credit cards, money orders and checks. Birds can be Shipped via USPS Express Mail. The cost of this service is \$35 per container of birds. Minimum order of \$100 + shipping charges.

Free shipping for orders over \$500.

The Exotic Finch Loft is a bird store located in southwest Ohio, selling finches and canaries exclusively. We have over 500 birds in stock representing 25 species of finch and 10 types of canary.

Our store hours are noon to 7pm EST, Tuesday through Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday).

If you are visiting this part of the country – we are just south of Dayton. Stop in and see our huge inventory of birds. We also offer tours of our breeding room.

Discounts Available for Larger Orders

Showing is Sharing

News from NFSS
Judges Panel Director
Murtha Wigmore

Ready...? Set...?

As most of this year's shows are still ahead, this summer's the time to begin your preparation! Watch your birds. Review the NFSS Standards. Begin to think and see about how the written word relates to the birds in your flights and cages. Then, 8 to 10 weeks before your first show, gently remove broken or badly frayed flight and tail feathers on your birds. They'll be regrown just in time. Begin to bathe your birds, providing bathing dishes or frequent misting. Dig out the show cages and repair, clean, and paint them if necessary. Contact the clubs about their shows.

But most importantly, make the decision to bring your birds to a show! Do NOT be overly critical of your birds and keep them home. Don't miss out on what can be the most beneficial days of your year with birds – BRING your birds to the show! LISTEN to the educational feedback from the NFSS judges. SEE yours and others' birds with new eyes. LEARN what is meant by substance and conformation. UNDERSTAND its value to your breeding program. Learn, too, that bird exhibitors have more FUN!!! COME AND BE INSPIRED!

National and Great American NFSS Judges Selected

NFSS Panel Judge Julie Duimstra has been accorded the honor of judging the NFSS National Show this year being held concurrently with the National Cage Bird Show in Dallas/Ft. Worth on November 18th. Congratulations, Julie! In addition, the Great American Bird Show, being held in Punta Gorda, Florida the weekend of October 8th, will be having two days of judging. NFSS Panel Judges Dale Laird will be judging the first day and Miki

Sparzak will be judging the second day. NFSS is so proud to be represented at these national-level shows by such fine judges! Join us there! See the best while you learn from the best!!

Special Thank You to Darla Dandre

It has been my privilege to work with so many delightful NFSS Liaison and Awards Managers through the years! What wonderfully capable individuals have supported our exhibition and clubs' outreach efforts! Most recently, Darla Dandre has done SO MUCH for us all in these capacities. Perhaps you, too, have had the wonderful opportunity to talk with Darla about your local club's needs. Isn't she a gem? Darla is stepping out of both of these rolls with NFSS, but never out of our hearts! Like I've told Darla, people with twinkly eyes (like hers) just do it for me – and for all of us!! Best wishes, Darla, and thank you!

Last Call for your comments about the Proposed Revision of the General Standard

Please send me your comments or questions about the "Draft" General Standard. The latest version incorporates last minute input from the NFSS Board of Directors and was published in the last issue for your review. Your thoughts are welcome!

Awards at Your Shows

Ask your local club to order the inexpensive NFSS awards available to you and your clubs to support all levels of interest in our hobby! Please contact our new FSS Awards Director Bob French, 100 Myrtle Ave #204, Whitman, MA 02382, (phone) (781) 630-3334, email: bobfrenchnfss@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing YOU at the shows this year!

NFSS ELECTION

- *NFSS Officer Responsibilities* -

NFSS Bylaws specify that an election will be held every two years to elect the officers of the society. These elections will be held in the fall of 2005. Nominations are open for all offices both elected and appointed. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Carol Johnson, 12048 SE 209th Street, Kent, WA 98031; Phone: (253) 630-3650, or via email at dncjohnson@yahoo.com

In order to facilitate the membership in knowing what each officer does, the present officers have submitted descriptions of the responsibilities of their office and, when possible, the approximate amount of time each one requires. These responsibilities expand those simply stated in our NFSS Bylaws.

The elected officer positions on the NFSS Board of Directors require the officer to participate and vote in quarterly board meetings. These are conducted over the internet through an Officer's List. Therefore, internet accessibility is necessary for each candidate for NFSS office. Each officer also prepares and submits a quarterly report to the NFSS Board of Directors at each of the four scheduled board meetings held throughout the year.

NFSS Officer Responsibilities

President

The President of NFSS shall preside over all Board of Director meetings, annual membership meetings, and attend to the day-to-day operations of the Society. He/she shall abide by the bylaws of the Society, coordinate and delegate the activities of the other officers of NFSS. This officer must diplomatically guide the organization to meet the needs of members, various clubs, and all NFSS activities.

Time requirements: 4 to 12 hours a week.

1st Vice President (Regional VPs, Education)

The 1st VP shall fill the position of President if needed and coordinates the activities of the regional VP's, assisting them when necessary. He/she chairs the Education Committee and coordinates the educational programs of the Society. The 1st VP also approves any checks made payable to the President.

2nd Vice President (Publications)

The 2nd VP shall be second in line to the Presidency. The 2nd VP is responsible for all publications produced by the Society (both print & electronic media) and chairs the Publishing Committee.

Other responsibilities include: working closely with the Editor of the NFSS Journal and with the webmaster of the NFSS website. The 2nd VP shall have final authority and say over what content is published in all Society publications (both print & electronic media).

3rd Vice President (Finch/Softbill Save, Census)

The Finch and Softbill Save Director oversees the day-to-day running of the

FSS program. Responsibilities include working closely with the FSS committee, Group Managers, and Species Captains to develop species profiles on all FSS registered species, obtaining content and producing the FSS newsletter. It is the responsibility of the FSS Director to oversee the group manager and Species Captain's positions and assign tasks and deadlines in order to conduct the business of the FSS program.

Other duties include review and acceptance of individual applications to the FSS membership, maintaining species records, and submitting expense reports to the NFSS Treasurer every 90 days, as needed. Other responsibilities include adhering to a strict policy of preserving privacy and confidentiality of information involving the annual census and the Finch & Softbill Save Program.

The 3rd VP will be in charge of overseeing and gathering data for the society's annual census and publishing those statistics for publication in the NFSS Journal on a yearly basis. Time required: 30 minutes per new participant in FSS. 30 minutes per participant for the Census.

4th Vice President (Judges Panel/Standards/Research)

This officer must be an NFSS Panel Judge as he/she will serve as the Panel Director.

He/she shall also chair the Research and Standards Committee and be in charge of Species Classifications, be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the Society and member points arising from these. In addition, the 4th VP participates in all NFSS Board discussions and decisions. The 4th VP also acts in support of NFSS' annual National Show as liaison with the National Cage Bird

Show Board in obtaining award sponsorships, coordinating judge selections, and other NCBS business as required, and is also the judges' contact with the Great American Bird Show Board. Time required: 4-10 or more hours a week.

Membership Director

Maintain a current NFSS Membership Database (currently in MS Access) and paper file of all current members' information.

Process new/renewing memberships as they arrive via Paypal and in the US Mail.

- * Enter/update member information in database.

- * Generate and mail confirmation letters, membership cards, and for new members – NFSS FinchShop brochures.

- * File paperwork in membership paper file.

Management of renewal notices (on the first of each month).

- * Send renewal notices to all those whose memberships are due to expire in the current month.

- * Send expiration notices to all those whose memberships have expired in the previous month.

- * Inactivate all members whose memberships have been expired for 60 days.

- * Notify appropriate NFSS Board members when Judges, FSS members, etc. memberships have expired.

Assist NFSS Finch/Softbill Forum Moderator in maintenance of current membership on the Forum.

- * Receive requests for Forum membership – verify NFSS membership – and communicate to Moderator.

- * On the first of each month – notify Moderator of those Forum members

whose memberships have expired.

Communicate NFSS Member information to the NFSS Board.

- * On the first of each month – generate Membership reports as specified by each Board Member and send to them.
- * Respond to Board Member requests for NFSS Membership information – ensure the information is kept confidential and not shared beyond the NFSS Board.

* Provide a quarterly report to the NFSS Board to be submitted along with the minutes of each Board Meeting.

Executive Secretary

The Secretary takes minutes during all board meetings, posts motions, writes and submits the minutes for board approval. All motions, important discussions, and votes must be documented and compiled into the quarterly minutes, which are then published in the NFSS Journal. It is also necessary to retype all reports submitted by the various officers so that they may also be published in the NFSS Journal.

Time required: 10 – 15 hours per quarter.

Treasurer

After election and prior to start of term:

- * Establish bookkeeping system.
- * Open bank accounts needed by the Society.
- * Open electronic accounts as needed by the Society.

During term:

- * Process payments (either as made by check or electronically).
- * Send info about those payments to President for approval.
- * Make payments (for debts incurred by the Society).
- * Make deposits/transfer funds as required (both at the bank and electron-

ically).

* Be involved in the Board discussions/decisions.

* Provide financial advice to the Society as needed.

Annually:

- * Prepare budget for upcoming year.
- * Prepare tax return(s).

Time required: 4 – 6 hours a week.

Liaison Officer

The Liaison Officer is responsible for club affiliations. Re-affiliation packets must be sent to all current clubs in January of each year. As these are returned, they must be entered into a database and information on them sent to various other officers for the use of the Society. It is extremely important that a current list of affiliated clubs be maintained at all times. It is also the responsibility of the Liaison Officer to send information on shows and events to the Website Manager and the NFSS Journal Editor and to maintain a current list of shows and events.

This officer receives many emails, phone calls, and letters requesting information on the formation of new clubs, re-affiliations, and general information needed by finch hobbyists. It has become the contact position for the NFSS so replies must be made in a timely fashion.

The Liaison Officer must work closely with the Awards Manager.

Time required: Jan-Apr – 8 hours per week, Apr-Dec – 4 hours per week.

Band Secretary

Maintaining the NFSS band Secretary's yearly permanent records. This consists of recording each order received by band number run, NFSS member's name, NFSS membership number, and

dated filled. Each size band is to have its own set of recorded entries for that year.

Band budget: A yearly budget is provided to the Band Secretary. Budgets are documented in the Officer meeting minutes, which are posted on the NFSS website. It is the Band Secretary's responsibility to keep within their budget. Should the need arise, the Band Secretary must request an authorization to increase the existing budget from the Board.

Breakdown of expected expenses of: bands, office supplies and postage. This can take up to one hour to four hours yearly depending on how much statistics need justification.

Band ordering: Orders are to be checked for accuracy of payment versus requested amount of bands. Membership numbers are to be checked with the Monthly Membership Report. These reports are to be kept confidential and are not to be released to any non-board member. This report is generated by the Newsletter or Membership Director and sent to all Board members. This can take up to 1 hour to 4 hours weekly depending on volume of orders.

Supplier selection: This is usually an independent decision of the Band Secretary. Consideration of price, availability, and the required custom NFSS engraving requirements. Color is usually selected by the Band Secretary or supplier.

Band inventory/Receipting: The Band Secretary's inventory and orders are to be reviewed and ordered in May/June of any given year for the proceeding year. Orders for the proceeding year should be received by November of the current year. This is to allow for any unforeseen delays in receiving that order. New inventory must be verified upon receipt. The invoice, if provided in the shipment,

must be reviewed to reflect the estimate previously quoted. If correct, the signed and dated invoice is sent to the NFSS Treasurer. If no invoice was received notify the Treasurer directly. This can take up to 1 hour to 2 hours quarterly, depending on how much volume and inventory you need to review. Report is posted to the NFSS Officer group.

Monthly Report to Treasurer: When finalizing orders the Band Secretary itemizes each order on a report. In a column type report, it should contain Paypal/Mail-in orders, member's name, dollar amount of bands ordered, handling fee, insurance fee, and total of each check. Totals of each item should be reflected on the bottom of each column. Note of itemized incurred expenses (see below). This report is mailed along with all checks, postal receipts, and any miscellaneous expenses to the Treasurer at the end of each month. A copy of this report must be kept for the Band Secretary's records. Discrepancies must be accounted for. This can take up to 1 hour to 3 hours monthly depending on the volume of orders.

Allowable Miscellaneous Expenses: The Band Secretary may request an advance to cover the monthly expenses. Expenses accepted by NFSS for reimbursement are long distance band-related telephone calls, (copy of phone bill), padded envelopes and packing tape (original receipt), printer ink, paper, copying paper instructions, re-order forms and NFSS membership forms. Reimbursements are made monthly by the NFSS Treasurer.

Mailings: It is required that all orders be mailed at least once or twice a week through the US Post Office. A receipt is required reflecting the mailing expense. Other resource mailing outlets are accepted but it is requested to only use as needed.

Band verification: This is provided to anyone who seeks to trace a bird that wears an NFSS band. Members who ordered that particular number/year/size knowingly and expect the Band Secretary to release their name, phone number, and email address (if given). The Membership Director can verify any previous member who doesn't appear on the monthly NFSS membership list.

Cross-registering bands with the NFSS: Any finch or softbill wearing a closed traceable band issued by a national society other than NFSS can qualify to earn NFSS Championship points, by registering the band with NFSS. All judges and officials will recognize these as valid NFSS registered bands. To register, send the species of finch or softbill, the name of the issuing society, the inscription on the band, and a \$5.00 per band fee to the NFSS Band Secretary. The \$5.00 per band/bird cross-registration fee for all FinchSave registered offspring wearing closed traceable bands equivalent to the NFSS band size M or larger will be waived. The Band Secretary will issue a letter confirming this registration and the exhibitor should carry this letter with the bird when exhibited.

Regional Vice President Duties:

There are eight Regional Vice Presidents. Each is responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the Society within the region in which he/she resides. They work closely with the 1st Vice President. Each is encouraged to hold at least one membership meeting within their region annually.

APPOINTED OFFICES

FinchShop Manager: The FinchShop Manager oversees the inventory and

sales of merchandise offered to the general public. This merchandise excludes leg bands and memberships. The manager works within financial guidelines approved by the Board and seeks Board approval for any expenditures outside the stipulated guidelines.

Specific duties: Prepares and submits an annual budget; establishes and maintains contact with vendors; maintains and replenishes inventory, as needed; receives and processes customer orders; resolves customer inquiries and complaints; receives and verifies vendor invoices; forwards invoices and customer payments to the Treasurer; works with the webmaster to update the FinchShop portion of the website, as needed; works with the Journal Editor to update the FinchShop Catalog, as needed; seeks out and recommends to the Board new products; provides to the Board periodic reports of FinchShop activity; and may, at his/her discretion, represent NFSS at bird marts and bird shows for the purpose of promoting NFSS and selling FinchShop items and NFSS memberships. When the term of the manager expires and is not renewed, the current manager cooperates in the orderly hand-off of information, inventory, and related materials to the incoming manager.

NFSS Journal Editor: Responsible for all activities related to the production of the bi-monthly NFSS Journal. These include:

- * Procurement of articles and photographs
- * Maintain communication with all NFSS Board members to ensure accuracy of NFSS information and forms to be included in each issue.
- * Create/edit each Journal issue and deliver to the printer in time to meet the mailing deadlines.

* Work with the printer to ensure deadlines can be met, work out quality issues, and approve payment of printer invoice for each issue.

NFSS Website Manager (webmaster)

Responsible for maintaining and keeping the NFSS website user friendly and up-to-date. Works under the direction of the 2nd Vice-president.

Advertising and Promotion Manager:

Responsible for soliciting Journal advertising and classified advertising. Management of advertising accounts including tracking of runs, receiving payment, and on occasion, development of ad copy.

Design and arrange for ads to be placed in major show catalogs throughout the year. This entails contacting each show manager/advertising contact, determining prices and required format, design of each ad, arrangement for payment through the NFSS Treasurer, and delivering ads and payment to each show prior to their deadlines.

Development of a strategy for NFSS Advertising and Promotion and presentation of recommendations to the Board of Directors. Implement strategy as approved and directed by the NFSS Board.

Awards Manager:

The Awards Manager is a non-elected, non-voting, appointed position and was created by an action of the Board of Directors to oversee providing NFSS awards for Affiliated Clubs, Annual Events, Special Recognition and any other occasion as assigned.

The Awards Manager will purchase NFSS awards from manufacturers and receive all award orders and payments from affiliated clubs. He/she will also see that the orders are filled and shipped within an appropriate time before the show date to the appropriate recipient as indicated on the order form. Annually, the Awards Manager will order and deliver NFSS awards for NFSS divisions affiliated with both NCBS and GABS National Bird Shows.

The Awards Manager will order and deliver NFSS Merit Awards to the Annual Membership Meeting when applicable.

The Awards Manager will order and deliver any other Award to be presented by NFSS for any other reason as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Time required: approximately 2 hours per week.

Legislative Director

The Legislative Director for NFSS is responsible for investigating and reporting on any current or proposed legislation at the state or federal level that would affect bird owners/breeders, and notifying the membership. The Legislative Director is also responsible for following any bird-related developments within the "Animal Rights" movement. He/she is also responsible for developing an on-line "legislative department" where members can contact their representatives (as needed) and access information dealing with bird-related legislation.

The Legislative Director is also involved with setting up a "grassroots" movement within the membership to quickly react to any proposed legislation or threat to aviculture.

2004/2005 NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers

President— Ms. Sally Huntington

5634 Carnegie Street, San Diego, CA 92122 (858) 452-9423 sallych@san.rr.com

1st Vice President

Regional V.P.'s, Education
Mr. Armando J. Lee
2905 SW 38th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33990
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alee@swfla.rr.com

2nd Vice President

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Mr. Harry Bryant
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3rd Vice President

*NFSS Finch/Softbill Save
Program/Census Mgr.*
Randy Taylor
17801 Robin Road
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806-655-4398
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cox.net

4th Vice President

*Judges Panel/
Standards/Research*
Ms. Martha Wigmore
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Membership Director

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Executive Secretary

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Treasurer

Mr. Mark Phelps

P.O. Box 4092
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Liaison Officer

Club Delegates/Show Dates
Ms. Darla Dandre
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Band Secretary

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President Emeritus

Mr. William Parlee
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Regional Vice Presidents

Region 1 V.P.

(Northeast)
*CT,DE,MA,ME,MD,NH,NJ,NY,
PA,RI,VA,VT,WV*
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eortman@comcast.net

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finches@bellsouth.net

Region 3 V.P.

(Mid-Central)
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WI,Australia,Bermuda,England*
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Region 4 V.P.

(Midwest)
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Region 5 V.P.

(Mountain)
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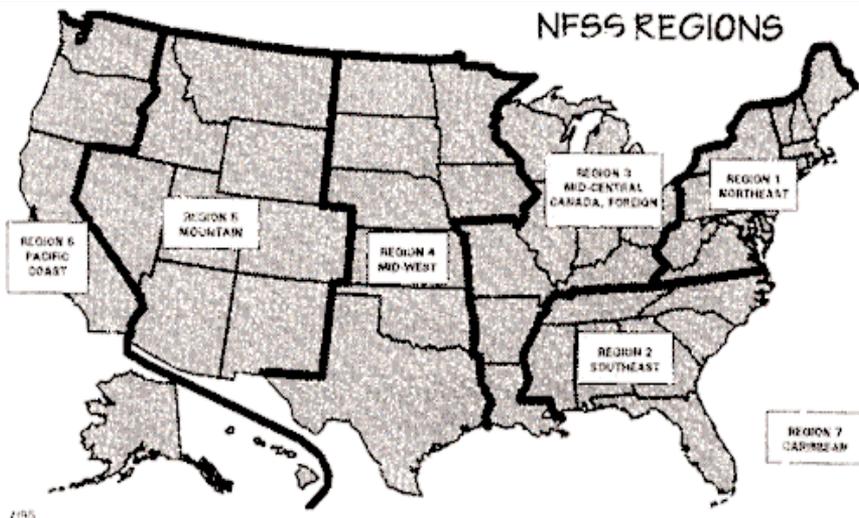
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Eufaula, AL 36027
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NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

For more information on affiliating your club with NFSS, Please contact:

Darla Dandre,
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PO Box 4092, Joliet, IL 60434
Dbirdranch@aol.com – 815-729-9789

or fill out the 2005 Affiliation Agreement located in the Journal
or on the NFSS website - <http://www.nfss.org/>



REGIONAL CLUBS

Southeast Bird Fanciers (SE U.S.)

Contact: Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168 - gndallen@earthlink.net
Meetings: 1st Sat. in Mar, Jun, Sep, and 2nd Sat. in Dec. at the Atlanta Farmers Market
Website: <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm>

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society (Montgomery, Alabama)

Delegate - Margie Lanier; Phone: 334-567-4073; Email - margielanier@yahoo.com
Meeting time/location: 2nd Sunday of month @ 2:30pm – Montgomery Zoo Education Bldg, Montgomery, Alabama
Club Website: www.caasociety.com
Show: Labor Day Weekend Bird Show and Fair - Sep. 3 & 4
-Judge: TBA
-Location: Governor's House Hotel (now Quality Inn), 2705 East South Blvd., Montgomery, AL
-Information Contact: Margie Lanier 334-567-4073 or margielanier@yahoo.com

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

CANADA

Amateurs Doiseaux Centre Du Quebec (Quebec CANADA)

Club Delegate: Jean Beliveau, Phone:450-564-2520, E-mail Address: jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca
 Meeting Dates and Locations: First Sunday of Each Month
 Club E-mail Address: jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca, Club Web Address: www.aocq.org
 No Show

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton (Hamilton, Ontario)

Delegate: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com
 Meeting time/location: Last Sunday of the month excluding July & August. Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT
 Show: Bird Show (and monthly meeting) - October 28-30, 2005 (Show: Saturday, October 29, 2005)
 Judge: Alfred Mion
 Location: Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT
 Information Contact: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com

Central Island Bird Club (Vancouver Island, BC, CANADA)

Delegate: Bridget Malo, (250) 715-1373, E-mail: bebadbirds@shaw.ca
 Club Email: centralislandbirdclub@shaw.ca,
 Club Web Address: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/centralislandbirdclub>
 Show: Bird Show - October 21-23, 2005, -Judge: Alfred Mion
 -Location: Moose Hall, Duncan, British Columbia, CANADA
 -Information Contact: Bridget Malo, (250) 715-1373, E-mail: bebadbirds@shaw.ca

The Durham Avicultural Society (Ontario, CANADA)

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, Rotary Park Pavilion, Ajax, Ontario CANADA Contact: Jacquie Blackburn, Sect., 416-282-5997 or Jacquies.parrots@sympatico.ca
 Club e-mail address: secretary@birdclub.ca; Club web site: www.birdclub.ca
 Bird Show: 9/17 & 18/2005 Judge: Vince Moase
 Pickering Recreational Complex, Valley Farm Road, Pickering, Ontario, CANADA
 Show Manager: Marianne Orlecki, 905-623-4642 or xtreme_babe2002@yahoo.com

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (Windsor, Ontario)

Meetings: Monthly – Members Homes - Contact: Julianne & Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net - Club web site: www.essexkentcbs.com
 Bird Show: 10/14-16/2005 Judge: Patrick Vance
 Fogolar Furlan, Udine Building, 1800 E.C. Row, North Service Road, Windsor
 Show Manager: Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net

CALIFORNIA

Central California Avian Society (Fresno, CA)

Delegate: E. Gabriel Guillen, (559) 252-2447, Email: el.viejo7@sbc.com
 Club Email: hisbirds@sierratel.com - Club Web Address: <http://www.ccasbirds.org/>
 Fair and Events: BIRD MART - June 5, 2005 - -Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA
 -Information Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377
 Fair and Events: BIRD MART - November 6, 2005 -Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA
 -Information Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Finch Society of San Diego County (San Diego, CA)

Club Delegate: Mary Hibner, (858) 549-3705, E-mail: mary37@yahoo.com
 Show Information
 Date: Saturday, October 08, 2005
 Judge: TBA
 Location: TBA

FLORIDA

Cage Bird Club of Charlotte County (Port Charlotte, FL)

Delegate - Godfrey Richardson; Phone: 941-764-8129
 Meeting time/location: 3rd Thursday of month - Port Charlotte Cultural Center
 Show date: Host Club for GABS
 -Show Location: Port Charlotte Cultural Center, Port Charlotte, Florida

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Palm Bay, FL)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month at 1275 Culver Rd., Palm Bay, FL 32905
 Contact: Ginny Heptig, 321-952-9780 or YngAtHrht@aol.com
 Club Web Site: <http://exoticbirdclubofflorida.homestead.com/index.html>.
 Bird Show: 3-13-2005 - Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld, Palm Bay Senior Ctr., 1275 Culver Rd, Palm Bay
 Show Manager: Jim McNamara , 321-723-7739 or jimmc_33m@yahoo.com

The Great American Bird Show (Punta Gorda, FL)

Club Delegate: Miki Sparak, (410) 687-8915, E-mail Address: MJS5295@comcast.net
 Club E-mail Address: sandhillexotics@aol.com, Web Address: www.greatamericanbirdshow.org
 ANNUAL NATIONAL SHOW - October 8 & 9, 2005
 Judge: Dale Laird / Marion Sparak
 Location: Port Charlotte Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, FL
 Show Manager: David Dollar; (352) 799-7294; email: sandhillexotics@aol.com

Sun Coast Avian Society (Clearwater, FL)

Meetings: 1st Sun of the month at Leisure World Mobile Home Park, Clearwater, FL
 Contact: Joe Ventimiglia 727-392-9391
 Club e-mail address: whoward7@tampabay.rr.com Club Web Site: www.suncoastaviansociety.org
 Bird Show: 8-6-2005, Judge: Conrad Meinert, St. Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Ave, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, Show Manager: Mari Howard, 727-726-6864 or howard7@tampabay.rr.com

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club (Stuart, FL 34995)

Club Delegate: Timothy McCormick; email: donglo57@bellsouth.net
 Club E-mail Address: jim.dwyer@netzero.net
 Fair and Event Dates:
 Date: TBA, Judge: TBA
 Location: Port St. Lucie Civic Center, Port St Lucie, FL

Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee, FL)

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month, Leon County Agri Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, Florida, Contact: Christine Maples, 850-562-2800 or christine@maplerun.net
 Event: Spring Bird Fair - 5/14 & 15/2005, North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, FL
 Contact: Barry Lester- barryl7523@comcast.net

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club (Elmhurst, IL)

Meetings: 3rd Friday of the Month at the American Legion Hall, Butterfield Road, Elmhurst. No meeting in November - Contact: Robert Wild, 630-985-4416 or r.wild@comcast.com

Club e-mail address: president@gccbc.org; Club web address: www.gccbc.org

Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo: 3-18/20/2005, Arlington Hts Racecourse, Contact: Nancy Carlson 708-301-4607

Events: Spring Bird Fair: 4-30-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldgs A & B, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL 60187; For more info call: 630-927-1152

Event: SPBE Sanctioned Hookbill Show 3-19-05, Arlington Heights Racecourse, Contact: Shar Toby, sharlant2000@yahoo.com

Bird Show: 11-5-2005, Judge: TBA; Park Plaza Hotel – 847-364-7600, 75 W. Algonquin Rd, Arlington Hgts, IL ; For more information contact: www.gccbc.org

Illini Bird Fanciers (Springfield, IL)

Meetings: 4th Sun of Each Month, 1236 N. Oaklane Road #200, Springfield, IL 62707

Contact: Jodith Wilson, 217-492-1510 or balu6960@sbcglobal.net

Club e-mail address: illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com

Bird Show: 6-18-05 Judge: Conrad Meinert; 20th Annual Bird Show & Fair, Signature Inn, 3090 Stevens Dr. Spfld, IL 62703 - Show Manager: Jody Wilson, 217-492-1510 or

balu6960@sbcglobal.net

TASC – The Avicultural Society of Chicagoland (Downers Grove, IL)

Meetings: 4th Friday of the Month at Prarieview Elementary School, 699 Plainfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL Contact: Jason Crean, 630-985-8130 or tascchicago@aol.com

Club e-mail: tascchicago@aol.com

Club website: www.tasc-chicago.org, Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo:3-18/20-2005, Arlington Heights Racecourse - Contact: Jason Crean, tascchicago@aol.com

Events: Mega Bird Fair - 05-21-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL., Contact: Jason Crean tascchicago@aol.com

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society (Des Moines, IA)

Meetings: 4th Sun of the Month at the Des Moines Botanical Ctr., 909 Robert D Ray Dr.

Contact: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.com

Club Website: www.midamericacagebirdsociety.org

Bird Show: 10-1-2005 - Judge: Dale Laird; Best Western Des Moines North, 5055 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131 - Show Manager: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.com

KANSAS

Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club (Shawnee, KS)

Contact: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090

Bird Show: 7/22 & 7/23/2005

Monticello United Methodist Church, 23860 W. 75th Street (1 block west of Hwy 7 on 75th Street) Lenexa/Shawnee, Kansas (a southwestern suburb of Kansas City, MO)

Judges: Robert Varga (Zebra Finches), Martha Wigmore (Society Finches)

Show Manager: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090 or Jamie Jackson 913-268-3209 or

Martha Wigmore-newdlig@mindspring.com

Accommodations: Drury Inn, Ph: 913-236-9200, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS, 66202 (just 10 min from Show Hall)

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc. (Baltimore, MD)

Meetings: Towson Public Library Contact: Robert Mehl, 210-581-7955 or Robertmehl@verizon.net
 Club email: baltimorebirdfanciers@verizon.net
 Club website: <http://www.baltimorebirdfancier.org>
 Bird Show: 5/21/05 Judge: Miki Sparsak
 Spring Fair & Finch Division Show Location: Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville, MD 21234
 Show Manager: Robert Mehl 210-581-7955 or Robertmehl@verizon.net

Maryland All Canary Club (Parkville, MD)

Contact: Mary Ellen Schott, 410-668-7483

MISSOURI

The Gateway Parrot Club (*High Ridge, MO*)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 PM at the Humane Society of Missouri Pet Training Center Bldg, 1201 Macklind, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Christine Kincaid, 636-343-8097
 parrotsx10@aol.com
 Club e-mail: introfish@aol.com
 website: www.gatewayparrotclub.org
 Events: All American Hookbill Fair- Aug, 2005; Greensfielder Recreation Complex at Queeny Pk., 550 Weidman Road, Ballwin, MO 63021

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society (Kansas City, MO)

Delegate - Anthony Day; 816-255-5068
 Club Meeting time/location: 2nd Sunday of month, Coronation of Our Lady Church, Grandview, MO
 Club Website: <http://www.gkcas.org>
 Event: Bird Fair - June 18, 2004
 -Location: Coronation of Our Lady Church, Grandview, MO
 -Information Contact: Maria Michel - mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com
 Show: Bird Show - October 15, 2004
 -Location: Best Western KC South, 5701 Longview Road, Kansas City, MO 64137
 -Judge: Dennis Lewis
 -Information Contact: Maria Michel - mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com

Zebra Finch & Society Finch Specialty Show

Contact: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090
 Bird Show: 7/22 & 7/23/2005
 Monticello United Methodist Church, 23860 W. 75th Street (1 block west of Hwy 7 on 75th Street)
 Lenexa/Shawnee, Kansas (a southwestern suburb of Kansas City, MO)
 Judges: Robert Varga (Zebra Finches), Martha Wigmore (Society Finches)
 Show Manager: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090 or Jamie Jackson 913-268-3209 or
 Martha Wigmore-newdlwig@mindspring.com
 Accommodations: Drury Inn, Ph: 913-236-9200, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS, 66202
 (just 10 min from Show Hall)

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester, NH)

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month in Villa Crest Retirement Center

Contact: Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106 or Prismsdad@aol.com

Club e-mail: editor@boaf.com; Club website: www.boaf.com

Event: Spring Mart & Expo, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, Contact: Ray Schwartz at Prismsdad@aol.com

Bird Show: 10-29-05 - Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03103, Show Manager: Katy Secor 978-251-3653, email: KatyS@netway.com

NEW YORK

Empire Finch & Canary Club (West Hampstead, NY)

Meetings: First Thursday of the Month – 8 PM at Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY

Contact: John Lund 516-564-4692

Bird Show: 11-12-05 - 5th Annual Empire Finch & Canary Club Show, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Center, NY, Judge: Laura Tinke, Show Manager: Gabe Dillon 516-593-2841

New York Finch & Type Canary Club (New York, NY)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month except July & August - Contact: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com; Club Web Site: www.newyorkfinch.com

Bird Show: 6-12-05; Judge: TBA

Annual Feather Show, for Birds Bred and Banded in 2005, Meeting Hall - Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

Bird Show: 10-15-05 Judge: Bob Vargo Non-NFSS

Annual Bird Show, St. Jude School in Gyne Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, 9401 Seaview Ave. (same building), Brooklyn, NY - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

Astoria Bird Club (Astoria, New York)

Delegate - Robert Gallo; Phone: 718-380-3935; Email: robertgallo@earthlink.net

Meeting time/location: 3rd Sunday of Month, Bohemian Hall, 2919 24th Ave. Astoria, NY

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society (Raleigh, NC)

Contact: April Blazich (919) 851-8079, aprilb@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 3rd Sun of ea. month, Glen Eden, Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh

Website: www.rdcbs.org

PUERTO RICO

Asociation De Criadores de Finches Del Este (Cagues, PR)

Meetings: First Sun of the Month, Contact: Victor Cordero, 787-893-7723 or denise805@hotmail.com

The Summer National Bird Show - Puerto Rico 6/24-26/05 Judge: Clarence Culwell

Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico

The Winter National Bird Show - Puerto Rico: 11/4-6/05 - Judge: Cecil Gunby

Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville, TN)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM, Donelson Senior Center, Donelson, TN
 Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-890-6906 or tnma2@comcast.net
 Event: Spring Fair- April 16th & 17th 2005, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN - For more information contact: Bob Bryant at: lbryant@vci.net or 270-825-3628
 Event: Fall Fair & Show - October 8th & 9th 2005, TN State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN, For more information contact Wilma Crawford at: tnma2@comcast.net or 615-890-6906
 Bird Show: 10-8-2005 - Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld
 TN St. Fairgrounds, Wilson Dr., Nashville, TN. - Show Mgr.: Wilma Crawford, nma2@comcast.net

Southeast TN Avicultural Society (Niota, TN)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2 pm, Niota Elementary School; Contact: Janet Burrell, (423) 472-1306 or jab2202@aol.com - Fall Fair & Annual Show: 10-22-05 - Judge: TBA; Niota Elementary School, Niota, TN ; Show Manager: Theresa Burnette, 423-337-4597 or tjburn2000@yahoo.com

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club (Knoxville, TN)

Delegate - Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net
 Meeting time/location: First Tuesday of the Month, Church of Good Samaritan
 Event: BIRD SHOW AND FAIR - May 14, 2005
 -Judge: Annette Howard -Location: Knoxville Expo Center - 5441 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville, TN
 -Information Contact: Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club Inc. (New Braunfels, TX)

Meetings: 3:00 pm - 4th Sunday of month, Becker CPA Center, 8033 Pinebrook, San Antonio, TX
 Club Website: www.aebc.org - For more information (210) 657-0069 or email tkinsey1@satx.rr.com.

Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth, TX)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, (Azalea Room)
 Contact: Clarence Culwell , 817-220-5568 or COculwell@myfam.com
 Show: 9-24-05 - Judge: Laura Bewley - Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main, Grapevine, TX 76051 - Show Manager: Jerry Cason, 817-237-5867 or Jerrycason@mindspring.com

Canary & Finch Society (Houston, TX)

Meeting Date: Second Sunday @ 2:00pm at Town Place Mall in Pasedena, Texas.
Club Delegate: Alicia Baker, Phone: 281-320-9936, E-mail: aliciabaker@myway.com
Club E-mail Address: aliciabaker@myway.com
Show Information, Date: Saturday, October 08, 2005
Judge: Cecil Gunby
Location: Holiday Inn Houston - Intercontinental Airport, 15222 JFK Blvd., Houston, TX 77032
Show Manager: Alicia Baker, Phone: 281-320-9936, E-mail: aliciabaker@myway.com

Texas Bird Breeders Association (Temple, Texas)

Delegate - Clarence Culwell; Phone: (817) 220-5568; Email - Coculwell@myfam.com
 Club Meeting time/location: 2nd Sat. at noon, February and August on third weekend.
 Show: Annual Show and Fair - 11/5/05
 -Show Location: Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX (Exit 304 - I-35)
 -Information Contact: Clarence Culwell; Phone: (817) 220-5568; Email - Coculwell@myfam.com

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Hampton, VA)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 PM, Thomas Nelson Community College, Moore Hall,
 Contact: Bea Rogers 757-484-6001 - Club e-mail: dwilson786@aol.com; Club website:
www.vapeninsulacagedbirdsociety.org - Events: Spring Bird Mart – Fall Bird Mart – Annual Bird
 Clubs of Virginia Convention – see web site for info

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association (Seattle, WA)

Delegate - Janel C. Johnson; Phone: 425-226-8899; Email - katbird57@aol.com
 Meeting time/location: 1pm, 3rd Sunday of month, Keppler's Feed, 16442 S. E. Renton-Issaquah
 Road, Renton, WA
 Club Contact/Email: Janel C. Johnson; katbird57@aol.com

Wings Over Washington (Seattle, Washington)

Club Delegate: Doug White, (425) 870-7298, E-mail: dwhite3511@msn.com
 Show Information - Date: Saturday, July 23, 2005
 Judge: Annette Howard
 Location: Pet Professionals, 7521 W. Lake Samm Parkway NE, Redmond, WA 98053
 Club Delegate: Doug White, (425) 870-7298, E-mail: dwhite3511@msn.com

WISCONSIN

Central WI Cage & Wild Bird Connection (Pittsville, WI)

Meetings: First Saturday of month in alternating members homes
 Contact: Carolyn Belisle, 608-427-6674 or secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com
 Club email: secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com; Club website: <http://www.cwvwcbc.us/bc>
 Events: All Bird Fair - 5-21-2005, Marshfield Fairgrounds, Marshfield, WI.
 Contact: Marlene Minor at minor@tds.net
 Bird Show: 7-2-2005 Judge: Martha Wigmore
 Location: Oshkosh, WI , Contact: Dave Bluma DavidBluma@aol.com or Marlene Minor - mmi-nor@tds.net



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2005 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

NFSS



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00.

Club Name: _____

Club City/St: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Club affiliation entitles your organization to receive all NFSS publications and to exercise the privileges of the Society. These include, but are not limited to:

- **NFSS Journal** --- Our newly formatted bi-monthly publication connects you with other finch and softbill enthusiasts around the world. It includes articles on breeding, housing, diet, management, products, specific species, and experiences of other aviculturists.
- **www.nfss.org** --- Visit our ever-expanding website for the latest information on NFSS activities, officers, affiliated clubs on their websites, 2004 affiliated shows and events, archives, advertisements and Avicultural links.
- **Finchshop** --- Looking for an unusual gift? Finchshop is our department store. Items and order forms are available in the NFSS Journal and on the website - www.nfss.org
- **Finch Save** --- The goal of this restructured member participation group is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture.
- **Census** --- The annual NFSS Census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging breeding stock.
- **Affiliated Shows and Events** --- are advertised in the NFSS Journal and on the website.
- **NFSS Panel Judges** --- are available for shows. Awards with the NFSS Logo--- (plaques and rosettes) are available at new reduced prices.
- **Annual Achievement Awards** --- are presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

Once we receive your application and fee, we will list your organization among the affiliated clubs in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Please write, email or phone me for an Affiliation Application and Awards Catalog!

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NFSS Affiliations & Awards Manager
PO Box 4092, Joliet, IL 60434
Phone: 815-729-9789
E-Mail: Dbirdranch@aol.com

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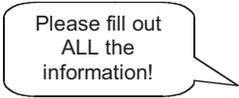
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- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted & most smaller mannikins, most other Parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra.
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NFSS FinchShop

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JUDGE'S HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANDARDS

Official show standards adopted by The National Finch and Softbill Society. Included are the standards of conduct for an NFSS Panel Judge, the current show classification schedule, points/awards schedules, banding information, Judge's report forms, the NFSS Bylaws, and information for those aspiring to become an NFSS Panel Judge. **\$15.00**

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