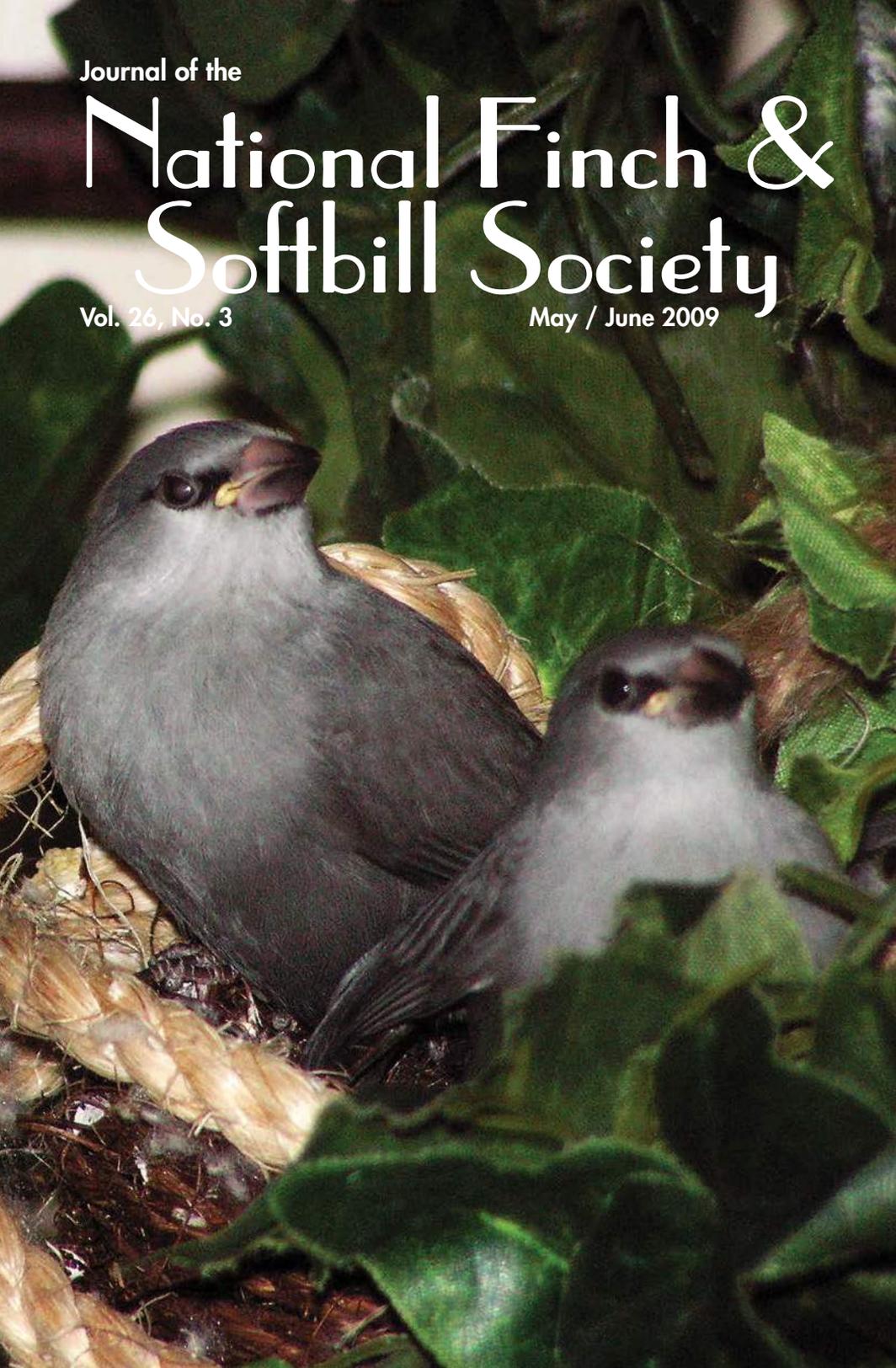


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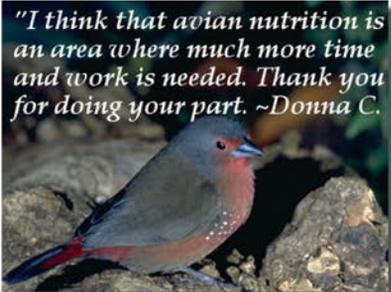




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NFSS Mission Statement

The National Finch & 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.

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Cover: Lavender Waxbill fledglings. Photo courtesy of Tom Keegan.

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In Memoriam - Ian Hinze (1953 - 2008)

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my friend Ian Hinze on December 18, 2008, due to the complications from pneumonia. It was only a few days before that we had exchanged emails concerning the care of Crimson Seedcrackers (*Pyrenestes sanguineus*) for the new waxbill book he was planning to publish this year.

While I never had the good fortune to visit the UK and meet Ian personally, we frequently corresponded by e-mail, and became fast friends. Ian was a prolific author, whose articles were featured in various publications throughout the world (including the NFSS Journal).

He wrote mostly about waxbills and related species of the family Estrildidae, and his

articles detailed his experience in breeding finches and other small seed-eaters indoors. Many of his articles focused on the lighting, plants and other husbandry details that he successfully used. Ian was particularly fascinated by the fire finch family, and was the first person in the UK to breed the Mali or Kulikoro (*Lagonsticta virata*) in 2001.

Ian will be greatly missed by all of us who are fascinated by aviculture, and our sincere condolences go to his family.

Harry Bryant

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President's Message



Legislation

Recently the House of Representative Bill HR 669 was introduced to committee and a hearing was held to receive input from interested parties. This bill, called the "The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act," would in effect ban the importation, interstate movement and procession of most birds, fish, reptiles and small animals, other than cats, dogs and farm animals. If one were to move out of state you would not be able to take your birds with you. You could not breed your birds and you could not take them to a show out of state. This bill would also be devastating to the billion dollar industry that supports pets in the United States with food and other supplies. If our organization and hobby and others like it are to survive, we must remain constantly vigilant for legislation that threatens to eliminate what we have come to love. Our Legislative Liaison Roland Cristo (Email: legis@nfss.org) does an exceptional job of keeping us aware of pending legislation that impacts our Society and I thank him. Cecile Aguilera (Email: membership@nfss.org), our Webmaster, is outstanding at keeping the NFSS website current. Check it out at www.NFSS.org. It is very informative and includes all the information you need to contact representatives to voice your opinions. Thanks to thousands of

correspondences from members like you in NFSS and other similar organizations, the legislative committee has agreed to look at amending the bill, but it is not dead yet. If you become aware of legislation that has the potential to affect our hobby, please contact Roland or myself or any member of the board of directors and we will help to spread the word. Use the NFSS forums to educate other members because alone we have little influence but together we can accomplish much.

This year is an election year and I encourage all to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors. We are a volunteer organization and it takes many people donating their time and talent to keep the Society running. Fresh ideas and motivated individuals are always welcome. If you would like to lend some assistance in other than an election office, you can contact Tom Keegan (Email: 2ndVP@nfss.org). We are often seeking volunteers to help in areas that do not require a full time elected commitment.

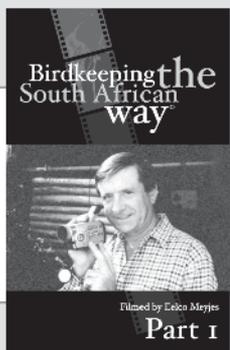
Again I would like to thank all those that have taken the time to contact their legislators on the behalf of aviculture and ask that we all continue to do so.

Respectfully,

Bob Peers
President
National Finch and Softbill Society

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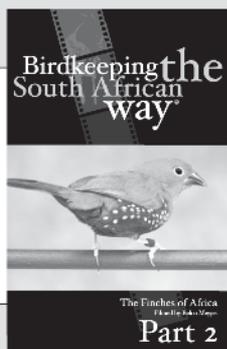
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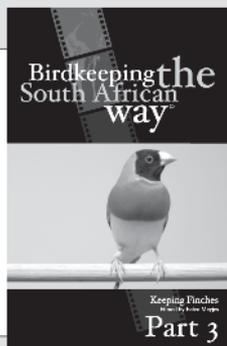
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2008 Show Reports

Cecil Gunby, 4th VP Judges Panel Chair

Following this brief introduction is the 2008 show reports and points awards. There were 31 shows this year, down from previous years. But given the effects of the economy and fund raising activity on the local level, it wasn't a bad year.

Softbills were very popular on the show bench this year due to their great condition, and their beauty and uniqueness didn't hurt a thing, and hopefully in 2009 we will see more participation in the show circuit. Congratulations to all the winners as several of our usual champion exhibitors did well again this year. Several noticeable points to me this year were Dennis Burhans winning the National show with a very nice Zebra Cock and a young novice exhibitor from Canada had two gouldians on the top bench. Shows what dedication to the hobby can do. K.J. Brown had an exceptional year with great birds and active participation, and many others did well and participated for the first time. We have voted on the board to award double points to all regional shows this year, so those of you in clubs that you might think would like to host the regional in your area please contact our Awards and Affiliations director and apply for the show.

Recently on the NFSS Yahoo! forum the talk has been about the survivability of our organization, and speaking from longevity as long as NFSS has been around there have always been ups and downs and comings and goings within NFSS but the core has always held. All need to keep perspective and remember that the reason we all are here is for the love of our hobby and we must remember that it is supposed to be FUN.

In closing, let me mention a few items. There is a new Zebra Standard approved for this coming show season and the new edition of the Judge's Handbook will soon be available on the web site along with the listing of affiliates and their show dates, so please check it out and plan to attend a few shows close to you, and some further away if you are so inclined. You will find that you meet a lot of other members and can have some time to share your hobby experiences with them and share your opinions about NFSS with some of the board members. After all, the success of NFSS depends one each of you individually not your elected representatives.

Show: SE Bird Fanciers
 Location: Opelika, AL Date: 4/24/08
 Judge: Ken Gunby # of Exhibitors: 8 # Entries: 60

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Parson	Lisa Murphy		7
2 nd	White Zebra	Bob Peers		6
3 rd	Pearl Headed Silverbill	Lisa Murphy		5
4 th	Society	Lisa Murphy		4
5 th	Shafttail	Rebecca Mikel		3
6 th	White Eye	Andrew Green		2
7 th	Cuban	Lisa Murphy		1
8 th	Gouldian	Lisa Murphy		
9 th	Blue Cap Cordon	Ginny Allen		
10 th	RH Parrot Finch	Ginny Allen		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Baltimore Bird Fanciers
 Location: Parkville, MA Date: 5/17/08
 Judge: Cecil Gunby # of Exhibitors: 9 # Entries: 80

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Purple Honeycreeper	Robert Mehl		8
2 nd	Indian Silverbill	Shelly Ortman		7
3 rd	Fawn Zebra Hen	Michael Marcotrigiano		6
4 th	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Robert Mehl	08-A-223	5
5 th	White Eyed Zosterops	Robert Mehl		4
6 th	Silver Zebra Hen	Michael Marcotrigiano		3
7 th	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Robert Mehl	08-A-224	2
8 th	RH/PB Gouldian	Olga Sarmento		1
9 th	RH/PB Gouldian	Olga Sarmento		
10 th	Chestnut Brst. Mannikin	Shelly Ortman		
Unflighted	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Robert Mehl	08-A-223	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Raleigh Durham Cage Bird Society
 Location: Raleigh, NC Date: 5/24/08 (AM)
 Judge: Cecil Gunby # of Exhibitors: 5 # Entries: 64

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Owl Finch	Lisa Murphy		7
2 nd	Pearl Headed Silverbill	Lisa Murphy		6
3 rd	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Robert Mehl		5
4 th	Parson	Lisa Murphy		4
5 th	White Eye - Pair	Robert Mehl		3
6 th	Bronze Wing	Sharon Dvorak		2
7 th	Painted Finch	Lisa Murphy		1
8 th	Purple Honeycreeper (H)	Robert Mehl		
9 th	Purple Honeycreeper (M)	Robert Mehl		
10 th	Gold Breast Waxbill	Robert Mehl	08-A-223	
Unflighted	Gold Breast Waxbill	Robert Mehl	08-A-223	
Best Novice	Bronze Wing	Sharon Dvorak		
2 nd Unflighted	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Robert Mehl		
3 rd Unflighted	Green Singer	Lisa Murphy		
Judge's Comments: Nice Show. Very good representation for Australian & African.				

Show: Raleigh Durham Cage Bird Society				
Location: Raleigh, NC Date: 5/24/08 (PM)				
Judge: Ken Gunby # of Exhibitors: 6 # Entries: 67				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Purple Honeycreeper	Robert Mehl		7
2 nd	Parson	Lisa Murphy		6
3 rd	Pearl Headed Silverbill	Lisa Murphy		5
4 th	Normal Shafttail	Cecil Gunby		4
5 th	Society - AOV	Sharon Dvorak		3
6 th	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Robert Mehl		2
7 th	Owl	Lisa Murphy		1
8 th	White Eye - Pair	Robert Mehl		
9 th	Cutthroat	Lisa Murphy		
10 th	Blue Cap Cordon	Robert Mehl	08-B-252	
Unflighted	Blue Cap Cordon	Robert Mehl	08-B-252	
Best Novice	Spice	Joan Blazich		
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Asociacion de Criadores de Finchas de Este				
Location: Caguas, Puerto Rico Date: 6/28/08				
Judge: Alfredo Brugueras # of Exhibitors: 25 # Entries: 216				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Society Cock	Hiram/Lourdes Morales	06-D-14325	13
2 nd	RH/PB Yellow Gould	Rurico Vidal	08-?-3094	N/M
3 rd	Normal Gray Cock	Ramon Colon	08-?-827	11
4 th	CFW Hen	Joaquin Rivera		N/M
5 th	CFW Pair	Hiram/Lourdes Morales	08-?-4149 (H) 08-?-4103 (C)	9
6 th	OH/WB Gouldian	Orlando Rivera	08-?-11206	N/M
7 th	Blk/Brn Society Cock	Hiram/Lourdes Morales	05-?-2067	7
8 th	Light Back Cock	A. Ocasio	08-?-2407	N/M
9 th	BH/PB Gouldian	Joel Vasquez		N/M
10 th	Blk/Brn Society Pair	Hiram/Lourdes Morales	07-D-1435 06-D-3058	4
Unflighted	Normal Gray Cock	Ramon Colon	08-?-827	
Best Novice	CFW Hen	Joaquin Rivera		
Judge's Comments:				
An excellent group of birds. The gouldians that were shown were the best I have seen in a very long time.				

Show: Sun Coast Avian Society				
Location: St. Petersburg, FL Date: 8/2/08				
Judge: Al Decoteau # of Exhibitors: 3 # Entries: 24				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	CFW Zebra	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.	06-E-963	N/M
2 nd	Green Twinspot	Alfred Vivar		2
3 rd	CFW Zebra Pair	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.		N/M
4 th	CFW Zebra Hen	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.		
5 th	White Zebra Hen	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.		
6 th	Parson	Alfred Vivar		
7 th	Diamond Sparrow	Alfred Vivar		
8 th	CFW Zebra Pair	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.		
9 th	Light Back Zebra Cock	Felipe Bonilla, Jr.	06-E-961	
10 th	Green Twinspot	Alfred Vivar		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				
Another small show, however the zebra's were outstanding. Two Green Twinspots were exquisite and nice to view.				

Show: Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club				
Location: Mundelein, IL Date: 9/6/08				
Judge: Sally Huntington # of Exhibitors: 19 # Entries: 126				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Parson	KJ Brown	08-E-2064	10
2 nd	Diamond Firetail	KJ Brown	08-E-2046	9
3 rd	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	Jim Heffernan		8
4 th	Orange Cheeked Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	08-A-434	7
5 th	Black Tail Lavender	Rebecca Mikel		6
6 th	White Eye	Andrew Green		5
7 th	Euro Chestnut Gray	Bill Fiorini	06-D-15286	4
8 th	RH Parrot Finch	Steve Hopman	08-D-7772	3
9 th	White Collared Warbler	Jake Hartzburg		2
10 th	White Java Pair	Nancy Cryder		1
Unflighted	Parson	KJ Brown	08-E-2064	
Best Novice	White Collared Warbler	Jake Hartzburg		
Best Junior	White Collared Warbler	Jake Hartzburg		
Judge's Comments:				
There were birds from all 11 sections! This was the most diverse selection of birds at one show I've ever seen and most are in wonderful condition!				
Judges Special Award: Vince Moase Grey & White Pied Society				

Show: New York Finch & Type Canary Club				
Location: Brooklyn, NY Date: 9/27/08				
Judge: Laura Tinker # of Exhibitors: 10 # Entries: 54				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	RH Parrot Finch	Brad Clark		6
2 nd	Dybowski Twinspot	Shelly Ortman		5
3 rd	CFW Zebra	Ken Rampersand	FCC-279-07	4
4 th	Normal Shafttail	Fazil Ali		N/M
5 th	Normal Shafttail	Brad Clark		2
6 th	Normal Gouldian	Chris Taylor		N/M
7 th	Normal Zebra	P/F Gaggi		
8 th	Indian Silverbill	Fazil Ali		
9 th	Strawberry	Shelly Ortman		
10 th	St. Helena Waxbill	S. Augiello		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				
Beautiful Parrot Finch & Dybowski's. Chestnut Flanked White Zebra also won a Special Presidents Award. Nice Show!				

Show: Fort Worth Bird Club				
Location: Grapevine, TX Date: 9/27/08				
Judge: Ken Gunby # of Exhibitors: 10 # Entries: 126				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Fawn Zebra Hen	KJ Brown	08-?-2063	10
2 nd	Owl	KJ Brown		9
3 rd	Choc-Self Society	Clarence Culwell		8
4 th	Blue Cap Cordon	KJ Brown		7
5 th	White Zebra	Alfredo Brugueras	07-D-6173	6
6 th	Shafttail	Jane Cole		N/M
7 th	Silverbill	Clarence Culwell		4
8 th	Pied Zebra Pair	Clarence Culwell		3
9 th	Green Singer	KJ Brown	04-?-775	2
10 th	Blk/Brn Society	KJ Brown		1
Unflighted	Fawn Zebra Hen	KJ Brown	08-?-2063	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Southeast Tennessee Aviculture Society				
Location: Cleveland, TN Date: 9/27/08				
Judge: Cecil Gunby # of Exhibitors: 3 # Entries: 34				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	St. Helena	Lisa Murphy		4
2 nd	Owl	Lisa Murphy		3
3 rd	Cuban	Lisa Murphy		2
4 th	Parson	Lisa Murphy	08-?-2017	1
5 th	Green Singer	Lisa Murphy	08-?-1261	
6 th	Calico Java	Sondra Ott		
7 th	Green Singer	Lisa Murphy		
8 th	Silver Java	Lisa Murphy		
9 th	Parson	Lisa Murphy		
10 th	OH/WB Gouldian	Lisa Murphy		
Unflighted	Parson	Lisa Murphy	08-?-2017	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Southeast Tennessee Aviculture Society				
Location: Cleveland, TN Date: 9/28/08				
Judge: Paul Williams # of Exhibitors: 4 # Entries: 36				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Cuban	Lisa Murphy		4
2 nd	St. Helena	Lisa Murphy		3
3 rd	Parson	Lisa Murphy	08-?-2017	2
4 th	Owl	Lisa Murphy		1
5 th	Yellow Faced Star	Lisa Murphy		
6 th	Blue Gouldian	Lisa Murphy		
7 th	Parson	Lisa Murphy		
8 th	Lavender	Lisa Murphy		
9 th	Pearl Headed Silverbill	Lisa Murphy		
10 th	Pearl Society	Lisa Murphy		
Unflighted	Parson	Lisa Murphy	08-?-2017	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Maryland All Canary Club				
Location: Baltimore, MD Date: 10/4/08				
Judge: Marion Spazak # of Exhibitors: 4 # Entries: 64				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	White Eye Zosterops	Robert Mehl		7
2 nd	RH Parrot Finch	Brad Clark	08-?-25??	6
3 rd	Purple Honeycreeper	Robert Mehl		5
4 th	Strawberry Cock	Shelly Ortman		4
5 th	Senegal Firefinch	Robert Mehl		3
6 th	White Eye Zosterops	Robert Mehl		2
7 th	RH Gouldian	Brad Clark		1
8 th	Shafttail	Robert Mehl		
9 th	Indian Silverbill	Robert Mehl		
10 th	Dybowski Twinspot	Shelly Ortman		
Unflighted	RH Parrot Finch	Brad Clark	08-?-25??	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				
Strong Softbill Section				

Show: Massachusetts Cage Bird				
Location: Taunton, MA Date: 10/18/08				
Judge: Nizam Ali # of Exhibitors: 14 # Entries: 59				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	RH Parrot Finch	Chris Taylor	????	N/M
2 nd	Normal Gray Zebra	Jacinto Calisto		5
3 rd	Saffron Finch	Fasil Ali		N/M
4 th	WB Yellow Gouldian	Diane Wovk	05-?-11843	3
5 th	Lavender	Tom Keegan	08-E-1562	2
6 th	Star Finch	Fasil Ali		N/M
7 th	Gray/Blk Society	Chris Taylor		
8 th	Greenfinch	Charles Loukeris	08-G-353	
9 th	Black Cheek Zebra Pair	Jacinto Calisto		
10 th	BH/WB Gouldian	Diane Wovk	07-D-2020	
Unflighted	RH Parrot Finch	Chris Taylor	????	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Canary Club of Minnesota				
Location: Prescott, WI Date: 10/18/08				
Judge: Martha Wigmore # of Exhibitors: 6 # Entries: 24				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	RH/PB Gouldian Cock	Eunice Roivanen		3
2 nd	Lightback Zebra Cock	Eunice Roivanen	UGB-08-1600	2
3 rd	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	Eunice Roivanen	UGB-08-1567	1
4 th	Green Singer	Marlene Minor	08-C-8753	
5 th	Owl Finch	Eunice Roivanen		
6 th	Blue Diamond Dove	Jerry Noble		
7 th	BH/PB Gouldian Cock	Marlene Minor		
8 th	Euro GreenFinch	Bob Wild	04-?-06	
9 th	Green Singer	Marlene Minor	08-C-8751	
10 th	Euro GreenFinch	Bob Wild	08-?-501	
Unflighted	Lightback Zebra Cock	Eunice Roivanen	UGB-08-1600	
Best Novice	RH/PB Gouldian Cock	Eunice Roivanen		
Judge's Comments:				
Nice, type birds across the sections. What stunning Zeeks on the Top Bench ! Top gouldian is one to remember.				

Show: Birds of a Feather				
Location: Nashua, NH Date: 10/25/08				
Judge: Marion Spartzak # of Exhibitors: 7 # Entries: 34				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Silver Zebra Hen	Michael Marcotrigiano		4
2 nd	Button Quail	Tina Adams		N/M
3 rd	Variable Seedeater	Tom Taylor		N/M
4 th	Cutthroat	Jacinto Calisto		1
5 th	Zebra Pair	Michael Marcotrigiano		
6 th	Euro Choc. Society	Tom Taylor		
7 th	Gray Zebra Cock	Michael Marcotrigiano	08-D-8722	
8 th	Black Faced Pied Zebra	Tom Taylor		
9 th	Green Singer Cock	Katy Secor		
10 th	Yellow WB Gouldian	Diane Wovk	05-?-11843	
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Oklahoma Cage Bird Society				
Location: Tulsa, OK Date: 10/25/08				
Judge: Laura Bewley # of Exhibitors: 7 # Entries: 76				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Self Choc. Society	Clarence Culwell		7
2 nd	White Zebra Cock	Alfredo Brugueras	07-D-6173	6
3 rd	Fawn Zebra Cock	J/J Muscato	08-E-1505	5
4 th	Saffron	Cheryl Burns		4
5 th	Euro Choc. Society	Cheryl Burns		3
6 th	Euro Choc. Society	Clarence Culwell		2
7 th	Cherry Finch	Clarence Culwell		1
8 th	Silverbill Mutation	Clarence Culwell		
9 th	Normal Shafttail	Alfredo Brugueras	08-D-1023	
10 th	Cuban Hen	Cheryl Burns		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Central California Cage Bird Club				
Location: Modesto, CA Date: 10/25/08				
Judge: Brian Mandarich # of Exhibitors: 10 # Entries: 69				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Yellow Wing Pytilia	KJ Brown		7
2 nd	BW Mannikin	KJ Brown		6
3 rd	Normal Gouldian Cock	KJ Brown	08-?-1568	5
4 th	Normal Shafttail	KJ Brown		4
5 th	Bronze Wing Pair	Laura Watkins		3
6 th	Diamond Dove	Janet Edmonds		2
7 th	BC Zebra Hen	Janet Edmonds	08-E-2374	1
8 th	Cuban	KJ Brown		
9 th	Blue Cap Cordon	KJ Brown		
10 th	Pearl Society	KJ Brown		
Unflighted	Normal Gouldian Cock	KJ Brown	08-?-1568	
Best Novice	Bronze Wing Pair	Laura Watkins		
Judge's Comments:				
The Top 10 were very good- well conditioned birds.				

Show: Astoria Bird Club				
Location: Brooklyn, NY Date: 11/1/08				
Judge: Nizam Ali # of Exhibitors: 6 # Entries: 41				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Normal Star	Fazil Ali		N/M
2 nd	RH Parrot	Huge		N/M
3 rd	Blk/Brn Society	Chris Taylor		N/M
4 th	Saffron Finch	Fazil Ali		N/M
5 th	Combassou	Intaz Khan		1
6 th	Blue WB Gouldian	Huge		
7 th	Green Finch	Roland Stoute		
8 th	Fire Finch	Fazil Ali		
9 th	Normal Society	Jacqueline Estraila		
10 th	Java Finch	Fazil Ali		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Peninsula Cage Bird Society				
Location: Newport news, VA Date: 11/1/08				
Judge: Al Decoteau # of Exhibitors: 5 # Entries: 51				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Blacked Face Dacnis	Robert Mehl		6
2 nd	Greenback Twinspot	Robert Mehl		5
3 rd	FireFinch Pair	Robert Mehl		4
4 th	Cuban	Robert Mehl		3
5 th	RH Parrot Finch	Peggy Duval		N/M
6 th	White Eye Zosterops	Robert Mehl		1
7 th	CFW Zebra	Robert Mehl	07-D-734	
8 th	Blue Gouldian	Peggy Duval		
9 th	Shafttail	Robert Mehl		
10 th	Purple Honeycreeper	Robert Mehl		
Unflighted	Star Finch	Robert Mehl	08-C-393	
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club				
Location: St. Charles, IL Date: 11/1/08 (AM)				
Judge: Clarence Culwell # of Exhibitors: 12 # Entries: 77				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	08-A-441	7
2 nd	Fawn Zebra Cock	J/J Muscato	08-E-1505	6
3 rd	Dilute Fawn Society	Dennis Burhans		5
4 th	GreenFinch	Charlie Schembri		N/M
5 th	Cutthroat Pair	Dennis Burhans		3
6 th	Blue Cap Cordon	Vonda Zwick	08-C-947	2
7 th	Gray Zebra Cock	Dennis Burhans		1
8 th	Blk/Brn Society	Dennis Burhans		
9 th	Red Billed Firefinch	Steve Hopman	07-A-157	
10 th	Blk/Brn Society	Dennis Burhans		
Unflighted	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	08-A-441	
Best Novice	Owl Finch	Barbara Roberts		
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club				
Location: St. Charles, IL Date: 11/1/08 (PM)				
Judge: Armando Lee # of Exhibitors: 11 # Entries: 73				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Isabelle Star	Jim Heffernan		7
2 nd	Blk/Brn Society	Dennis Burhans		6
3 rd	RH/PB Gouldian Cock	Dennis Burhans		5
4 th	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	08-A-441	4
5 th	Gray Zebra Cock	Bob Peers	08-D-531	3
6 th	Rosy Rump Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	07-A-302	2
7 th	Green Aracari	Barbara Roberts		N/M
8 th	Euro Goldfinch	Charlie Schembri		
9 th	Blue Cap Cordon Pair	Vonda Zwick	08-C-946 08-C-956	
10 th	Cutthroat Pair	Dennis Burhans		
Unflighted	Orange Cheek Waxbill	Vonda Zwick	08-A-441	
Best Novice	Green Aracari	Barbara Roberts		
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Chester County Bird Club				
Location: Exton, PA Date: 11/8/08				
Judge: Marion Spartzak # of Exhibitors: 8 # Entries: 45				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	BC Zebra	Robert Mehl		5
2 nd	Honeycreeper	Robert Mehl		4
3 rd	Cuban Hen	Robert Mehl	????	3
4 th	White Eye	Robert Mehl		2
5 th	FireFinch Pair	Robert Mehl		1
6 th	RH Parrot Finch	Peggy Duval		
7 th	Shafttail	Robert Mehl		
8 th	Dilute Gouldian	Mike Lamereaux		
9 th	Chestnut Bellied Seedeater	Robert Mehl		
10 th	Choc. Dilute Society	Jade Straus		
Unflighted	Cuban Hen	Robert Mehl	????	
Best Novice				
Best Junior	Choc. Dilute Society	Jade Straus		
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Texas Bird Breeders				
Location: Temple, TX Date: 11/8/08				
Judge: Laura Bewley # of Exhibitors: 11 # Entries: 160				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Choc Self Society	Clarence Culwell		12
2 nd	Lightback Zebra Hen	Brianna Morrison		11
3 rd	Euro Choc. Society	Joseph Kring		10
4 th	Parson	Darren Hill		9
5 th	Senegal FireFinch	Jan Door		8
6 th	Normal Zebra	Brianna Morrison		7
7 th	BH/PB Gouldian	Dorothy Eggers		N/M
8 th	Green Singer Pair	Candy Elliot		N/M
9 th	Creamino	Cheryl Burns		4
10 th	CFW Zebra Cock	Clarence Culwell		3
Unflighted				
Best Novice				
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Columbia Canary Club				
Location: Gresham, OR Date: 11/08/08				
Judge: Alfredo Brugueras # of Exhibitors: 10 # Entries: 50				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Parson	KJ Brown	08-?-2064	6
2 nd	Red Siskin	Paula Hansen	07-D-10105	5
3 rd	Pytilia	KJ Brown	08-?-102	4
4 th	Shafttail	KJ Brown	08-?-71	3
5 th	White Java	KJ Brown	08-?-291	2
6 th	Normal Eng. Zebra	Richard Hansen	08-?-805	N/M
7 th	Pied American Society	KJ Brown	08-?-1970	
8 th	Fawn Zebra	KJ Brown	08-?-1933	
9 th	Cuban Hen	KJ Brown	08-?-78	
10 th	Lightback Zebra	Chris Beam		
Unflighted	Parson	KJ Brown	08-?-2064	
Best Novice				
Best Junior	Lightback Zebra	Chris Beam		
Judge's Comments:				

Show: Asociacion de Criadores de Finches del Este				
Location: Caguas, Puerto Rico Date: 11/8/08				
Judge: Martha Wigmore # of Exhibitors: 24 # Entries: 256				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Normal Gray Zebra (C)	Ramon Colon	08-E-834	14
2 nd	BH/WB Yellow Gouldian	Rurico Vidal	08-D-6146	N/M
3 rd	Normal Gray Zebra Pair	Hiram Morales	08-E-4112 08-E-4160	12
4 th	CFW Zebra Hen	Jorge Mojica		N/M
5 th	YH/WB Gouldian (C)	Hiram Morales	08-E-4296	10
6 th	Fawn Zebra Cock	Ramon Fernandez	08-E-2402	N/M
7 th	Blk/Brn Society	Hiram Morales	08-E-4117	8
8 th	RH/PB Gouldian Cock	Orlando Rivera	08-E-5107	N/M
9 th	Self Choc. Society	Mitchelle/Harold Conde	08-E-6668	N/M
10 th	YH/WB Yellow Gouldian	Orlando Rivera	08-E-5121	N/M
Unflighted	Normal Gray Zebra (C)	Ramon Colon	08-E-834	
Best Novice	Self Choc. Society	Mitchelle/Harold Conde	08-E-6668	
Best Junior	Blk Breasted Zebra Hen	Yalicy Guzman Torres	08-E-5456	
<p>Judge's Comments: Some of the most important and fun work in our hobby has long been happening in Puerto Rico. Their Top Zeebes and Gouldians are the best in the hobby. Knowledgeable and generous, these NFSS members are the heart of our hobby, pumping passion and joy into aviculture. I am honored to Judge their birds. Judges Comments: Algunos de lo mas importante, y divertido, trabajo en nuestra hobby ha pasado en Puerto Rico por muchos anos. Sus "zeebes" y "gouldians" son los mejores de la hobby. Los miembros de el NFSS de Puerto Rico son inteligentes, generosos, y son el Corazon de nuestra hobby, y estan poniendo passion y alegria en nuestra hobby. Estoy honrado tener la oportunidad para juzgar sus aves.</p>				

Show: Cascade Canary Breeders Association				
Location: Monroe, WA Date: 11/29/08				
Judge: Armando Lee # of Exhibitors: 9 # Entries: 47				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	White Eye Zosteropes	KJ Brown		5
2 nd	Blk/Wht Mannikin	KJ Brown		4
3 rd	RH/PB Yellow Gouldian	Ross Lambert		3
4 th	Blk Rump Waxbill Pair	KJ Brown		2
5 th	Plumhead	KJ Brown	08-D-9885	1
6 th	Pearl Headed Silverbill	KJ Brown		
7 th	Cuban	KJ Brown	07-B-568	
8 th	Normal Gray Zebra Hen	Carol Johnson		
9 th	Euro Goldfinch	KJ Brown		
10 th	Pied Zebra	Carol Johnson		
Unflighted	Plumhead	KJ Brown	08-D-9885	
Best Novice	RH/PB Yellow Gouldian	Ross Lambert		

Show: National Cage Bird Show				
Location: Lansing, MI Date: 11/21/08				
Judge: Laura Bewley # of Exhibitors: 25 # Entries: 177				
Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Gray Zebra Cock	Dennis Burhans		12
2 nd	RH Gouldian	Julie Lawson	CFS-07-1379	11
3 rd	GreenBack Twinspot	Robert Mehl		10
4 th	Euro Choc. Society	Dennis Burhans		9
5 th	White Eye Zosteropes Pair	Robert Mehl		8
6 th	Normal Shafttail	Vince Moase	CFS-08-226	7
7 th	OB White Zebra Cock	Sally Huntington	08-D-1164	6
8 th	RH Gouldian	Julie Lawson	CFS-08-63	5
9 th	Lavender Waxbill	Sally Huntington	08-B-56	4
10 th	Shafttail	KJ Brown		3
Unflighted	Normal Shafttail	Vince Moase	CFS-08-226	
Best Novice	RH Gouldian	Julie Lawson	CFS-07-1379	

Show: National Institute of red Orange Canaries

Location: Elmhurst, IL Date: 11/29/08

Judge: Martha Wigmore # of Exhibitors: 10 # Entries: 50

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	Chaffinch	Marion Pociask		N/M
2 nd	Blue Cap Cordon Hen	Vonda Zwick	08-C-950	5
3 rd	Normal Gray Zebra Hen	Rebecca Mikel	08-C-665	4
4 th	Blue Cap Cordon Cock	Vonda Zwick	08-C-953	3
5 th	Fawn Cherry Finch	Andrew Green		2
6 th	Combassou	Rebecca Mikel		1
7 th	Fawn Zebra Cock	J/J Mascato	08-E-1505	
8 th	White Eye	Andrew Green		
9 th	Mut. Ring Neck Dove	Julia Howard	08-?-585	
10 th	Fawn Zebra Pair	J/J Muscato	08-E-1516 08-E-1512	
Unflighted	Blue Cap Cordon Hen	Vonda Zwick	08-C-950	
Best Novice				

Judge's Comments:

A beautiful mix of birds on the Top Bench.

Show: Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Location: Denver, CO Date: 11/8/08

Judge: Al Decoteau # of Exhibitors: 5 # Entries: 29

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	CFW Zebra	Anna Sinclair	06-D-271	3
2 nd	Owl Finch	Anna Sinclair		2
3 rd	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Anna Sinclair		1
4 th	RH Gouldian	Gunner Nitzkorski		
5 th	Gloster Canary	Anna Sinclair		
6 th	Lightback Zebra Cock	Gunner Nitzkorski		
7 th	Star Finch	Gunner Nitzkorski		
8 th	Fire Finch	Anna Sinclair		
9 th	Bronze Canary	Anna Sinclair		
10 th	Normal Zebra	Gunner Nitzkorski	08-E-267	
Unflighted				
Best Novice	RH Gouldian	Gunner Nitzkorski		

Judge's Comments:

*Local club requested the addition of canaries in this division.

Show: Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Location: Denver, CO Date: 11/9/08

Judge: Conrad Meinert # of Exhibitors: 5 # Entries: 29

Award	Species	Exhibitor	Band #	Pts
1 st	CFW Zebra Cock	Anna Sinclair	06-D-271	3
2 nd	RH Gouldian	Gunner Nitzkorski		N/M
3 rd	Lightback Zebra	Gunner Nitzkorski		N/M
4 th	Red Cheek Cordon	Anna Sinclair		
5 th	Gold Breasted Waxbill	Anna Sinclair		
6 th	RH Gouldian	Stephanie Palmer		
7 th	Red Faced Star	Gunner Nitzkorski		
8 th	Lightback Zebra	Gunner Nitzkorski		
9 th	Silver Canary	Marylee Reisig		
10 th	Bronze Frost Canary	Marylee Reisig		
Unflighted				
Best Novice				

Judge's Comments:

Would have been nice to have had more entries. * Local club requested the addition of canaries in this division.

ANNOUNCING!! 2009 NFSS General Election

NFSS Bylaws specify that an election will be held every two years to elect the officers of the Society. All elected and appointed offices are open to current members who are encouraged to seek an office.

Serving on the NFSS Board of Directors is an honor, a responsibility, and a commitment of time in addition to the responsibilities of your office. Board meetings are held four times yearly. Three are held online and the 4th quarter Board meeting will be conducted prior to the annual membership meeting held at the NCBS (it may be necessary to conclude the 4th qtr. meeting online). The

length of the meetings will depend on the number of items on the agenda and the amount of discussion. Internet accessibility on a daily basis is necessary for each candidate for NFSS office.

Board members are strongly encouraged to participate in discussions and respond to questions from other board members in a timely manner. Elected officers should vote during the official meetings. Between meetings, the Officers Forum online Yahoo! group is also active.

Board members whose departments have a budget present annual budgets to the board for consideration, and are

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required to submit a detailed account of their expenditures and income to the treasurer on a monthly basis. In addition, officers must prepare quarterly reports to the Board of Directors. Knowledge of the most current NFSS Bylaws is essential and a basic understanding of Roberts Rules of Order is extremely helpful.

The board's duty is to lead the organization in its mission and to keep it financially and legally viable. It is extremely important that each board candidate understand fully the responsibilities of the office they intend to fill, the minimum time spent per week for that office, and the time spent in general with the Board of Directors.

All candidates should contact the current officer (listed within the Journal) and discuss the position with them. Upon election, each new officer will be given a document containing information related to their position to help them assume their responsibilities.

Every person who intends to become a candidate for any office will be required to submit a bio/resume to the chairman of the nominating committee, stating their background and experience, in 300 words or less by June 15. Submit the bio to Bill Parlee at billhdfct@aol.com.

Time required for all directors: Four quarterly Board of Directors meetings are conducted, each lasting approximately a month and require a minimum of an hour daily to monitor and respond to posts. This is in addition to the time required to perform the duties of your office. Officers are also encouraged to monitor and participate in the NFSS Yahoo! group forums.

NFSS ELECTED OFFICERS

The first paragraph for each officer below is the NFSS bylaws description of the responsibilities of that office. It is followed by the amount of time required. The second paragraph is a practical application/description of these responsibilities.

President:

The President of NFSS shall preside over all Board of Directors 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

Time requirements: 4 to 12 hours a week.

Practical application: As leader of NFSS, the President must be cognizant at all times of the issues facing aviculture and relay this information to the NFSS Board of Directors. He/she represents NFSS in the avicultural community and must conduct himself/herself in a proper manner. In addition he/she must be available to members of the Board of Directors and monitor internet NFSS Forums and make statements when necessary. The President must be familiar with the avian community and issues pertaining to it's welfare.

1st Vice President
(Regional VPs, Education):

First Vice-President (Education) - Shall fill the position of the President in absentia. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fulfill his/her term. The First Vice-President coordinates the activities of, and is responsible for all Regional Vice-Presidents and will

coordinate the educational programs of the Society. The First Vice-President also approves any checks made payable to the President.

Time requirements: 7 hours a week

Practical application: The 1st VP must work closely with the President, submit a budget for and develop an education program for NFSS, supervise the activities of the Regional Vice Presidents and assist them as they represent the membership in their regions.

Regional Vice Presidents:

Regional Vice-Presidents- Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the Society within the region in which he/she resides. Regional Vice Presidents are responsible to the First Vice-President and will serve as part of the Education Committee. Regional Vice Presidents are encouraged to attend the Regional Show of their area and hold at least one membership meeting annually within their region.

Time Required: 4-6 hours per week

Practical application: Regional Vice Presidents represent their region on the Board of Directors. They are to be very proactive within their regions by contacting existing bird clubs, discussing with them the advantages of being an affiliated club such as: Journals, judges, award system, bands, and an informative website. Each Regional VP should encourage clubs to establish education programs, hold NFSS affiliated shows, and conduct seminars. Regional VPs should also have available NFSS brochures to distribute while being a visible representative of the NFSS. He/she may be asked to assist the membership director by contacting members that

do not renew memberships. They are to encourage members within their regions to submit questions and opinions for discussions on the Board of Directors quarterly meetings. As members of the Education Committee the Regional VPs assist in developing education programs for the society.

2nd Vice President (Publications):

Second Vice-President (Publications) - Shall be second in succession to fill the position of President. The Second Vice-President shall chair the publishing committee and is responsible for all publications produced by the Society both in print and electronic media. This officer also supervises the NFSS website.

Time Required: 6 hours per week

Practical application: The 2nd VP shall chair the Publishing Committee, to include the Editor of the NFSS Journal, to produce the publications of the Society. This committee will be charged with generating content and providing general assistance in the production of the Journal. He/she shall be available to give guidance to the Journal Editor in securing articles and the Advertising Manager in securing ads. In addition he/she will supervise the research for print and mailing services to maintain the high quality of the NFSS Journal at competitive pricing. The 2nd VP also supervises and is responsible for the NFSS website and domain.

Third Vice President (FSS and Census):

Third Vice-President (NFSS Finch/Softbill Save) - The Finch and Softbill Save Director coordinates the activities of the NFSS Captive Breeding Program. He/she compiles and assists in publishing the yearly census as well as collecting data,

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maintaining records and producing the FSS Newsletter for FSS participants.

Time Required: 30 minutes per new FSS applicant and 30 minutes per participant in the annual census. More time is spent publishing a newsletter.

Practical application: The 3rd VP/FSS Director oversees the day-to-day running of the FSS program which includes 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. Other duties include review and acceptance of individual applications to the FSS program and maintaining species records. Other responsibilities include adhering to a strict policy of preserving privacy and confidentiality of information involving the annual census and the Finch and 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.

4th Vice President

(Judges Panel/Standards/Research):

Fourth Vice President (Judges Panel/Standards/Research) - This officer must be a NFSS Panel Judge as he/she will serve as the Judges 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 maintain the records points earned by members and birds from these exhibitions. In addition, the Fourth Vice-President represents the NFSS as liaison with both the National Cage Bird Show Board and the Great American Cage Bird Show.

Time required: 6 – 10 hours per week. More hours during the fall show season.

Practical application: In addition to serving as the Judges Panel Director, the 4th VP shall also chair the Research and Standards Committee and be in charge of Species Classifications, and be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the Society and compiling and recording member points arising from these. The Fourth 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.

Treasurer

Treasurer - The calendar year for the Society shall be from January 1st to December 31st. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the Board at the 4th Quarter Board meeting, a budget to be approved by the Board, indicating proposed income and expenditures for the upcoming year. He/she is responsible for establishing and maintaining Society financial accounts and filing tax returns. All funds, records, receipts, and expenditures for the previous year or shorter period upon relief of the Treasurer, will be reviewed by two members of the Board of Directors, not to include the current Treasurer, as appointed by the Board of Directors. The results of the review will be included with the annual budget or present to the Board upon relief of the Treasurer.

Time Required: 8-10 hours per week.

Practical application: Candidates for this position should have business experience in general accounting, establishing and maintaining multiple bank accounts, skills to document and file all

associated paperwork, computer skills that would enable him/her to deposit and transfer funds electronically into and from various accounts, and use business software provided by NFSS for maintaining up to date records. The Treasurer requests budgets from all departments and prepares the annual budget for the Society, receives, deposits and documents payments weekly to the proper account after all invoices and receipts have been verified, provides the President a weekly report and requests approval for all expenditures prior to payment. He/she also receives monthly reports from each department, verifies them for accuracy and tracks them on a computer and paper ledger. Makes payments for debts incurred by the Society, prepares the yearly tax returns, and provides financial advice to the Society as needed.

Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary - This officer takes minutes during all board meetings, including those conducted electronically on the internet. The Executive Secretary, or designated representative, will have available at each meeting the most recent issue of Robert's Rules of Order. He/she shall maintain an archive of all minutes and the Society's official documents and assist other board members with correspondence as necessary.

Time Required: 25-30 hours minimum per quarterly Board of Directors meeting (four) and 2-4 hours per month to perform administrative support responsibilities for other BOD officers.

Practical application: The person in this position should have good verbal and written communication skills, experience in taking minutes, experience with word processing software, and internet

capabilities. He/she takes minutes at all BOD meetings, compiles the minutes and submits them for Board approval and eventual publication in the NFSS Journal. The Executive Secretary provides administrative support, as needed, to other Board officers.

Membership Director

Membership Director - Shall be responsible for receipt and processing of new and renewal memberships in the Society and for the maintenance of NFSS Membership confidentiality.

Time Required: at least 20 minutes for each new member in addition to at least 7-8 hours weekly.

Practical application: The Membership Director requires a person dedicated to maintaining current membership databases. Time is dedicated to maintaining membership and financial records, sending membership materials to new and renewing members, approving memberships to the NFSS Yahoo! forums, inviting non-members to join the NFSS, responding to emails and phone calls from members, and preparing membership lists to approved NFSS officers. He/she must be familiar with computer database management since membership rolls must be provided to a number of officers in different forms. He/s he must be able to monitor the computer daily for communication from the Forum Moderator and Band Secretary. Labels must also be supplied to the Editor of the Journal six times a year.

Band Secretary

Band Secretary- Shall be responsible for the ordering and issuance of official numbered closed bands in accordance with the policy of the Society, and

maintaining the NFSS Band Secretary's permanent band records.

Time Required: 5 hrs. weekly Dec-Feb
7-10 hours weekly

Practical application: This office requires computer knowledge- specifically internet expertise, and secretarial and accounting skills. He/she will be negotiating purchases with foreign suppliers of bands, and will be required to convert foreign currency. The Band Secretary maintains the NFSS yearly permanent records pertaining to band sales. This involves ordering all bands from the supplier, receiving all band orders, verifying membership status, processing the orders which includes packaging and shipping, and conducting and reporting inventories. In addition, he/she must compile and provide a quarterly activity report of sales to the Board of Directors and a monthly itemized report mailed to the treasurer. The treasurer's report consists of monthly itemized expenses and payments both by USPS and internet PayPal. This position requires regular internet mail monitoring for posts regarding verification of issued numbers of banded birds and answering members' questions.

Liaison Officer

Liaison/Awards Director - Shall be responsible for club affiliations, selection of clubs hosting Regional Shows and for the processing of awards for NFSS sanctioned shows and annual awards for the Society.

Time Required: Oct-April 8 hours per week. May-Sept. 4 hours per week.

Practical Application: The Liaison Officer is responsible for club affiliations. Re-affiliation packets must be composed,

printed, and sent to all current clubs in December of each year. As these are returned, they must be entered in a database and information on them concerning delegate, contact information, and show/ fair information sent to the Awards Manager, NFSS Journal Editor, NFSS Website Manager, and President for the use of the Society. Each check must be entered in a log, marked with the club name, and sent to the NFSS Treasurer monthly. A monthly financial report must be sent to the treasurer. Club affiliation information also needs to be sent to the Membership Director for inclusion in the membership database. It is extremely important that a current list of affiliated clubs, shows, and fairs be maintained at all times. 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 NFSS so replies must be made in a timely fashion. The Liaison Officer must maintain close communication with the Awards Manager.

Finchshop Director

Finchshop Director – Shall be responsible for the inventory and sales of merchandise offered to the general public. He/she must receive and process customer orders, order from vendors, and work with the NFSS Journal editor and the webmaster to update the FinchShop Catalog as needed. New products must also be sought and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

Time Required: 5-8 hours per week

Practical application: The FinchShop Director 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. Specific duties: prepares and submits an annual budget; establishes and maintains contacts with vendors; 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.

APPOINTED NFSS OFFICERS

The following officers are appointed by the President of NFSS. If you feel you could serve in one of these offices, submit a resume to be given to the new President upon election.

Awards Manager

Awards Manager - Shall be responsible for processing of awards for NFSS sanctioned shows and annual awards for the Society.

Time Required: Jan-May, 2 hours per week; June-Dec, 8 hours per week

Practical Application: The Awards Manager works closely with the Liaison Officer. In Dec. of each year, the Liaison Officer sends re-affiliation packets to all affiliated clubs. Within these packets are catalogs for awards such as NFSS engraved logo plaques and NFSS

rosettes which the Awards Manager designs and produces. Affiliated clubs return them to the Liaison Officer who then forwards these to the Awards Manager to order. Once award orders are received, the Awards Manager will contact the vendor concerning the plaques and assemble any ordered rosettes and ribbons from the inventory. Both are then forwarded to the affiliated club. It is the his/her responsibility to order rosettes and ribbons from a vendor and maintain an inventory adequate for a show season.

NFSS Journal Editor

NFSS Journal Editor (responsible to the Second Vice-President and the President). He/she is responsible for all activities related to the production of the bimonthly NFSS JOURNAL. These include procuring articles and photographs, maintaining communication with all NFSS Board members to insure accuracy of NFSS information and forms to be included in each issue, create/edit each NFSS Journal issue, deliver it to the printer in a timely manner and approve payment of printer invoice for each issue. In addition, the supervision of the Advertising and Promotion Manager is the responsibility of the NFSS Journal Editor.

Time Required: A minimum of 15 hours per issue for digital construction of the journal. Additional daily work soliciting publication materials, and working with the printer.

Practical application: The Editor is responsible for all activities related to the production of NFSS Journal. These include creating and editing each Journal, verifying the accuracy of information, occasional development of ad copy, and working with the printer to

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insure deadlines can be met and quality issues solved, and approve payment of printer invoice for each issue. The NFSS Journal Editor reports to the 2nd VP of publications, and works with and supervises the Advertising and Promotions Manager. Skills needed: Basic grammar and spelling. Computer skills including knowledge of graphic layout, and publishing programs such as Quark, InDesign, Photoshop or others are necessary as well as a knowledge of file types and how to utilize or convert them for use in the Journal.

Advertising and Promotion Manager:

Advertising and Promotion Manager (responsible to the NFSS Journal editor and the Second Vice-President). This officer shall design and arrange for ads to be placed in major show catalogs throughout the year and promote, determine prices, design, format, and arrange for payment for ads placed in the NFSS JOURNAL. In addition, this person cooperates with Regional Vice-Presidents in promoting Regional Shows.

Time Required: 10 hours per week

Practical Application: The Manager will solicit Journal Display and Classified Advertising, manage advertising accounts including tracking of runs, and receiving payment which is documented and sent to the treasurer. He/she will coordinate with the editor the placement of ads in the NFSS Journal and with the NFSS Webmaster placement of ads on the website. This officer is responsible for designing and placing ads for NFSS in the NCBS catalog. In addition, he/she will work with other officers in providing promotional material for NFSS. A monthly report shall be made to the NFSS Treasurer and a quarterly report to the NFSS BOD.

NFSS Website Manager

Web Site Manager is responsible for maintaining and keeping the NFSS website up-to-date. Works under the direction of the 2nd VP.

Time Required: 7-10 hours per week

Moderator of NFSS Finch/Softbill Forum

Acts as moderator of the NFSS Listserv, determines eligibility and approves subscribers in conjunction with the membership director. He/she writes and distributes list rules, and enforces a civil forum through thoughtful correspondence with subscribers and unsubscription of those whose contributions prevent a civil forum. (Responsible to the President).

Time Required: 3-10 hours per week

Legislative Liaison

Shall be responsible for the interrelationships between NFSS and other national and local avicultural organizations, investigate and report to the NFSS Board any current or proposed legislation that would affect bird owners/breeders and notify the membership of any bird related developments within other organizations through the NFSS JOURNAL, NFSS website and electronic media. (Responsible to the President).

American Federation of Aviculture Representative

Shall be responsible for keeping the NFSS membership informed as to activities of the AFA through the NFSS JOURNAL and electronic media. (Responsible to the President).

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Parlee, 2009
 Election committee Chair.

WRITING YOUR BIOGRAPHY WHEN RUNNING FOR NFSS OFFICE:

Information & Suggestions for Candidates

Please provide information that you feel would be helpful for NFSS members in making their voting decisions. You may write whatever you like, but you must limit your bio to 300 words. You may wish to use the outline below to structure your bio. Please be very brief and submit to Billhtfdct@aol.com by June 15th.

Personal Information: Use this section to state your name, where you are from, and any other information from the “non-bird” part of your life that you would like to share (family information, education, occupation, etc.). You may wish to list any personal attributes that you would bring to the position as well.

History in the hobby: People usually want to hear about your history and experience with birds, focusing on finches and softbills, of course. You may point out how long you have owned birds or what kinds of birds interest you. What do you keep now? Are you involved in showing or breeding? Is there anything about your experiences with birds that would be of special interest to members?

Interest in the position: It is helpful to briefly state why you are running for the position, what interests you about it, why you have chosen to get involved as an officer at this time, etc.

Relevant work history or skills: It is useful to list any work background or skills you have acquired that are relevant to the position you are running for. For instance, some positions may benefit from experience managing databases or balancing budgets (refer to position descriptions). You may wish to describe your skills in detail and how they would help you carry out your duties as an officer.

Vision for the position: What do you see yourself accomplishing if you win this election? It is helpful to point out anything in particular you would like to do in your position if you should win, ways you would like to see the position change or grow, or how you would like to see NFSS benefit from having you in this position.



Breeding and Showing Finches in Puerto Rico

by *Orlando Rivera*

This article was written to share some information related to the breeding of finches in the island of Puerto Rico and the finch shows that our club (Asociación de Criadores de Finches Inc.) celebrates every year. In comparison with the breeding of finches in the United States, we have some big differences: like the weather, laws that control the breeding of finches and close physical location between breeders.

The first big difference is the weather. During the whole year we have nice weather to breed birds. The lowest average temperature in the island during the winter is near the 60's °F and the highest are during the summer at about 96's °F. This means that we can breed outside without any concerns about controlling the environmental conditions like temperature and humidity. Specifically for the Australian and African finches this is a positive point because these are excellent environmental conditions for breeding.

The second big difference is the Puerto Rican law related to the breeding of

birds. These laws identify a specific list of birds that can be bred on the island. This list has the intention to protect the natural birds of the island, because in theory some exotic birds that escape can affect the habitat of some species of the island. The list of birds that we may legally breed is limited to only the following species of finches: Society Finch, Zebra Finch, Lady Gouldian, Cutthroat, Green Singing, Brazilian Red Crested Cardinal and Cordon Blue. This is a negative point for the breeders that like to breed a variety of species because we are limited to only these species. The positive point is that we improve the quality because we must concentrate on only this limited number of species.

The third big difference is that, as an island, all the breeders who share the hobby are close to one another. We have the good opportunity to visit any aviary in the island. Actually we have about 60 active breeders in the club, and it is easy to find a location for the shows for everybody to compete.





Exhibitors chat in the show room

Our club was founded in 2001 and we hold two shows during the year. The first show is held during the summer by June and the second one is the National show held by late November or December. Usually about 30 breeders compete in the shows (only for legal finches) and near 300 finches compete on each show. The judge for the shows is a member of the judge panel of the NFSS. The club does some bird exhibition activities during the year in the big shopping centers in order to collect money to be used later for the expenses of the competitions. The main prizes are for the birds banded the same year, and it is an honor for the breeder to win prizes with birds that they raised and banded themselves. We also compete in open sections for older birds, but these prizes have a minor category. A lot of progress in terms of bird quality for each of the species is observed in the shows every year. As a club we have the mission to "breed until excellence." We can observe a lot of "passion" among the breeders to improve the quality of their birds and to prepare the birds for the next show. The environment between the club members is one in which cordiality and cooperation are observed continually.

As a club we want to share our experiences with other breeders of the NFSS located

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Judge Martha Wigmore with top bench exhibitor Adalberto Ocasio

outside of Puerto Rico and to invite everybody to compete in our shows. If you are a breeder and you want to compete in our shows you can combine the competition with a wonderful vacation on the island and visit our beaches and mountains. For additional information please contact club President Rurico Vidal at ruricovm@hotmail.com.



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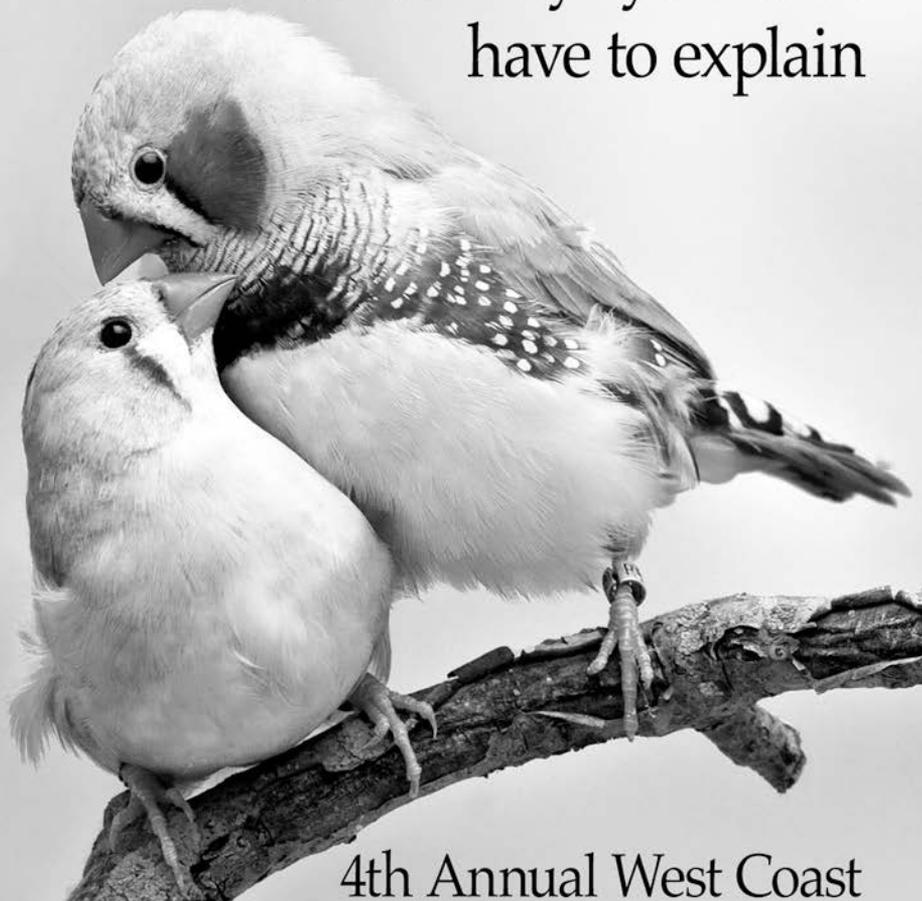
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The 2008 National Cage Bird Show

Notes of Cecil Gunby, NFSS 4th VP & Judges Panel Chair

Hello to all. I promised a follow up to my last post after the Nationals so here it is.

As to the statistics of winners and birds the unofficial results posted to the NFSS web site were basically correct, and I would like to thank Rebecca Mikel, our Executive Secretary, and our webmaster Cecile for the almost live stream of information during the show to bring all who were not there the opportunity to feel as if they were. Great job, guys.

Of all the statistics, these are the things that stand out in my mind. Our best in division, the normal Zebra exhibited by Dennis Burhans, was an excellent specimen. The scary part to me was that I remember Dennis the first time I met him, and he was just a teenager in Missouri and was a great hobbyist back then. Guess it shows what persistence can lead to. Next was we had two Gouldians on the top bench and they both were exhibited by a novice exhibitor from Canada. You go girl! Several others placed on the top bench, such as our awards director Robert Mehl and Vince Moase, our regional VP from Canada. And yes even our past President was in the hunt. Though some are, I am not particularly into the winners and losers but more into the participation and sharing of all our members who attended. I'll let the i-dotting and the t-crossing go until the official results are posted.

Now to the show, I always refer to the nationals as three days of fun and friendship surrounded on both sides by

days and weeks of preparation and pain. Once a year this show gives me many opportunities, one is to put faces and personalities to the names I see typed on the NFSS Husbandry Forum. This year I had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with Nancy Cryder and Bill Fiorini and admiring their lovely Javas. Also I get to see and visit with people that I only see once a year. And last but not least I have the opportunity to visit with wonderful friends to laugh, stay up late, lose sleep and in general have a blast. I would like to send a shout-out to Ken and Yavitory Rampersaud, two of our wonderful members who didn't even bring a bird to the show but only came to visit with other NFSS members. Folks like these are the backbone of our hobby and without them my joy of birds would be diminished.

I am sure that some will want to know more about the Nationals and I'm sure some will add other thoughts. But, from my view, if you want to really know more, plan now to come to Tulsa, OK next year on the same weekend and experience it yourself. After all, some of what happens at the Nationals stays at the Nationals.



Judges Panel Director Cecil Gunby at the NCBS

2008 National Cage Bird Society Results for Finch & Softbill Division

Judge: Laura Bewley
Number of birds exhibited: 177
Number of exhibitors: 25



Some White-Eyes await the final judging.



Judge Laura Bewley at the Bench.

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Section	Entries	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Softbills	13	Robert Mehl	Robert Mehl	Sally Huntington	Andrew Green
Zebra Finches	31	Dennis Burhans	Sally Huntington	J. Muscato	Dave Pauls
Gouldians	14	Julie Lawson	Julie Lawson	Mike Manley	Cecil Gunby
AOV Australian	27	Vince Moase	Vince Moase	KJ Brown	Rebecca Mikel
Indo-Pacific	14	Cecil Gunby	Robert Mehl	Vince Moase	Mike Manley
Society Finches	18	Dennis Burhans	Alfredo Brugueras	Dennis Burhans	Dennis Burhans
European Finches	6	Charlie Schembri	Charlie Schembri	Cecil Gunby	Robert Wild
Finches of Africa	36	Robert Mehl	Sally Huntington	Lisa Murphy	Vonda Zwick
Finches of the Americas	5	Cecil Gunby	Robert Mehl	Robert Mehl	KJ Brown
Doves and Quails	2	Jim Heffernan	Jim Heffernan		
Pairs	11	Robert Mehl	Sally Huntington	Dennis Burhans	Nancy Cryder

Above are the results for each section that had birds entered in it. For details on the overall top birds shown in the Finch & Softbill division at NCBS, see the 2008 show results published in this issue. There you will find information on species and exhibitors for the top ten finches & softbills shown at the national show in 2008.



Gleeful Winners: Lisa Murphy, Robert Mehl, and Vonda Zwick.



Andrew Green and Rebecca Mikel living large at the nationals.

Aviculture's Future Is Now: Establishing Estrildid Finches in Captivity

by *Scott Golden*

Forward: In the early 1990's, the African country of Ghana placed every bird that was endemic or migratory through its lands on Appendix III of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna). Appendix III species are listed after one member country has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling trade in a species. The listed species are not necessarily threatened with extinction globally. In all member countries, trade in these species is only permitted with an appropriate export permit and a certificate of origin. In North America, the Ghana Appendix meant the virtually complete shutdown of importation of wild-caught African finches. By 1995, almost all African finches had disappeared in the United States, with the exception of perhaps a few blue caps, fire finches and gold breasted waxbills, which occasionally were still brought in via quarantine stations or through Canadian importers.

During these years, 1993-2006, many European aviculturists, who were still receiving the finches that had been banned in the United States under CITES Appendix III, worked hard toward establishing many African estrildid species. However, with the advent of widespread outbreaks of bird flu during the last few years, Europe now has a complete ban on the importation of birds. Yet, because of the work of serious breeders, they still retain many African finch species in Europe.

In the United States, due to a change in Ghanaian politics, 2007 brought the lifting of the ban on many birds caused by Ghana's use of Appendix III of CITES. This has meant the sudden availability of finches that we have not seen in this country for at least 14 years! Western Bluebills, Goldbreasted Waxbills, Red-Cheeked Cordon Blues, Pytilia, Green, Brown and Rosy Twinspots, Senegal, Kulikoro and Black-Faced Fire Finches, as well as many other species are now available in the US. Soon, without question, imports of wild-caught birds will cease. But it just takes one case of bird flu, and imports are done. Pressure on airlines from animal rights groups already makes it almost impossible to fly birds out of Africa.

Some wise man (or woman) once said, "A people who do not know their history are doomed to repeat it"...or something like that. If we have not learned to employ other avicultural techniques to propagate these short-lived birds, we will lose them again (and probably for the final time). While parent-rearing is a fantastic goal, we must first get the numbers of domestically reared finches WAY up before really allowing ourselves to squander eggs or chicks in the effort to develop parent-rearing strains.

The time to establish these finches is now! In short, we must look at the various species with which we are working as endangered, at least in terms of their status in US aviculture. Other organizations that work with endangered

animals (i.e. zoos and species recovery efforts) employ every imaginable technique to produce the next generation of offspring and preserve genetic diversity. Giant pandas are artificially inseminated. Orangutans are pulled from their mothers and human-raised when there is a problem with the natural mother's parenting skills. California condor eggs are systematically pulled, hatches are human-assisted and chicks are human-raised from day 1. The goal of these organizations is, in the short term, to get the numbers of these species up. Secondly, every effort is made to keep the genetic diversity of these species by getting offspring from every available individual. The long-term goal is to see a future where many of these animals remain present. Perhaps there will be enough natural habitat restored for reintroductions. However, with the exponential growth of humans and the concomitant increase in natural resource use/destruction, the real hope for many species lies in the hands of humans who are willing to propagate them for the long-haul.

Our situation with finches is very similar to that of zoos. We have a limited amount of wild-caught birds that have a great deal of genetic diversity. We have the ability to establish them in captivity if we are willing to take some exceptional measures to reproduce them. Once we get offspring that are used to captive conditions and foods, we have a greater chance of parent rearing. Life in the cage is normal for them. A tray of egg food is perfectly acceptable as food for chicks. It is all that they have ever known, unlike their wild-caught parents or grandparents.

The Europeans (Belgians, Dutch and Germans) provide a good example of

the successful cage breeding of many estrilids. Europeans tend to cage breed 1 pair per flight, foster the first couple of generations and they have made monumental progress in establishing many species. We even have these same people to thank for most of the established Australian species and most certainly their mutations. It was the Europeans who did the tough work. We just imported them from Holland and Belgium after they were established there. Have you tried getting birds out of Europe lately? It is almost impossible. We must turn to our own abilities if we are to continue growing this hobby.

So I ask many of you who have been content to see clutch after clutch of chicks tossed to begin thinking outside of the box. We must use other techniques, such as fostering, to get our F1 and F2 generations. **IMPORTS WILL STOP**, either tomorrow or sometime down the road. What we do **NOW** will determine what types of finches we have in the future. Personally, I want to still have Western Bluebills, Rosy, Brown, Green and Dybowski Twinspots. What do you want?

Quarantine and Acclimatization of New Birds:

If you are wise, you will quarantine new birds for 30 days or longer. Every new bird brought into your aviaries represents a possible source of contagion that could wipe out every bird that you have. Ideally, new birds should be isolated in a separate building from your current collection. Feed these new birds last and change your clothing before re-entering your already existing location. Bacteria, but most worrisome, viruses, can be moved from location to location via clothing or hands.

If any kind of illness develops, a veterinarian may be consulted. However, most vets have little experience dealing with bird-related diseases. Plus, due to the small size of finches, they have little ability to resist disease for long. Therefore, it is important to have an arsenal of medications on hand.

Recommended Medications/Supplements

Fifteen years ago, there was very little in the way of medications for cage birds. Time has changed this situation! With some advanced preparation, many finches can be saved that would otherwise have died in previous years.

Ronivet-S* (ronidazole): Treatment of choice for birds suffering from protozoal infections including canker, giardia, coccidiosis, and hexamiter. Water-soluble and water stable, it has extremely high safety margins. It can safely be used at any stage in the birds breeding cycle.

Amyl* Proprietary formula of broad-spectrum antibiotic, dissolves easily in water. Amoxicillin trihydrate (150mg / g) and tylosin tartrate (100 mg / g) are combined to produce a highly effective and safe antibiotic to treat a wide range of bacterial infections. Includes directions for administering in the drinking water or directly into the crop. I recommend you follow up with probiotic to reestablish the gut flora after antibiotic treatment.

Doxycycline: Doxycycline is a broad spectrum antibiotic for birds with bacterial diseases, psittacosis, one-eye colds, respiratory infections and chlamydia infections (e.g., ornithosis).

Baytril (enrofloxacin): Treats a wide range of bacterial infections in birds. Mix 2ml to a quart of drinking water for

the first 4 days, then mix 1ml to a quart of drinking water for the remaining 6 to 10 days. The medication of choice for Paratyphoid, E-Coli, Ornithosis, and Respiratory infections.

Amphotericin-B: Megabac-S is a unique water soluble formulation of amphotericin-B. Megabac-S has proven effectiveness against Megabacteria (avian gastric yeast) in cage and aviary birds.

Medistatin: Contains nystatin 400 000 i.u./g. The only nystatin powder specifically for birds. Ideal for crop dosing baby birds, for prevention and treatment of Candida in birds. Nystatin is the choice for most fungal problems. Has been used with great results for Stargazing /Twirling in birds. For treatment: mix 1g to 20ml of water give 1ml per 100g bodyweight twice daily in crop for 7 days. For prevention: mix 1g per 200g of soft food daily for as long as symptoms prevail.

Probiotic* (probiotics): Nine strains of probiotic work together to promote normal gut flora and a healthy digestive system. Essential after times of stress or antibiotic treatment. Can also be added to hand feeding formula to improve the chick's immune system. Contains 180CFU/gram Use just 1g per liter.

SCATT* (moxidectin): A safe, effective treatment for air sac mites and scaly face mites

Avian Insect Liquidator: Safe for birds, deadly to insects including mites and ANTS! Safe enough to spray on even newly hatched chicks, ALL kills insects on contact and the residual action guards against reinfestation for 6 weeks.

Worm-Out Gel*: Water soluble wormer

in a pump bottle. (Praziquate 120g/L and Oxfendazole 20g/L) Can be administered in drinking water or directly into the crop. Two-day treatment is effective against threadworm, tapeworm, roundworm, cecal worm and hookworm.

(* = REALLY necessary)

A course of antibiotic medication should last 7-10 days, followed by 7 days of antifungals. Antifungals should then followed up by probiotics. Many finches die of fungal infection (aspergillosis) after antibiotic treatment because fungi are often the first to recolonize a bird's digestive tract after medication. If not controlled, fungi can overwhelm the bird's system and lead to death of the bird.

If a viral problem occurs, it is vital that your sick birds are separate from the rest of your collection. Many viruses are spread via fecal material or shed in feather dander. An air filter with a HEPA filter, small enough to trap viral particles, may be of help. Additionally, cleaning all surfaces with bleach water may lessen the chance of the viral disease spreading. With time, birds that survive a virus tend to develop an immune response and may inactivate the virus.

If your bird(s) die, many county veterinarians offer a full, low-cost necropsy service that can give you very valuable information as to what is affecting your finches. The county vet here in San Diego has an after hours/weekend drop box (refrigerated, of course). DO NOT freeze dead specimens. It makes them useless by exploding the cells. The best thing to do to preserve the specimen is to wet the dead bird with clean (bottled) water and place it in a sealed zip loc in the lowest and furthest back part of the

fridge, where it's coldest. The sample will be (essentially) useless after 72 hrs. The cooler the specimen and the quicker the drop off, the better.

"Now That My Birds Are Through With Quarantine, Now What?"

Set them up to breed!! The average finch has a reproductive lifespan that is, at most, only a few years. *If we are to establish new birds in captivity, we must be able to produce a significant number of offspring from them and do it quickly.* The Dutch, Belgians and Germans are true masters at this. If it were not for the efforts of European aviculturists, most of the finches established currently in the United States would not exist here. The constant importation of European-bred Australian finches provided most of the foundation stock for the strains of these birds currently in the US.

The basic premise of breeding these birds is as follows (and I know, it goes against what many of us are doing!):

- **Cage breeding, 1 pair per cage**
- **Pulling eggs from your wild caught birds and fostering them under societies (or other potential foster parents)**
- **Supplemental hand-feeding chicks** to assure proper growth and fledging (It REALLY is not that hard!!)
- **Retaining most, if not all of your F1,** or first generation offspring. These birds are worth their weight in gold towards establishing a strain of birds.

If I haven't completely overwhelmed you, read on! We can do this! Remember, in the 1950's and 1960's, Lady Gouldian and Red-Headed Parrot Finches were almost impossible to keep alive in captivity. They are now firmly established in

aviculture because of people like you, who were not afraid to step to the plate and take on the challenge.

Recommended Breeding Set-Up:

- **1 pair per flight or cage is ideal.**
- **Indoor breeding is FAR preferable,** even in sunny Southern California. Indoors, many variables can be controlled (weather, predators, rodents, etc)
- **Boxed cages work very well. In a** box cage, all sides of a cage, except the front, are blocked via cloth or solid panels. This greatly increases the wild-caught birds' sense of security and increases the likelihood of nesting.
- **Provide a variety of nesting sites:** whicker baskets with artificial foliage, traditional finch nest boxes, Christmas 'evergreen' type garlands, dried grasses and brush are all good examples of what should be offered.
- **Provide a variety of nesting materials:** coconut fiber, soft dried grasses, sisal, jute, white feathers from a pillow (very important for many African species).
- **Artificial lighting, on timers, should** be on every cage. My birds' lights go on at 6:00AM and off at 10:40PM.

If all goes well, your wild-caught finches will calm down and become adjusted to life in captivity. In most cases they will lay fertile eggs, but rarely raise the young to completion. These young represent the future success of these species in captivity and must be saved! (Think of the effort the San Diego Zoo made in establishing the California Condor or New Zealand with the Chatham Island Robin).

"I have fertile eggs. Now What?"

Congratulations! You are halfway there! You must foster these first eggs to insure that the genetics of your wild-caught finches are not lost if something happens to the original birds:

(Murphy's Law of Birds: The birds you can least afford to lose will be the first ones you discover upside down, dangling from the tip of one toenail that got caught on a wire).

A bit on fostering:

- **Many finch breeders feel that** fostering is wrong or that birds that have been reared by foster parents will not rear their own young. This has no scientific basis! None. Zilch.
- **Our failure to use the strongest tool** in our finch-breeding arsenal in the 1990's (FOSTERING) led to the almost complete disappearance of African finches in the US until the recent imports of 2007-2008
- **Fostering fertile eggs enables us to** get the first generations of domestically bred finches (F1 and F2) established. These birds only know life in captivity and are MUCH more likely to rear their own young on the foods you provide.
- **I use exclusively the old-fashioned,** American brown and white society finches for fostering. I have found that the Euro societies, though very pretty, are vastly inferior when it comes to fostering.
- **Younger societies that have never** raised their own young are ideal for new species. They eventually see the new species as 'what their own chicks look like' and do a fantastic job of raising them.

How to Set Up Societies as Fosters

Note: Societies are really worth their weight in gold. They are extremely dependable as foster parents for most species of estrildid finches. However, societies may harbor some bacteria or protozoa to which they are completely immune and the fostered species chicks are susceptible. It may be wise to put your societies on a thorough antibiotic-antifungal-probiotic regimen before setting them up as fosters. To be very careful against possible chick-killing pathogens, put your societies on a 10-day cycle of Amphotericin-B. Amphotericin-B is a powerful anti-protazoal/ameobal/fungal agent. Some Societies harbor something called 'megabacteria,' which is a misnomer as megabacteria isn't even a bacteria. The organism is actually a powerful and difficult to eradicate yeast. Megabacteria causes few problems with Societies, but many other species of finch, and especially their chicks, have a difficult time with it and often die upon exposure through feeding by foster parents. As far as I know, the only effective way to eradicate it is through the use of Amphotericin-B.

- **Small, divided breeding cages** work well for society finches
- **Wicker baskets or externally** mounted nest boxes (my new favorite) work well.
- **It doesn't matter what sexes your societies** are: 2 males, 2 females, trios of males or females, or any combination of the 2 sexes are just fine! Really! (Personally, I prefer 2-3 males as fosters, as it is easier to regulate their incubation.)
- **Synchronize your societies'** incubation to match that of the eggs to be fostered by the use of the blue plastic canary eggs. Societies do not care about the color. Put one a day

in the societies' nest until you have a clutch of 5 or so canary eggs. 99% of the time, the societies will begin brooding these fake eggs. If they bury them in nesting material, dig them out and do it again! It works. Trust me. By the way...interested in some swampland in Florida?

- **When it is obvious the societies** are brooding, remove the nest box and fake eggs. Make a small mark on the eggs to be fostered using a Sharpie marker (just in case the societies start to lay their own clutch, you can remove unmarked eggs).
- **Use a plastic spoon to put the** fostered eggs in the nest ...carefully!
- **Put nest back in the society cage.**
- Societies should begin brooding new eggs promptly.
- **Often, I place a small utility towel** on the bottom of the societies' cage as sometimes societies accidentally take an egg with them if they quickly exit the nest. If a towel is on the bottom of the cage, most eggs land, unbroken, and can be placed back in the nest.
- **On an index card, write the** information about the parents of the eggs being fostered (i.e.: species, which cage if you have more than one pair of that species, and hatch date-generally 14 days from the start of incubation)

"The eggs have hatched! Now what?"

- **First, get excited!** After you have done that, it is time for you to supplemental hand-feed the chicks (Most societies will start feeding unfamiliar chicks after a couple of days. your job is to get them to live that long!! This is not hard. It just takes a bit of extra time and TLC)
- **I use the small banding tool that** comes with split plastic bands as my

hand feeding implement. It is perfect for the job.

- **In preparing your hand feeding** formula, float a smaller bowl in a larger bowl of relatively warm water. Mix a very small batch of formula (I use Exact Hand Feeding Formula) in the floating bowl. The warm water in the larger bowl will keep this hand feeding formula warm.
- **Remove the nest from the society cage.** Remove chicks with a plastic spoon. Dip the end of the hand-feeding tool in a very 'liquidy' part of the formula (i.e. not too thick). Gently insert tool into the mouth of the begging chick, with the groove (food-containing portion) facing the chick's tongue. The chick will lick the food out of the groove and will see the food in the crop along the chick's neck.
- **Do not over-feed, as you can** aspirate the chick by forcing food into its lungs.
- **I feed new chicks before work** (6:30 AM) and 2-3 times after the work day (4:30; 7:30; 10:30PM)
- **Within a couple of days, your societies** should be feeding the new chicks relatively well.
- **In subsequent clutches, try to give** the societies the same type of fostered eggs. Often, they will start feeding these chicks from day 1, recognizing them as their own.
- **I will continue to supplemental hand** feed chicks to assure their proper growth and fledging.

"I did it! My chicks Fledged!"

With a little hard work and some time, you will be saying these words. A *very important caveat is to make sure to remove your fledglings once they are independent and place them in flights with adult members of their own*

species. This will assure that the chicks will adopt the songs and behavior of their own species. Song assumption and even sexual attraction or bonding can occur towards the foster parent species if young, independent fledglings are not placed with their own kind

Now, my biggest bit of advice:

DO NOT SELL OR GET RID OF THESE CHICKS. IF YOU DO, YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM WILL BE DOOMED TO FAIL WITHIN 2 YEARS.

Yikes! I know it sounds kind of harsh, but that is the most honest, heart-felt advice I can give you. This F1, or first generation of chicks removed from wild-caught stock are going to be used to your schedule, your food, your avicultural techniques AND WILL BE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BREED WITHOUT THE NEED OF FOSTERS. That is the true goal: to establish these birds in captivity, where they will breed on their own under domestic conditions.

Other Notes and Further Bits of Advice:

- **Close band your chicks whenever possible.** At the very least, color-band family lines so you do not breed closely related birds together. Keep records of which young are produced by which pairs.
- **Never buy just one pair of a species,** particularly a rare species. Often, something beyond your control happens to one of the birds. Whomever you got the birds from no longer has any available and there you are, with a beautiful bird that will never be bred. Buy as many pairs as possible. Three pair, genetically speaking, is the minimum number of pairs you should first obtain.
- **Work closely with other breeders in**

establishing the same species. This allows you to trade young or obtain other bloodlines.

- **Join other groups/clubs and educate yourself.** Recommended groups:
 1. National Finch and Softbill Society (www.nfss.org)
 2. Yahoo! Groups has many finch groups, including one for NFSS, African Finches, Parrot Finches, Gouldians and MANY others. Check them out!
 3. Queensland Finch Society (Australia) (<http://www.qfs.org.au/>)
 4. Waxbill Finch Society (England) (<http://www.waxbillfinchsociety.org.uk/>)

Please feel free to contact me at scotgoldensd@hotmail.com if you have any questions!

With some current hard work, we can firmly establish many of these rare species in American Aviculture. Are you ready for the challenge?



Orange Cheek Waxbill Fledgling" Courtesy Tom Keegan.

Biography of Scott Golden:

Scott's expertise comes from over 35 years of breeding many different species of birds. As a young boy growing up on a farm in Oregon, he raised many types of ornamental chickens, pheasants and pigeons. He was often seen riding a bike through his neighborhood with a barred rock bantam hen on the handlebars!

Scott has been breeding finches for 28 years. His finch passion started with a pair of zebra finches. He has bred some extremely rare and challenging species, such as bamboo, peales and pintail nonpareil parrot finches, painted finches, twinspace and western bluebills. He is currently concentrating his efforts on establishing many of the recently imported African finches that have come into the country in recent months

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NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

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affiliations@nfss.org

Note: Events may be held in states other than the home state of the club. Regional affiliates are those with no steady location, but should be checked for events near you.

Alabama

Central Alabama Aviculture Society, Montgomery, tedsexton@bellsouth.net, www.caasociety.com, 256-892-3072. Events: Show & Bird Fair, September 5-6, 2009, Quality Inn & Suites, 2705 East South Blvd, Montgomery. Judge: TBA. Other Divisions: Two day NCS Cockatiel Show, Two day SPBE Show. Event Contact: Ted Sexton, tedsexton@bellsouth.net, 256-892-3072.

California

Central California Cage Bird Club, Modesto, chryse95320@yahoo.com, www.myccbc.org, 209-838-2466. Events: 56th Annual Finch & Canary Show, October 31, 2009, S.O.S. Club, Modesto. Judge: Sally Huntington. Event Contact: Chryse Seeman, chryse95320@yahoo.com.

Finch Society of San Diego, sbodde@ucsd.edu, www.finchsocietysandiego.org, 858-452-9423.

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club, Santa Clara, santaclarabirdclub@gmail.com, www.santaclarabirdclub.org, 408-716-7776. Events: 48th Annual Cage Bird Show, December 12, 2009, Temple Emanu-El, 1010 University Ave., San Jose. Judge: TBA. Other Divisions: Type, Colorbred, & American Singer Canaries, ABS, NCS. Event Contact: Barry Cohen, cohenbarry@aol.com.

Florida

Tri State Avian Society, Tallahassee, BarryL7523@comcast.net, www.tristateaviansociety.org, 850-364-4666. Events: Spring Exotic Bird Fair, May 30-31, 2009, North Florida Fairgrounds, 441 Paul Russell Rd., Tallahassee. Event Contact: Barry Laster, BarryL7523@comcast.net, 850-364-4666.

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club, Stuart, FL, tm50et@yahoo.com, 772-380-9882 www.txexoticbirdclub.com. Events: TBA.

Illinois

Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club, Palatine, gailsgouldians@comcast.net, www.fsbec.finchfiles.com, 847-963-1926. Events: Annual Finch & Softbill Show, September 26, 2009. Location & Judge TBA. Event Contact: Gail Benson, gailsgouldians@comcast.net, 847-963-1926.

Iowa

Mid America Cage Bird Society, Des Moines, thielking@iowalink.com, www.MACBS.org, 239-851-8132. Events: Bird Fair, March 22, 2009, Des Moines Botanical Center. Event Contact: John Thielking, thielking@iowalink.com, 239-851-8132. Bird Fair, May 17, 2009, Des Moines Botanical Center. Bird Fair, August 23, 2009, Des Moines Botanical Center. MACBS Show, October 3, 2009, Best Western Airport Hotel, 1810 Army Post Rd, Des Moines, Martha Wigmore, Hookbills, Budgerigars, Type & Colorbred Canaries, Lovebirds, John Thielking, Thielking @iowalink.com, 239-851-8132.

Maryland

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Baltimore, robertmehl@aol.com, www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org, 443-834-3224. Events: Spring Mart, May 16, 2009, Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville, MD. Event Contact: Robert Mehl, RobertMehl@aol.com, 443-834-3224. Annual Fall Bird Show, October 17, 2009, Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville. Judge: TBA. Other divisions: Lovebirds, Cockateils, Hookbills. Event contact: Robert Mehl, robertmehl@aol.com, 443-834-3224.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association, So. Foxboro, AUDREYO2@msn.com, www.masscagebird.org, 781-335-3927. Events: Annual Show, October 17, 2009, Weymouth Elks Club, Event Contact: Tom Keegan, thomkeegan@aol.com, 781-335-3927.

Michigan

Michigan Society of Canary & Finch Breeders, Detroit Area, tielnmore@aol.com, 313-247-5900. Events: Bird Fair, September 19, 2009, Quality Inn, Plymouth Rd, Livonia. Bird Show, October 17, 2009, Quality Inn, Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Judge: TBA. Events Contact: Jim Heffernan, tielnmore@aol.com, 313-247-5900.

Missouri

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Grandview, dayforthebirds@aol.com, www.gkcas.org, 816-252-1120. Events: The GKCAS Fundraiser, April 19, 2009; GKCAS Spring Bird Fair & Bazaar, April 25, 2009; The GKCAS Summer Bird Fair & Bazaar, June 27, 2009; The GKCAS Spaghetti & Casino Fundraiser, August 9, 2009; The GKCAS All Bird Show (All Birds), October 17, 2009. Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau. Events Contact: Anthony or Shiela, dayforthebirds@aol.com, 816-252-4120 (for April Fundraiser, contact Maria 816-763-5935 or 816-803-1874, mcmbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com). All events at Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview.

New Hampshire

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society, Manchester, President@BOAF.com, www.boaf.com, 603-362-6106. Events: Spring Bird Mart, April 19, 2009, Nashua National Guard Armory; 22nd Annual Fall Bird Show & Mart, October 24, 2009, Nashua National Guard Amory, Nashua. Judge: TBA. Events Contact: Ray Schwartz, prismsdad@aol.com, 603-362-6106.

New York

Empire Finch & Canary Club, West Hempstead, irmanperez@aol.com, 516-593-2841, Events: Empire Finch & Canary Club Show, November 14, 2009, St. Mark's Church, 200 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Center. Judge: Manuel Papa. Other Divisions: Color-bred, Type, Gloster, Fife Fancy. Event Contact: John Lund, irmanperez@aol.com.

New York Finch & Type Canary Club, NYC, barstand@aaahawk.com, 718-967-6899. Events: Feather Show, June 28, 2009, Averill Blvd Park Meeting Hall, Elmont (Long Island), Event Contact: Stan Kulak, barstand@aaahawk.com, Annual Show, Sept. 26, 2009, St. Jude Church (Coyne Hall), 1677 Canarsie Rd, Brooklyn.

Oregon

Columbia Canary Club. Events: Show, November 7 & 8, 2009, National Guard Armory, 500 NE Division St., Gresham. Judge: Ken Gunby. Other Divisions: Type & Colorbred Canaries Club/Event Contact: Linda Brown, jeeperspeepers55@aol.com, 503-266-7606.

Pennsylvania

Chester County Bird Club, Frazer, info@ccbirdclub.com, www.ccbirdclub.com, 610-647-4632, Events:

21st Annual Show & Mart, October 31, 2009, Church Farm School, Exton. Event Contact: Doris Rickards, rickards@quixnet.net. Cockatiel, Lovebirds, Parrots Show TBA.

Puerto Rico

Asociacion de Criadores de Finches del Este, Caguas, Puerto Rico, acfeinc@onelinkpr.net, 787-633-1215. Events: Summer National Show, June 5-7, 2009, Centro Comunal, Alturas de Villas del Rey, Caguas. Judge: Ken Gunby Event Contact: Orlando Rivera, riverao1@wyeth.com, 787-485-1810; 2009 Winter Regional Show, Nov 6-8, 2009, Centro Comunal, Alturas de Villas del Rey, Caguas, Judge Cecil Gunby, Contact: Orlando Rivera 787-485-1810 riverao1@wyeth.com

Texas

Canary & Finch Society, Houston, TX. lisashepholmes@verizon.net, <http://canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com>, 281-576-0574. Events: 14th Annual Show, October 10, 2009, The Baymont Inn, Bush Intercontinental Airport, 500 N Sam Houston Parkway, Houston, TX 77060. Judge: Cecil Gunby. Contact: Lisa Holmes, lisashepholmes@verizon.net, 281-576-0574.

Fort Worth Bird Club, Fort Worth, TX, www.fwbc.org, coculwell@wccs.net, 817-220-5568. Events: All Bird Show, October 4, 2013, Azle Community Center. Contact: Clarence Culwell, coculwell@wccs.net, 817-220-5568.

Foreign

Canadian Finch & Soffbill Society, Ontario, Canada. Events: 3rd Annual Canadian Finch and Soffbill Society Show, November 7 & 8, 2009, Brampton Fairgrounds, 12942 Heart Lake Rd, Brampton Ontario. Judge: Rick Crook (England). Contact: Vince Moase, vmoase@rogers.com, 905-723-1978.

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, julianne@mnsi.net, www.essexkentcbs.com, 519-948-6398. Events: Young Feather Show, May 31, 2009, Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, Ruthven, Ontario, Event Contact: Julianne Mion, julianne@mnsi.net; 34th Annual Eastern Canadian Classic, Sept. 26-27, 2009, Foglar Furlan Club, 1800 E. C. Row, North Service Rd, Windsor, Ontario. Judge: Ken Gunby. Other divisions: Type Canaries, Colorbred, Hookbills, Budgerigars. Contact: Dave Sylvester, 519-727-3766, d.sylvestr@gmail.com.

Regional/National

American Dove Association, dennyjoyce@aol.com, www.doveline.com, 812-923-3483. Events: Nat'l Young Bird Show (pigeons & doves), October 31, 2009, KY State Fairgrounds, Louisville. Event Contact: Denny Stapp, secretary@doveline.com.

West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show, chryse95320@yahoo.com, www.efinch.com/show, 209-838-2466. Events: WCZSF Show, July 24 (mart & speaker) & 25 (show, mart, awards), 2009, La Quinta Downtown, Sacramento. Judge: Clarence Culwell, Event Contact: Chryse Seeman, chryse95320@yahoo.com. For reservations, call the motel directly 916-448-8100 (specify "bird show" for special rate).

NFSS Panel of Judges - 2008/2009

Nizam Ali

135-11 114th Street
South Ozone Pk, NY 11420
Phone: 781-835-8590

Laura Bewley

3538 S. 65 W. Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74107
Phone: 918-446-3999
lbewley@yahoo.com

Alfredo M. Bruguera

174 CR 2317
Mineola, Texas 75773
Phone: 903-569-6979
elmaridodealba@yahoo.com

Clarence Culwell

250 Horseshoe Drive
Springtown, TX 76082
Phone: 817-220-5568
coculwell@wccs.net

Dr. Al Decoteau

P.O. Box 546
Hollis, NH 03049
Phone: (603) 878-3435
spbe1@aol.com

Julie R. Duimstra

618 North Nesmith Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605-332-5054

Cecil Gunby

8121 Route 1, Hwy. 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
Phone/Fax: 770-254-1261
cgunby@bellsouth.net

Kenneth Gunby

3692 Mandarin Woods Dr. N
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Phone: 904-403-3078
gunbybird2@aol.com

Annette Howard

P.O. Box 404
Salem, OH 44460
Phone: 330-337-7654
howardaj78@yahoo.com

Sally Huntington

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

Armando Lee

2905 SW 38th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone 239-242-7675
Fax: 239-242-0333
alee21@comcast.net

Dennis J. Lewis

7446 Glasgow Road
Brooksville, FL 34613
Phone: 352-596-3376
dennis_14519@msn.com

Brian Mandarich

4743 E. Hedges Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703
Phone: 559-255-6508

Conrad Meinert

1212 E. 300 South
Warsaw, IN 46580
Phone: 574-269-2873
Birdmanofwarsaw@
embarqmail.com

Marion (Miki) Spartzak

945 Rosedale Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237
Phone: 410-687-8915
mjs5295@comcast.net

Laura Tinker

31 Grape Hollow Road
Holmes, NY 12531
Phone: 845-855-2662
LKTinker@comcast.net

Patrick Vance

18175 Avilla
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
Phone: 248-443-0643
spartanfinchman@cs.com

Christine Voronovitch

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

Jerri Wiesenfeld

2379 Water Bluff Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32218
Phone: 904-714-2133
jerrisjavas@aol.com

Martha Wigmore

18913 Boston Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330
Phone: 763-241-0071
newdlwig@mindspring.com

Paul S. Williams

101 Linden Drive
Eufaula, AL 36027
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pwilliams@eufaula.rr.com

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(630) 740-7389
president@nfss.org

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San Francisco, CA 94110
1stvp@nfss.org

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Mr. Tom Keegan
21 Oakcrest Road
Weymouth, MA 02190
781-335-3927
2ndvp@nfss.org

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Schaumburg, IL 60193
3rdvp@nfss.org

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Liaison/Awards Director

Mr. Alfredo Bruguera
174 County Road
Mineola, TX 75773
(903) 569-6979
affiliations@nfss.org

Band Secretary

Ms. Paula Hansen
2234 Juneau Court South
Salem, Oregon 97302

bands@nfss.org
President Emeritus
Mr. William Parlee
860-569-0200
presidentemeritus@nfss.org

Region 1 V.P. (Northeast)

Mr. Tom Keegan
781-335-3927
thomkeegan@aol.com

Region 2 V.P. (Southeast)

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mgravely@therefinegarden.com

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(905) 723-1978
vmoase@rogers.com

Executive Secretary

Ms. Rebecca Mikel
13779 US 12 E
Union, MI 49130
Phone: (269) 641-7209
execsecretary@nfss.org

FinchShop Manager

Ms. Sharon Dvorak
(919) 266-4935
finchshop@nfss.org

Treasurer

Ms. Lisa R. Murphy
918 Georgia Ave.
Etowah, Tennessee 37331
treasurer@nfss.org

Advertising & Promotions Manager

Ms. Gail Benson
144 N. Clyde Avenue
Palatine, Illinois 60067
847-963-1926
advertising@nfss.org

Moderator, NFSS Forums

Mr. John Wilson
jwilson153@aol.com

NFSS Webmaster

Ms. Cecile Aguilera
Santa Clara, CA 95055
nfsswebmaster@gmail.com

Membership Director

Ms. Cecile Aguilera
Santa Clara, CA 95055
phone/fax: (408) 716-7775
membership@nfss.org

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Contact 2nd V.P. Tom Keegan
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