



The Finch Breeders REVIEW



January — February 2014



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Sale time: 10am to 2pm
Orange PCYC, 2 Seymour Street, Orange.
Admission: \$2.00 (children under 15 free)
Bench Time: Fri 2.30pm to 8pm - Sat 7am to 9.30am
Sale Time: 10am to 2pm
NSW Bird Sale Code of Practice applies.
Saturday Dinner with guest speaker
For more details visit www.orangebirdsale.com or phone
Ray Smith (02) 6365 1433 A/H for bird table bookings
Tony Ford 0409 912 370 or (02) 6365 8441 A/H for Sat Dinner bookings
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Bird Sellers can now
pre-book tables.
Trade stands to be
setup by 8:00am
Saturday

CAB K



The Finch Society of Australia Inc.

PO Box 69
Toongabbie NSW 2146
secretary@finchsociety.org
www.finchsociety.org

Meetings of the Society

Second Wednesday of Mth.
February — December 8pm
Brenan Park Community Hall
Bourke Street
Smithfield NSW 2164

Hawkesbury Branch

Meets Fourth Wednesday of Mth.
January — November 7.30pm
Castlereagh Community Hall
Castlereagh Road
Castlereagh
www.hawkesburyfinchclub.com
info@hawkesburyfinchclub.com

Hunter Valley Branch

Meets First Friday of Mth
February — December 7.30pm
Maitland Park Bowling Club
Elgin Street
Maitland
www.hunterfinches.websyte.com.au

Wollongong Branch

Meets First Monday of Mth.
January — December 7.30pm
Balgownie Village Community Centre
113 Balgownie Road
Balgownie

Tasmania Sub-branch

Informal functions
Contact TBA

The Finch Breeders REVIEW

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Librarian:

Mick Grixti

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- Stan Simmons
- Paul Menagazzo
- Neville Simmons
- Don Provost
- Neville Brown
- Heather Brownett
- Doug Hill
- Glenn Johnson
- Stan Guest



Cover photograph:

Red-eared Firetail
Rohan Clarke
www.wildlifeimages.com.au



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Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in The Finch Breeders Review do not necessarily represent those of the Finch Society of Australia Inc. No responsibility is accepted for the opinions, advice and statements contained herein. Readers should rely on their own enquiries/research in making any decisions relating to their own interests.

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President's Report

Hi everyone and welcome to 2014!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable break over the Christmas and New Year period and your birds are breeding like mad. The management team has been busy behind the scenes organising speakers and doing some initial planning for a few exciting activities coming up later in the year. I encourage all members to contribute what they can throughout 2014, even if this just entails simply attending or making suggestions. The Society is the members, so it is critical we all get involved and support each other.



This month's magazine is again in full colour which we hope to continue into the future. However full colour does cost significantly more to produce. At a recent management committee meeting a decision was made to sell advertising space. At the same time it is important that the magazine doesn't become full of advertisements. We propose a maximum of three full page advertisements—inside front cover and inside and outside back cover. Then up to four half page advertisements throughout the magazine. If you are interested in placing an advertisement either for an entire year or even just for a single issue please let one of the committee know ASAP and we will be in touch. We already have a number of interested parties.

At February meetings of the Society and its Branches we will all vote to accept the amended constitution. A lot of discussion and negotiation has gone into this document at both Society and Branch level. The committees (at both society and branches) are confident it will serve the Society well for many years to come and together we encourage members to vote accordingly. An updated final summary of the amendments follows my report.

I have been busy on some of the bigger picture stuff.

- We are now stakeholders with the federal *Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry* so we will be included in any Biosecurity issues with regard to all avian species.
- Currently I'm also working on the Society obtaining a seat on the *Native Animal Keepers' Consultative Committee* which makes recommendations to the state minister with regard to animal keeper licensing and related issues. As those who have dealt with government departments will know such things can take time to achieve.
- The ABA has made submissions and is petitioning on our behalf with regard to the planned quarantine station in Victoria. In most other countries (including Europe and the USA) a broad range of captive bred avian species are freely traded. Hopefully we can make some inroads to achieving a similar outcome in Australia. I encourage members to attend the Saturday March 2014 meeting of the ABA where Dr Mike Cannon will update us on the developments in this area. Unfortunately details were not confirmed as the magazine went to print so if you are looking to attend then please let us know so we can ensure you are aware of the precise details when they come to hand. Don't think cage bird imports will happen soon—this is likely to be a very long term project, particularly for finches and softbills.

I am aware of a number of members who are attending Finches'14 - myself included. No doubt there are many others signed up that I am not aware of. I'm really looking



forward to a terrific few days sharing our obsession! The Queensland Finch Society has offered sponsorship to the conference for Junior members. The sponsorship includes conference fees and an aviary tour ticket (value in excess of \$300) and may potentially include assistance with travel and accommodation costs. Clearly the sponsored Juniors will need to be accompanied by an adult. If any members know of a Junior (whether a member or not) who is keen on finches and might like to attend Finches'14 then please contact me and I'll happily assist the application process. You may have a "finch mad" son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter who would love to attend. If so then please consider applying for sponsorship and bringing them along too.

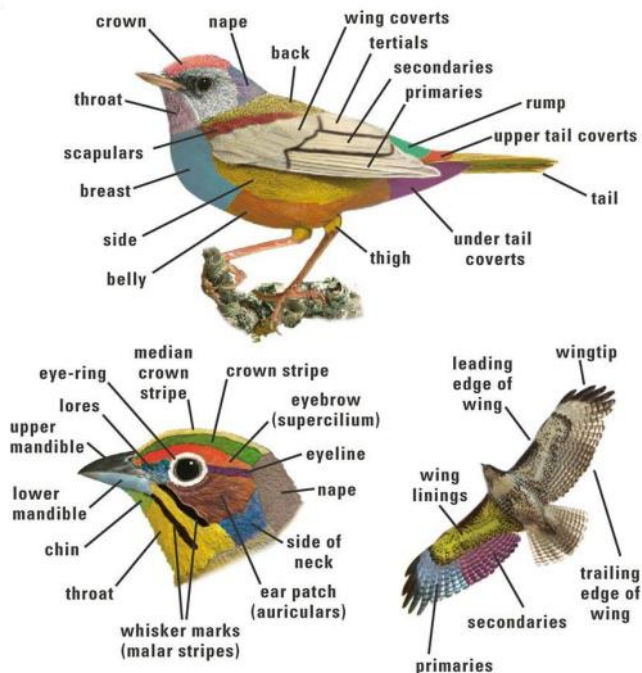
The bird sale season is about to begin. A few of us will be selling birds, giving out FSA membership forms and attending the dinner at the Orange Sale on March 1st. Please say hello if you see us. Thanks to the organisers of the Orange Sale who have agreed to allow us to promote our Society at their terrifically popular event.

Finally I'd like to both apologise and thank Mick Gixti. Unfortunately Mick's winning image of one of his Red-eared Firetails was not of sufficient resolution for the new colour cover so has been replaced with one kindly provided by wildlife photographer and avian researcher Rohan Clarke—sorry Mick. But don't feel too sorry for him, he's just been on the African birding trip of a lifetime— I'm jealous!. Thanks very much Mick for agreeing to show slides of the trip at our March meeting.

My birds are well into breeding mode and I hope yours are too.

Till next time...

Sam Davis



Bird Parts





THE FINCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

(incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*)

PO Box 69 Toongabbie NSW 2146

www.finchsociety.org president@finchsociety.org

21 January 2014

RE: FINAL SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Dear Members,

Some months ago it came to the attention of the Management Committee that the current Constitution was unclear with regard to Branches being covered by the Society's Incorporation. Rather than merely rework this section it made sense to review the entire document so it will better serve the Society now and into the future. Final amendments have now been completed.

The final draft Constitution is the result of consultation, review and editing over a number of months. I entered the process after much of the work was completed so I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of former Society President Michael Baker and the valuable assistance and advice obtained from both Don Findlater and Richard Law. We now have a document which should serve the Society for many years.

Outline of amendments

- Clause 3. Although branches have always been covered by the limited liability provided by the Society's incorporation, this is now explicitly stated.
- Clause 4. New members no longer require a proposer and seconder. This was a formality that was rarely observed – the new wording reflects the status quo.
- Clause 5. Wollongong branch is an incorporated association which meant they were not recognised within the existing constitution. To rectify this situation we have created Affiliate Membership so associations may join the Society. Other clubs may now become affiliated with the Society.
- Clause 5. Rewording of Life Membership paragraph to clear up possible misinterpretation.
- Clause 5. Membership year for Society changed to July 1st to remove issues when personnel change at the September AGM and to provide time for preparation of annual return. Branches are free to choose their own membership year.
- Clause 6. Rewording to reflect management committees at both the Society and its Branches. Optional positions have been added to reflect current appointments.
- Clause 11. There was potential for members of the parent body who are also members of branches to vote multiple times on Society motions. It is now stated that each person has one vote.
- Clause 12 and Clause 15 added to reflect the model constitution. As we had not dealt with postal ballots and source of funds in our constitution then according to the Act the model constitution applied in these areas. We have now included the clauses from the model constitution simply for completeness.
- Clause 17. Amendment to the disbandment clause to ensure funds (after a 3 year wait) can only leave the society and its branches should the society and all branches cease to exist. As 15 members are needed to form a Branch the constitution now states that a Branch cannot disband when 15 or more members wish the branch to continue.



- Clause 18 is new and specifies a process to be followed should a Branch wish to consider incorporating. In real terms incorporation moves responsibility for financial and legal affairs from the Society management to the Branch management. Should incorporation be approved by both Society and Branch and the terms of the constitution are followed then the Branch transitions to become an Affiliate member of the FSA. In terms of co-operation between Society and Branch nothing changes.
- The Act specifies Special Resolutions (which require 21 day's notice and 75% of vote to be passed) for both disbandment and changes to the constitution. Special Resolutions are now specified in the constitution within Clause 17 Disbandment and Clause 19 Alteration of the Constitution.

The final amended constitution can be downloaded from www.finchsociety.org/final_draft_const.pdf and the current constitution for comparison at www.finchsociety.org/current_const.pdf. Printed copies will be available at meetings or can be obtained from your branch secretary.

We shall vote on the amended constitution at February 2014 meetings. The votes from all February meetings will be combined to reach resolution. Therefore a count of members both for and against will be required from each meeting.

Please forward any queries through your branch president.

Kind regards,



Sam Davis
President – The Finch Society of Australia Inc.

Notes:

- Act means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*
- Regulation means the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010*
- The model constitution is *Schedule 1* of the Regulation
- Both the Act and Regulation can be viewed online at <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

December Auction Review

By Sam Davis

The membership voted to invite the public to the club's December auction. Advertisements were placed on popular online websites, including Gumtree, Facebook, Aussie Finch Forum and regular posts on Petlink. It was difficult to predict the number of buyers who might attend. Some members felt numbers as high as 500 may eventuate. Fortunately the number in attendance was approximately 120, which still exceeded most people's expectations. Given the size of our hall there was insufficient space for seating so the auction ran with standing room only.



A total of 15 sellers offered birds for sale. There were 90 lots with virtually all lots reaching or exceeding their reserve—some by a substantial margin. Well over \$4000 in sales with the following broad range of species on offer.

- Gouldian
- Longtail
- Parson
- Saint Helena
- Blue face Parrot Finch
- Diamond Sparrow
- Star
- Cuban
- Orange breast
- Ruddy
- Plumhead
- Painted
- Red Face Parrot Finch
- Grenadier Weaver
- Double Bar (White Rump)
- Double Bar (Black Rump)
- Cut Throat
- Bengalese
- Bourke Parrot
- Peaceful Dove
- Red Cheeked Cordon Bleu
- Jacarini
- Chestnut





Thanks to all who helped out on the night - apologies if I haven't mentioned you directly. Ross Appleby did a terrific job as auctioneer ably assisted by Joe Gafa, Rob Jakovjevic and myself. Jason and Brad Holmes organised video so each lot could be shown on the big screen. Don Findlater and Chris Brett collected money. Paul Henry and Peter McGibbon manned the entry gate and signed up a number of new members. I understand the sales table boys did a roaring trade despite Roy's apparent condition (refer photo below ☺). Finally thanks to everyone who attended including both members of the public and members of the society and it's branches. Despite some teething problems, the night really was a great success.

A number of members (mainly sellers) have been in touch with some ideas we might consider for future auctions.

- Larger venue as this auction will surely grow quickly.
- Could have a BBQ, sausage sizzle.
- Earlier start time—finish was too late.
- Auction is unique—different to bird sales and removes the initial rush in the first minutes of bird sales.
- Restrict lots to say 100 to 150 total.
- Maybe a sale would be better as an auction with much more than say 100 pairs takes too long.
- Restrict the number of lots per species (say maximum 15 pairs per species).
- Sellers could register in advance. We can then advertise specific lots in advance.
- Make it more of a premium event. Maybe a sample aviary (Les Turner) and planted by a local nursery.
- Consider 2 auctions per year rather than one huge auction.
- Make it more of an event with a focus on attracting new members.
- Would weekend daytime be better than evening?



If you have any thoughts on other possibilities for the auction please bring them up at a meeting or contact one of the committee members. Your committee is keen to make this event even more of a success this year.

Black (Melanistic) Gouldians

By Christopher Brett

Kevin Devnie has kindly supplied a photo of what appears to be a black or Melanistic Gouldian, although not as clear a photo as I would have liked (it appears to be a photo of a photo), it certainly is a striking bird. The bird certainly appears to be very black - the blackest Gouldian I have seen. Why is it when photos are taken of something extraordinary; they're always blurry? Loch Ness monster & Bigfoot come to mind.

The bird in the photo was bred from a normal black headed hen and the normal yellow headed cock in the photo.

Definition: Melanistic

Melanism is a development of the dark-coloured pigment melanin in the skin, hair, fur or feathers and is the opposite of albinism. Historically, it was also the medical term for black jaundice.



Black Gouldian (left) bred from the yellow headed Normal cock (right)

Anyway, after seeing this photo for the first time, it sparked my curiosity, to see how this happens and is there any chance of breeding a 'black' Gouldian, from a 'black bird' and a split.

Perhaps an inheritable black Gouldian mutation exists. Given that albinism is routinely inheritable then why can't melanism also be inherited? In addition, there are many examples of animals where melanism is inheritable. Can the black bird above pass on its melanistic trait? Unlikely but not impossible.

Trawling through the internet, the consensus is that a 'black' Gouldian comes about from inadequate diet or inadequate light and would normally 'moult' the black feathers



out, in the next moult. I have only seen pictures that are young birds in their first adult plumage. Also, most birds don't look very healthy and vigorous. Comments noted; are things like; why would you want to breed from that? They're not very healthy etc. I have



*Young black Gouldian or Chestnut hybrid (left) and Melanistic Gouldian (right).
Source: Aussie Finch Forum*

also seen a photo of a young Gouldian just fledged, that shows a lot of black, again the consensus was, that it was probably a hybrid, between a Gouldian and a Chestnut.

The bird at right is reported to have been recently offered for sale in Australia at an asking price of \$500. Does anyone know what came of this bird or if the bird sold? It looks to be the same bird shown in the photo above from Aussie Finch Forum. Although this bird is dark the photo submitted by Kevin appears darker still.

I also found, that 'black' Gouldians turn up in Europe quite frequently. The normal breeding set-ups in Europe are climate controlled indoor cabinets which are artificially lighted. The Europeans do not see 'black' Gouldian's as a separate mutation; more so a fault, that will be corrected when the bird is exposed to outside conditions in their brief summer. However I suspect the 'black' Gouldians appearing in



*Above bird was advertised for \$500
Source: John Griffith*

Europe more closely resemble the bird in the image below. Although the bird below is definitely melanistic it is clearly of lower quality (in terms of being a black) compared to the very black bird in the photo from Kevin.



Commonly seen melanistic Gouldian (left)

What about dirty white-breasted birds, they are apparently partially melanistic and these dirty breasts are inherited. Although unlikely, could this be the start of a black mutation?

Looking at everything I have seen and read, I would say the evidence shows it is most likely that 'black' Gouldians come about because of inadequate light and diet. In the cases on 'Aussie Finch Forum', the birds have appeared to moult normally, the next time around. I would also surmise that if we tried to breed a young 'black', it wouldn't be too successful; the bird would not be too vigorous and would look unwell, so why would we try to breed sickly looking birds? I wouldn't.

I would like to hear other peoples thoughts on this, maybe I'm talking complete rubbish and someone out there has a viable healthy flock of the black birds - I would love to know!

I must thank Kevin Devnie for allowing the use of his photo which sparked this article, John Griffith from the Far North Queensland Bird Breeders Club Inc. for his input and Aussie Finch Forum, for just being there.



Dirty white-breasted Gouldian

Member Profile

Don Findlater

For many years Don was the club Treasurer and Public Officer. Despite recently standing aside he remains active in the operations of the Society and is always willing to assist. His sound advice on our current constitution changes and his assistance at the recent finch auction are the most recent examples.

Don commenced keeping finches as a boy. He grew up around Marsfield near Macquarie University in Sydney when it was semi-rural. He recalls many of the bird dealers around the lower north shore of Sydney. In Gladesville there was Charlie Wardrop at 45 Massey St and also another dealer whose name escapes us in Cowell St (please remind us if you can recall). Clarrie Kelloway at 54 Epping Road Lane Cove was another source of birds up until maybe the late 1960s. Like many of us, Don had a break from birds for many years to build a successful career but his passion for finches remained. Some 16 years ago Don returned to finch keeping with the construction of an aviary in the rear yard of his Hunter's Hill residence.



Don and Chris' yard landscaped by Richard Allen Landscapes.

Don and his wife Chris' home was renovated to a high standard in 2005 and the gardens landscaped by none other than our very own Richard Allen and his landscaping business. Although I was aware of Richard's landscaping business, this is the first finished project I have seen. It is a credit to Richard, Don and Chris as you can see from the photographs. It seems Richard is more than just a great Aviculturist.



Don's setup will be of particular interest to those in an urban setting who just wish to maintain a single aviary of finches, which is no doubt how most keep finches. Of all bird types finches are particularly well suited to just such a situation. They are quiet, require relatively modest sized accommodation, yet they can be free breeders. An aviary of finches provides a window into the wonder of nature. In Don's case going on within his aviary can be seen whilst relaxing on the rear deck and also from the kitchen and family room. Observing the activity of finches as they go about their daily feeding, foraging, breeding, and other activities is the essence of our pastime.



The aviary has a perfect North and East aspect.

The aviary itself was built some 16 years ago and there is no doubt that it was well constructed. The aspect is terrific with the front facing East to capture the morning sun and the other open side facing North. The rear enclosed and higher gable provides protection—this is the area where most nesting was observed. Birds are able to fly up and under this gable to escape the worst of the weather. Seeding grass grows in front of the aviary and some through the mesh. The Yellow Rumps, in particular love to climb the vertical stalks that grow into the aviary.

In hindsight Don now realises the builder's design advice was not ideal with regard to protection for finches - it really was a little open during inclement weather and in terms of wild birds harassing occupants. Originally the front portion of the roof was wire but Don has now covered this area with perspex sheeting. He also has shade cloth which can be used to cover the wire on the North side when extra protection is needed. I suppose this is particularly critical when you consider Don lives close to the water and keeps Masked finches who like to breed during the cooler months.





Perspex sheets provide additional protection from wild birds and weather.

Species kept, and bred, include Yellow Rumps, Masked, Painted, Star and Double Bar finches. It seems Don is a bit of a softy and only reluctantly sells young birds. This means his mature finches are definitely mature. Many being of an age in excess of the generally accepted lifespan for each species. Despite the maturity of many birds breeding continues well past what one would traditionally consider. This is a testament to Don's care and management.



Incredibly some of these finches are close to ten years old and still breeding.

Don has had particular success with both Yellow rumps and Masked finches which he has specialised in since 2002. His initial two pair of Yellow Rump finches were obtained from Gary McCrae in Western Australia and the Masked finches from Joe Cavill at

Pheasants Nest in NSW. Both are well known as breeders of quality finches. Don is committed to breeding quality finches and with just one aviary it is vital to start with quality stock. With a single aviary you can't hope to build different bloodlines so it is critical to ensure every bird is top quality in terms of reproduction as well as physical features.

Over the past 10 years Don estimates he has bred in excess of 80 Yellow Rumps and more than 40 Masked finches. This is an enviable record given he keeps only a few pair of each and some of these birds are not exactly young. Don recently shipped 16 Yellow Rumps to Cairns and I purchased 5 of his young Masked finches for my own collection. The father of the 5 Masked finches is 9 years old and still looks immaculate!

The choice of Yellow rumps, Maskeds and other species was no accident. These are all passive species well suited to life in mixed aviaries. Yellow Rumps are perhaps the most placid of all the munias and nuns.

Don has never seen them interfere with other species which is not the case with some of their close relatives. Similarly Masked finches are significantly quieter than their close cousins the Long Tail and Black Throat finches. However one does need to take care when moving Masked finches as they are prone to stress.



Masked cock at right is 9 years old!



Feed station including seeding grass and Lebanese cucumber

Nutrition is key to success for all finch breeders. The following is fed to Don's flock:

- Finch mix. A mix of French white Millet, Red and Yellow Pannicum and Canary seed.
- Greens and Grains. Obtained from Quirindi seed farmer Peter Slade.



Frozen French White Millet, Greens and Grains and Charcoal.

- Frozen French White Millet. Obtained via John Butler from the Lowes in Qld.
- Crushed Charcoal. From Yorke - <http://users.tpg.com.au/users/kyorke/>.
- Poly's Calcium Grit mix. Sold at the FSA sales table and Elenbee Bird Supplies.
- Avi Natural– Diatomous earth product marketed which claims to control parasites.
- Mealworms. Obtained from Richard Allen who I believe purchases them from meal-worm breeder Richard Date.
- Green food. Seeding grasses and leaf vegetables are grown and fed as available. Lebanese cucumber in slices.

The flock is treated preventatively for worms and external parasites using Moxidectin plus at 3 monthly intervals. Baycox is used after heavy rain periods to control Coccidia and reduce the possibility of Coccidiosis. Both Moxidectin plus and Baycox are purchased from the FSA sales table.

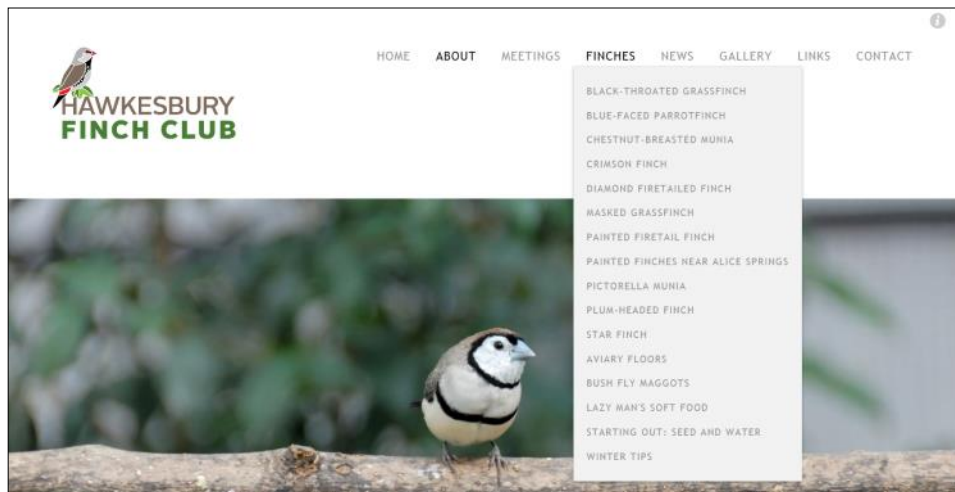
The success and obvious enjoyment Don has with his aviary should inspire all. However Don did mention that a holding aviary for all his young birds would be a definite bonus as overcrowding can become an issue - It seems we all need just one more aviary!



Thanks Don and Chris for allowing us to share your lovely home and aviary.

Around the Branches

Hawkesbury Finch Club



The Hawkesbury branch has been busy redesigning their website and club logo with a fresh modern minimalist design. There is some fantastic information on the site, particularly with regard to many of our Australian species. I really like the “Finch Fact File” cards accompanying each species page. However it is the quality of the photographs that really grab your attention. The URL is www.hawkesburyfinchclub.com, so please go and check it out. Well done to Roy Peake and no doubt other members who have assisted. If you're a Facebook user then “like” their page too.

Hunter Valley Finch Club

A number of members of the Hunter Valley branch have recently had their aviary rooves painted with Cool Roof™ an innovative heat reflective coating from Dulux which uses InfraCOOL® technology. Hunter Valley Finch Club member and painter Jody Bayliss kindly provided his labour free of charge. The coating reflects infrared wavelengths which is the region of the spectrum responsible for heat. This means the roof colour doesn't change but the heat absorption is greatly reduced.

The paint-like coating significantly reduces the heat radiating into Colorbond® clad aviaries—a problem experienced by many finch



Finch Fact File
Diamond Firetailed Finch

Scientific name:
Emblema guttata

Other commonly used names:

- Diamond
- Diamond Finch
- Diamond Sparrow
- Spot-sided Finch

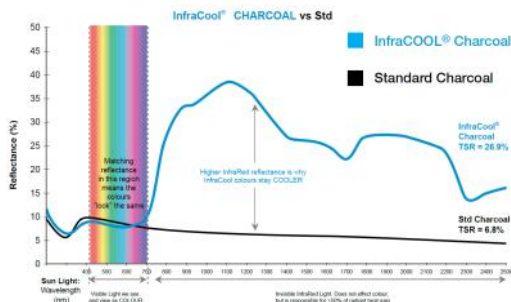
Country of origin:

- Australia

Geographic distribution:

- South-east inland areas extending from Rockhampton, QLD, down to western VIC, across to Kangaroo Island in SA
- Northern and southern coastal regions of Sydney, NSW and north-eastern VIC

How can colours look the same but be cooler?



breeders during the heat of summer. There is some concern for those living in cooler areas that the coating may reduce heat during winter when it is required. It seems a promising solution but not a solution that replaces more traditional types of insulation.

The Hunter Valley branches Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 8th and by all accounts it was a great success. I understand a spit roast, buffet and sweets were well received by all in attendance and the Christmas raffle was a great success—congratulations to all winners!

Wollongong Finch Club

Wollongong branch has recently had a new logo kindly designed by renowned wildlife artist Sharon Shelton. The images at right show branch President Peter McGibbon holding the original artwork painted by Sharon together with an image of the new completed logo. Members decided on a logo which included Double Bars, Red-brows, Chestnuts and Diamonds as these four species are native to Wollongong and surrounds. The club is currently investigating polo shirts, jackets, caps, track suits and other garments to be embroidered using the logo. Those interested in wildlife art might like to view Sharon's work online via her website at www.sharonshelton.com.au

The Wollongong club's Christmas party is held instead of a December meeting. This year members were treated to prawns, numerous pizzas and bucket loads of KFC, all supplied by the club. Members contributed a variety of other savoury items to the feast. The massive Christmas raffle was a huge success with many members taking home multiple prizes. A good selection of finches were donated as well as numerous other goodies. Thanks to all who donated prizes. Raffles provide a significant source of funds to benefit all members.



SOCIETY MEETINGS

February 12

Gordon Lovegrove Trophy

The Gordon Lovegrove Trophy is a table show. This year expert judge Ron Hunt has kindly agreed to cast his eye over our birds. Before Ron announces his decision the members present will vote. Will Ron and the members agree? Come along and find out. And bring a bird or two. If you don't have show cages then please contact a committee member and we'll organise some for you.

The Web and Social Media.

A demonstration of our proposed new website (www.finchsociety.org) and recent social media endeavours with our web guru Paul Kearvell. Members who are not internet users are particularly encouraged to attend—so you'll see what all the fuss is about!

March 12

African Slide night with Mick Grixti

Mick has recently returned from Africa on an incredible once in a lifetime tour hosted by Russell Kingston and Eelco Meyjes. The focus of the tour was weavers, whydahs and widow birds in the wild, however Mick's presentation will also include some amazing aviaries and captive species.

April 9

Zebra and Longtail Research (Dr Simon Griffith)

Macquarie University avian biology researcher Dr. Simon Griffith will present current research projects underway and planned. The facility at Macquarie includes aviary space for approximately 2000 finches. Current projects involve Longtail and Zebra Finch behaviour and genetics. Simon is keen to learn from us and we are keen to learn from him—sounds great!

May 14

Member Selected Topic (David Holmes)

Well known finch and softbill aviculturist David Holmes will engage and entertain with his extensive knowledge of aviculture. David has kindly agreed to present on a topic determined in advance by the membership. Don't miss this one!

And that's just for starters!



Avian Behavioural Ecology Group

Dr Simon Griffith - Macquarie University

Did you know that one of the leading universities in Sydney operates a research facility with a capacity for 2000 finches? Currently research projects are underway involving comparisons between wild and domestic Zebra finches and also differences between yellow-billed and Hex (red-billed) Longtail finches.

The following photos should wet your appetite to attend our April meeting where Dr Simon Griffith will describe current research projects as well as discuss areas where the Finch Society of Australia and the research team can work together.





Welcome New Members

Ryan Melia
Grant Scalmer
Stephanie Thompson
Davin George
Anthony Haworth
Raymond and Tereena Wust
Paul Vincent
David Grech
George Mikhail
Helen Whitford
Bill Mullan



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SALES TABLE



Nesting Material

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Nest Grass _____ | 9.00 |
| Coconut Fibre _____ | 6.00 |
| Feathers _____ | 6.00 |
| Emu Feathers _____ | 6.00 |
| Kapok _____ | 5.00 |

Accessories

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Seed Hoppers _____ | 5.00 |
| Drinkers (small) _____ | 2.00 |
| Drinkers (large) _____ | 3.00 |
| Drinkers (jumbo) _____ | 4.00 |
| Cuttlebone clips _____ | 0.50 |

Dietary

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Egg & Biscuit 1kg _____ | 7.00 |
| Grit-Healthy _____ | 7.50 |
| Seed Heads 500g _____ | 8.00 |
| Seed Heads 1kg _____ | 12.00 |
| Cuttlebone each _____ | 2.00 |
| FSA Soft Food 400g _____ | 4.00 |

Medicinal

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Coopex per satchel _____ | 10.00 |
| Baycox 100ml _____ | 35.00 |
| Cydetin Plus 100ml _____ | 15.00 |
| Polys Calcium Grit 1kg _____ | 12.00 |
| Virkon S _____ | 10.00 |

Rings - small or large (row of 10)

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Plain AL _____ | 4.00 |
| Double colour AL _____ | 6.00 |
| Plain AS _____ | 4.00 |
| Double colour AS _____ | 6.00 |

Nest Boxes

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Cane (large or small) _____ | 3.00 |
| Finch _____ | 5.50 |
| Gouldian _____ | 10.00 |
| Wooden _____ | 7.50 |

If there is something in particular that you would like to see available for sale on the Sales Table please contact our Sales Table Team
Stan Guest and Roy Barbaro or email salestable@finchsociety.org



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Howard Robinson (UK)

Relationships between captive breeding techniques and wild behaviour



David Harris (UK)

Challenges of Australian finches in a British environment



Walter Burgess (S. Africa)

A focus on waxbills - from St. Helenas to Orange Cheeks and beyond



Ian Brown (Qld)

Optimising nutrition for a mixed collection of finches & softbills



Marcus Pollard (Tasmania)

Breeding the Beautiful Firetail - a challenging Australian

Russell Kingston AM (Qld)

The history and aviculture of Euplectes weavers in Australia



Dr Leo Joseph (ACT)

Evolution of Estrildid finches - the origins of diversity



David Pace (Victoria)

Pictorellas - an enigmatic Australian



David Holmes (NSW)

Robins in Australian aviculture - their charm, history & future



Dr Barry Pollock (Qld)

Inheritance in Gouldian finches - implications for aviculture and wild populations



Special Conservation Session:

Dr Tony Grice, Stanley Tang, Juliana Rechetelo (CSIRO) - Blackthroat Ecology & Conservation
Dr Gary Fitt - the QFS Conservation Program
NFSA Finch Census - plus - an expert panel

Expert Workshops:

Dr Stacey Gelis - Avian Health
Mike Fidler, Chris Leeper & Gary Fitt - Techniques for Live Food

REGISTER NOW!

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email: gary.fitt@bigpond.com

FINCHES 14

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