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IFFCA Newsletter



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President's Message

Dear Members,

It is nearing the end of show season, so I hope your champions are trained, ready and in their best condition for the shows you attend.

Please support your local club shows by participating, showing your birds, and volunteering whenever possible. We all have skills that can be useful to the club, so let's put those skills to work and help make our hobby stronger.

The National is coming up fast, and the NBS has been working hard to put on a wonderful show in Louisville. We encourage everyone to come out, support the event, and enjoy all that it has to offer.

I wish you all the very best for this show season. Remember to enjoy your birds and renew the friendships with fellow hobbyists that you may only see at this time of year.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable show season!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Faria
IFFCA President

Advice From A Judge:

- Please do not cut the tail as this is reason for disqualification and at best it saves you 1 point under a competent judge.
- Do not dispose of birds due to a little chest split. Those are the birds with shoulder. While a clean bird is ideal, clean with no width is not going to win. A good judge may take a point for the split but you lose much more for the lack of shoulder. ~ Jeremy Faria

COVER PHOTO: **New York Colorbred Canary Club Show:** Brilee and Brian Cabral, breeder of Second Best Fife, and tenth Best Fife.

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2027 Leg Bands are available!

Breed-specific leg bands are now available to club members for our 2027 breeding season.

A membership form **to print and fill in, then mail to Club Treasurer/Membership Susan Bergel**, whose address is included on the form, is included in this newsletter and on our website. Payment by check or money order may be mailed with the form.

There is also a membership form on our website that allows 'autofill' on computers and phones, which may then be sent **by email to IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com**.

Payment may be check or money order, or PayPal payment sent to IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com. Sending it as 'Friends and Family' saves the club money.

Bands will also be **available at the National Bird Show** in Louisville, KY. Deb Whidden, Club Director and Affiliated Club Liaison, will be in attendance, as well as Dan Antonio, Club Regional Liaison.

The IFFCA club gathers at the Fife Division area, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 21.

NBS, 2024



IFFCA Announces Our Selection of Adam Kendall, UK, as Judge 2027 National Bird Show Division 6 Fife Fancy







I am Adam Kendall, part of the successful Fife canary partnership known as The Kendall Stud. I have been a bird breeder and keeper all of my life, but more seriously since my late teens, which is now over 20 years ago.

I keep and breed birds with my family namely my mother Susan, father Kevin and sister Sharon. We keep a variety of breeds but are mostly recognized for our Fife Fancy breeding achievements.

Sharon and I have established a stud of Fife canaries that have been at the very forefront of the breeding standards for over a decade or more. We have continued to push the boundaries of line breeding to achieve Fifes as close to the model, as everyone ever has.

We are currently at 27 best in show wins from specialist shows. A number we hope to add to in the coming years.

I am also a specialist Fife COM judge having passed my exams in January. Which uniquely offers me insight into both comparative judging styles and points system styles.

Kindest regards

Adam

BELOW, Canadian National Cage Bird Show and Expo, Ontario,
l to r: Fifes/Borders Judge Louis Belchior with Jay Bunker, breeder of Third Best Fife, and Best Fawn Fife,
with David Benites, Lipochrome Colorbred Judge.





ABOVE, SEMCC Show, Massachusetts:
Fifes/Borders Judge Jeremy Faria with Arthur Mederios, breeder of Champion Fife and 8 other places of the Top Ten in the Fife Division. Louis Belchior was breeder of the Champion Border.

Saturday November 21st

Saturday Specialty Club Meeting Schedule

Time	ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE DIVISION SHOW BENCH			
8:00 AM	North American Border Club	National Gloster Club	Fife Fancy of America	Norwich, Hartz & Columbus Fancy Lovers
9:00 AM	Old Variety Canary Association	Irish Fancy Canary Club of America	Association of Gloster Breeders	North American Parrot Society
10:00 AM	African Love Bird Society	Yorkshire Canary Club of America	National Finch & Softbill Society	Stafford Club of America
10:00 AM		United Irish Fancy	International Fife Fancy Club of America	
11:00 AM	National Colorbred Association	American Fife Fancy Club	[illegible] Society	
2:00 PM	National Bird Show General Meeting - Crowne Ballroom			

New NBS Time: IFFCA will be at the Fife Division at 10 A.M.

Remain The Master of Your Own Destiny…..

Selecting Pairings

Brian Keenan is a UK Champion Exhibitor as well as a Judge of exhibitions, lecturing at club meetings, providing show reports and writing regularly for the UK based magazine, Cage and Aviary Birds.

Christmas time helps to determine the success of your next show season - it is then that you may snatch a few moments to reflect upon next season's pairings, based upon the success of last show season and your knowledge of the history of your birds.

There are many ways to determine pairings, but each should be made with a specific objective in mind. It is no use mating two canaries together just because they are a yellow and a buff. They must possess compatible characteristics, be complementary to each other, and be capable of producing birds that excel as individuals. You need to plan for your future success.

Established fanciers have several advantages. They are experienced in the management of their stock, whilst they can also predict to a greater degree, how successful certain pairings may be. The odds are that they will be working with established "lines" and will have several choices, from which to make their selections. Pedigree will play an important part in their planning and selection. If they need to experiment, it will be carried out in a limited way, with several established or traditional pairings made to ensure continuity of bloodlines, in case the experimental pairings do not succeed. Any purchases will have come from known compatible studs, and will be restricted to a few birds only, to add that extra "magic ingredient" to continue the success of the room.

Fanciers who exhibit regularly will have learned how successful each individual bird is, in comparison to its peers. These birds will have been judged competitively by established fanciers, and their knowledge can be used by Novices to help plan their pairings. The ideal we are all aiming for is a show bird which itself produces show birds, when paired correctly.

Most fanciers keep too many birds - myself included! Keeping too many leads you to selecting balanced pairings throughout the room, rather than breeding from only your better birds. This 'averaging' effect is slowing your progress. The first trick therefore, is to select complementary pairings that with sufficient good fortune, will produce the birds you want in suitable numbers. Dispose of the rest - they will only distract from your objective, and take up valuable time and cage room. Keeping one or two spare hens is advisable insofar as they cover for unforeseen circumstances, but you do not need a roomful of spares!

continued

If starting from scratch, I would suggest that the new birdkeeper needs no more than two cocks and four hens. More established Novices need perhaps six cocks and eight or so hens. In each case the idea is the same, pairing the best cock bird with two suitable hens, with the intention of producing daughters to pair back into the line, next season. Ideally of course, the cocks should be related and the hens also, but this is not always possible. Using two hens allows for a greater choice of young females the next season, with the best hens from cock no 1 paired back into cock no 2, and vice versa Establishing two lines means that you are setting up a stud which will be capable of continuing without the introduction of fresh blood for several seasons,whilst ultimately each individual bird will become closer linked, genetically. Breeding results will be more predictable, as each season progresses.

This method is fine if based on sound stock initially, but remember that line breeding fixes bad points as well as good points - the better the initial stock, the quicker will be the progress in your search for the ideal bird. If the initial birds are not good enough, progress will be that much slower. If your stock consists of unrelated birds, than a different approach is dictated. You are now forced to pair based on face value only, and the results will be less predictable as more hidden factors come into play. Following the principles of best to best, and not using any birds with glaring faults will be your first step. Careful selection in year two, with strict clearance of any stock which produced poor specimens, is now the way forward, until you reach a point where you are able to pair father to daughter or mother to son, through choice. What you have now achieved through selection, is determined which are the dominant birds, and consequently chosen these as the foundation for your future success. Second choice hens for each cock bird will again be called for, to counteract the effects of any initial in-breeding, over future generations.

In the foregoing, I have not mentioned the birds' markings or any specific exhibition points of the ideal Yorkie. Best advice is to study the model, interpret it through your exhibition results, and select your pairings accordingly. Whatever colour comes out in the nest, rest assured there is a show class waiting - with no consideration given to markings anywhere in the ideal standard!

The birds fitness, conditioning for breeding and your own individual management methods will all impact upon your breeding results, but the major consideration is in your choice of pairings. If progress is slower than you would like, then you may need to make a purchase - either going back to your original source, or approaching others whose birds you admire, and which display the points lacking in your own stock. You remain the master of your own destiny, through careful selection.

END

Humane Euthanasia for Captive Finches and Canaries

By Kristen Reeves, of Meadowlark Farms Avian Supply, Inc.

Found on The Wayback Machine – Internet Archive

HUMANE EUTHANASIA: WHEN A BIRD CANNOT BE "FIXED"

Something you rarely hear anyone speak of is the need to "cull" or "euthanize" a bird. There may be occasions when you have a bird that is so sick or injured that the only humane thing to do is to put it down. When keeping captive birds, this is something you must be prepared for. In this brief article, I've described what I consider to be the most humane way to put a bird down. It should be noted that performing this task is NEVER fun, NEVER easy, and should NEVER be taken lightly. I've outlined the supplies needed and my method for doing this less than desirable deed.

Why Would We Need To Euthanize A Bird?

Here, I don't make this decision lightly. I consider all of my birds to be my "babies". They are all carefully and lovingly cared for. They bring me great joy and are the lights of my life. When one of them is injured or sick, I do everything in my ability to save them FIRST. But I won't allow them to suffer. If it has become apparent that even with my considerable skills I cannot fix them, I make the decision to put them to sleep. It's a horrible and difficult decision, and I hate to ever have to make it. Most of my birds have been bred specifically to fit a need in my breeding program and/or have given me years of joy and many chicks. I don't want to lose them if at all possible, but I don't want to see them suffer in any way, shape or form either. It may break my heart to do it, but when one of my babies is beyond repair, the most humane thing to do is to euthanize them.

Unlike some breeders I know, I REFUSE to just "snap" the neck of a bird or drown it. I won't use any method that will allow it to live more than a mere few seconds. I would never want to cause a bird more harm or injury than it has already been through. This is why I consider this to be the most humane way.

Some of the reasons we may need to euthanize a bird may be:

- Sick beyond repair and suffering
- Severely damaged due to injury
- Has a disease that is highly contagious and will affect the entire flock if left with them
- Is a carrier of a virus, bacterial infection, or aggressive parasite that will be passed on to offspring or other birds in the aviary
- Cannibalizes its young

I euthanize birds sick or injured beyond repair using Ether. It's essentially an overdose of what used to be an anesthetic for humans. It's quick and painless, and the bird literally just goes to sleep.

How Do We Go About It?

continued

What You Need:

- Coffee can with a tightly fitting lid (metal or plastic are best – the cardboard cans do not hold the Ether fumes well).
- 5 or 6 cotton balls
- Spray Ether – it can be found at the auto parts or hardware store and is usually called "Starting Fluid". There may be other forms, but this is what I use here.

It is important you perform this task OUTDOORS and NOT inside your home or anywhere near the rest of your birds. The fumes are very strong and can kill the rest of your flock. You should NOT breathe the fumes yourself!

How To Prepare:

- Gather all of your supplies and MOVE TO THE OUTDOORS
- Remove the lid from your coffee can and set aside
- Spray each cotton ball until nearly soaked then place in the coffee can
- Replace the lid on the coffee can and allow to stand for about 10 minutes. This allows the Ether to evaporate into the air in the can and fill it. The fumes will be VERY strong. You may notice the smell even once the lid is replaced.
- Capture your sick bird
- While holding the bird in one hand, crack the lid of the coffee can with your other hand and slip the bird into the can. It is important you only CRACK the lid. You want as much of the Ether to remain in the can as possible
- Snap the lid tightly back on and wait

Waiting is probably the absolute worst part. This is NOT a fun task. You must be prepared. The Ether fumes are strong enough that it takes very little to put the bird to sleep. In fact, you may feel the life go out of the bird as you get it near the coffee can - even before you release it into can. It is NOT a good feeling. While I know it is for the best, I almost always cry. But better to cry and know the bird is no longer suffering, than to allow it to continue to suffer or use a method that is less quick.

In most cases, Gouldians will be asleep as soon as they get a single whiff of the ether (they may still be in your hand at that point). This is the same for most other very small species. Some hardier species such as Zebras and Societies may take a few seconds to succumb. You may wish to walk away from the can for a few moments. The bird will not like being placed in the can and may flop around for a few seconds. It is not pleasant, but is far better than allowing the bird to suffer or spread disease to the rest of your flock.

When you are certain the bird has succumbed to the fumes, you may remove the bird from the can for internment.

Again, this is not a pleasant task. You must be fully prepared for taking that life. And that NEVER becomes easy. If you do not feel you can perform this task yourself, take the bird to your Avian Veterinarian. They will be able to perform the task for you. ~k

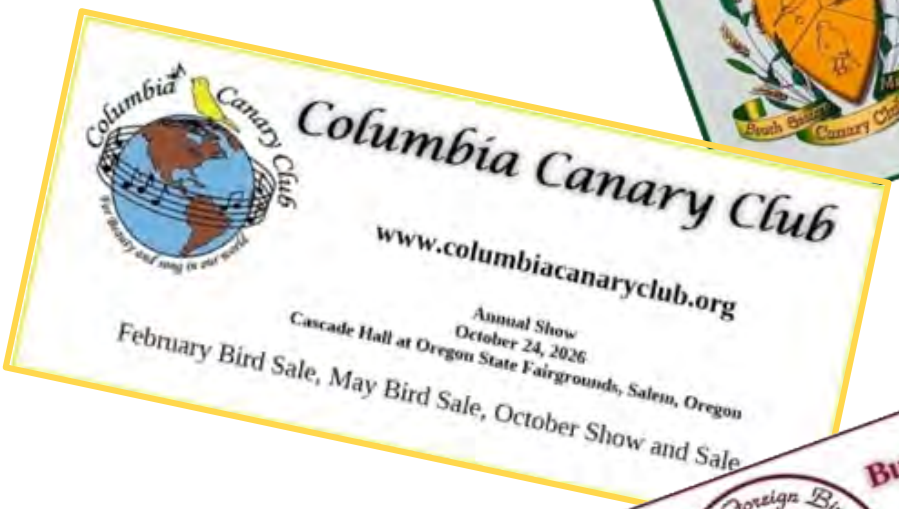
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Our 2026 Affiliated Clubs













Supply Order Form

Bands (25 for $15)
_____ Multiples of 25 $ _____

IFFCA Club Pin ($15 each)
_____ each $ _____

Show Cage Drinkers ($1.25 each)
_____ each $ _____

Show Cage Perches ($5 pair)
_____ pair $ _____

Band Cutters (AvianID, UK)
($38, shipping included)
_____ each $ _____

SHIPPING:

Bands only ($3) $ _____
Drinkers, perches and pins ($6) $ _____
Add $6 for 1-10 pair of perches
OR 1-10 drinkers.

Membership (from right) $_____

Breeder Listing (from right) $_____

TOTAL: $ _____

☐ **Check** ☐ **CASH** ☐ **PayPal**

Fill in Name & Contact Info on right if ordering bands/supplies separately from membership.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Band Numbers _____

Form and Payment Received:
_____/_____/_____

IFFCA Membership Application

Date _____

I apply for membership in the International Fife Fancy Club of America **for the year of 20____** and agree to the Bylaws of the Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you prefer delivery of newsletter by email or by postal mail USPS?
☐ **Email** ☐ **USPS mail**

One Year Membership - $30

Check one: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership is Jan 1 – Dec 31.

Memberships submitted on/after November 1st shall include the remaining two months of the current year and the following year. Renewing memberships are payable by February 28th.

BREEDER LISTING on the website, in our newsletter, and in various publications available to the public, to run concurrently with membership: **$10**

Make check or money order payable to: **IFFCA** and mail this form with your payment to:

Susan Bergel
IFFCA Treasurer
286 Hite Road
Kearneysville, WV 25430

OR: Make 'Friends and Family' PayPal payment to:
IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com
and send this form by email to IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com.