

# Breeding Season

## How Did We Do This Year?

by Paula Hansen, AFA Red Siskin Project Director  
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The Red Siskin Project (RSP) is having a fair season. Due to the record breaking rainy weather on the east coast this spring, project Siskins were off to a late start. This also slowed down everyone else in prospective pairings of unrelated stock. The west coast did better.

It has been sometime since RSP has had any exposure or sponsorship to keep exchanges happening and with the outbreak of Avian TB which is now under control we're off and running.

Many of you have been wondering what has been going on. Last quarter *AFA Watchbird* shed some light and RSP will be sharing with AFA Members in the *Watchbird* Journal on a regular basis. And soon there will be a link from the AFA new website to the RSP site. Updating will be easier as we upload information and pictures directly.

Many of you are searching for that Yahoo Red Siskin Group. Sorry, but it's available for our breeders only. It is most necessary for us to network through this free media to manage ourselves and birds. Please feel free to email your questions to [pjhansen@earthlink.net](mailto:pjhansen@earthlink.net) or the AFA office.

Due to the limited dollars available, the printing of 200 newsletters is not supporting our birds but taking needed dollars away. But interested parties will be able to view information by downloading from the RSP website or reading *AFA Watchbird* for updates. RSP website is under construction – please be patient. Remember the need to exchange and share in order to support the breeding and husbandry is critical to this consortium. Yahoo has limited our ability to expand, due to the free memory limits set recently. Our website will have a link to contact our

breeders for any questions you may have also.

Dedication and determination have reached fruition just prior to the AFA Convention this August. RSP Subcommittee Board member Ron Casterner polished off a wonderful product that is now available to all — a CD Slide Show. This CD is played on your PC. It contains pictures of RSP Siskins, adults, nests, hatchlings, juveniles, and contains sound bites of their song. This is exciting for those who have never experienced this song. RSP encourages Regional Directors and State Coordinators obtain a copy and play the presentation to their local groups, and clubs. With each CD will be a pamphlet provided to read aloud during the presentation. Clubs are welcomed to request a copy of this CD directly from RSP. The cost includes shipping and handling. All proceeds will go directly to RSP to keep it moving forward.

Another development came to light after months of locating a company to digitize our Red Siskin logo. Marketing Marlene Minor, and a project member will have available Red Siskin Project Polo-shirts. Both items were presented during the AFA Convention. Keep your eyes open in the *AFA Watchbird* and AFA's new website for both of these fundraisers. Income will help pay for lab testing, shipping expenses, and educational tools.

### Education and Sharing Information.

Another way to gain knowledge and experience (and I believe there is no other way) is at your local club meeting. Invite your local state AFA Representative

or Regional Representative to come to the club and speak about what is new at AFA and ask them to bring information on the Red Siskins! Don't wait to be contacted by them. They are all listed in this magazine.

### Recent Donations

#### What did the project receive this year?

In February, 2002 Michelle Richardson contacted RSP regarding the donation of Red Siskins Mr. Bud Ricks bequeathed to the family. The Siskin Project Director coordinated the arrangements for the donation. According to information given by the family, these Siskins are descendants of importations during the 1940s and 1950s. Thanks to this donation RSP will hopefully be able to continue this line for the next 50-60 years. Unfortunately, no breeding records were recovered. The birds are estimated to be approximately eight years old. Even if RSP can obtain one offspring from this genetic source this would be exciting. Following USFWL rules, a Letter of Transfer was created to document this donation.

During March, 2003 Cathy Estes, of Eugene, Oregon, donated a female Red Siskin. No parentage records could be located. RSP was informed that the New Jersey breeder was not registered with any consortium or listed in RSP studbook.

### Project's Breeder Report

RSP Breeder PHSAOR Update as of July 2003: 15 Hatched and fledged

Pair: Male 1303 band - T1149 & Female 1314 band -T 1169 Hatched 4/03  
Close banded = 1196 03 C NFS, 1197 03 C NFS, 1198 03 C NFS -Other markings on band purple color Total hatch 3

Male 1301 band - 1149 & Female "yellow" band - T 1173 Hatched 3/03  
Close Banded = 1191 03 C NFS, 1192 03 C NFS, 1193 03 C NFS – Other markings on band purple color Total hatch 3



*Female Black-headed Red Siskin*

Male 94 band - T833 & Female 1220 band - T1156 Hatched 2/03 Closed Banded = 904 03 C NFS, 905 03 C NFS Other markings on band purple color Total hatch 2

Male 1221 band - T1154 & Female 8262 band - T1165 Hatched 4/03 Closed Banded - 1194 03 C NFS & 1195 03 C NFS Other markings on band purple color Total hatch 2

Male 94 band- T833 & Female 1225 band - T1094 Hatched 1/03 Closed Banded - 90103 C NFS, 902 03 C NFS, 903 03 C NFS Other markings on band purple color total hatch 3

Male 1221 band - T1154 & Female 1314- T 1169 Hatched 2/03 Closed Banded - 907 03 C NFS, 906 03 C NFS Other markings on band purple color total hatch 2

Deaths: Female 122 band - 1996 hatch by JWOC - female never successfully bred. Hen poor eater throughout life. Never accepting anything but seed & treated water with vitamins. Vet checked in 1998 no problems other than vitamin A diagnosis displaying swollen eyes at that time. Expired at age 7.

### **Breeder RCWPFL Update 7/03**

Male Orange split band Female Red split band. Hatched 7/03 14822 03 D NFS the other 1482103 D NFS Total hatch 2

### **Zoo to Join Red Siskin Project**

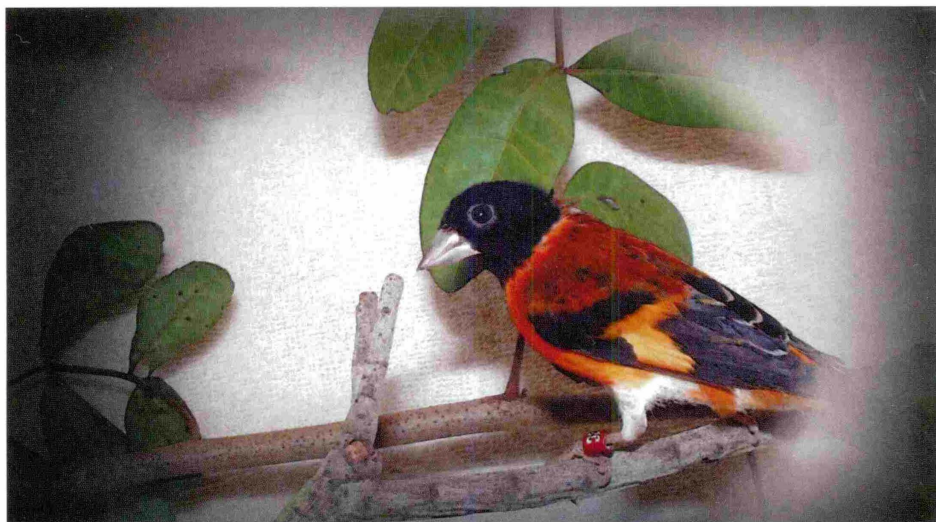
Red Siskins may be on exhibit at Brooklyn, New York - Prospect Park Zoo. Animal Curator, Ric Urban, will be representing the zoo and coming on board with the Red Siskin Project. Slated for September will be a new exhibit of Red Siskins. RSP goals include creating a self-sustaining captive healthy population of Red Siskins within the US. and Supporting conservation efforts and scientific studies in the wild. By promoting information about the Siskin and through education we can best inform the public and form a partnership with the Prospect Park Zoo. Zoos have veterinarians and will have adequate facilities to work with our project. Zoos also are better able to apply for grants and conduct research in order to better understand our birds. We are excited and hoping more support and partnerships will bloom in future years.



### **Looking for Sponsors**

The Red Siskin Project is looking for Sponsors. Donations over \$50.00 will receive a courtesy CD as a thank you for your help. RSP Update will list individual donations in the Quarterly *AFA Watchbird* unless requested to treat as confidential. Your contribution will assist in sustaining a captive healthy population. It is also supporting conservation efforts which include scientific studies of the Red Siskin. All contributions are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service. You will receive a written acknowledgment from our office and from RSP for your financial contribution.

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*Male Black-headed Red Siskin*