



October 15, 1977  
 The Central Ohio  
 Bird Fanciers Inc.  
 presents  
**36th Annual Cage Bird Show**

Electric Building  
 Ohio State Fairgrounds  
 East 17th Avenue  
 Columbus, Ohio  
 Contact:  
 Show Manager, Ken Stubbard  
 or Show Secretary,  
 Betty Whipp  
 2019 Memorial Dr.  
 Springfield, Ohio 45505

October 7, 8, 9, 1977  
**The Fort Worth Bird Club**  
 presents  
**24th Annual Bird Show**

Cibola Inn  
 Arlington, Texas

Show Secretary:  
 Mrs. Mickey Smith  
 2629 Mission  
 Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
 (817) 921-2951

Judges:  
 Budgerigars—Walter Prott  
 Exotics—H.I. Gregory  
 Finches—Clarence Culwell  
 Canaries—D.S. Guinn

November 17, 18, 19, 1977  
**The Dallas Cage Bird Society**  
 presents  
**The National Cage Bird Show**

at the  
 Northpark Inn Convention  
 Center

Plan a vacation and attend!  
 Large classes of Finches  
 (especially Zebras and  
 Societies)

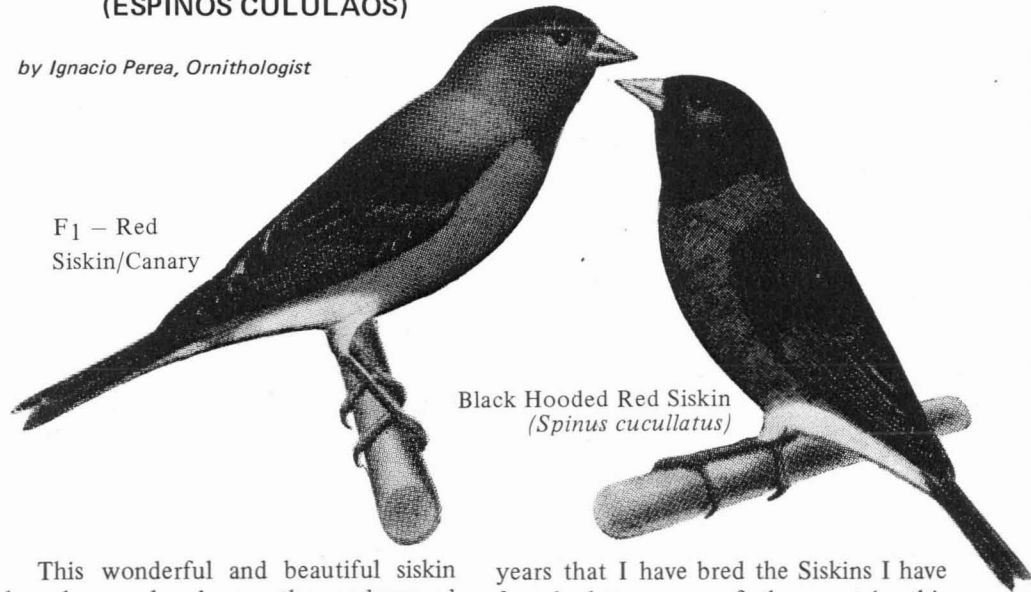
Budgies, Cockatiels, Canaries  
 All breeders, exhibitors are  
 invited to compete for the  
 Kellogg Trophy

For more information contact:  
 Bill Hancock, Show Chairman  
 809 Pleasant Valley Lane  
 Richardson, Texas 75080

# The Black Hooded Red Siskin

(ESPINOS CULULAOS)

by Ignacio Perea, Ornithologist



F1 - Red  
 Siskin/Canary

Black Hooded Red Siskin  
 (*Spinus cucullatus*)

This wonderful and beautiful siskin has been placed on the endangered species list and this may be a mixed blessing. I have recently discussed this with Wildlife Department officer Sigler here in Miami, and he has promised to send me a complete explanation of the law and what the conscientious breeder can do within the law to help perpetuate this beautiful bird. Anyone of course can breed the red siskin but interstate transportation is forbidden. I am hopeful that the Department of the Interior will set up a special license for the conscientious breeder who is pursuing the scientific breeding and promotion of these rare and beautiful birds.

Contrary to what has been written in many books the natural habitat of the Red Siskin is exclusively the province of Lara in the Republic of Venezuela. This bird fortunately is very prolific and could once be found from the Gulf of Paria all the way to the Amazon frontiers of Columbia, an area no greater than the state of Florida. Fortunately the jungle has provided them with a safe shelter from all but the most persistent and experienced trapper who is their most deadly enemy.

Many breeders of the Red Siskin have asked me why the birds often sleep hanging sideways on the cage bars and if this is harmful to the bird. Extensive research and investigations and talks with longtime breeders have led me to the knowledge that the birds first developed this behavior so that they could sleep in the predator infested jungles. They will choose a fragile and sensitive twig or leaf to roost upon so that the slightest touch or movement will vibrate on the twig or leaf and will awaken the siskin, thereby enabling him to fly away to safety. In the

years that I have bred the Siskins I have found that many of them retain this ancestral survival behavior in captivity.

These colorful little birds from the Fringillidae family are in such great demand all over the world that the Venezuelan government, fearful of its complete extinction, which is a very real danger by the way, has set very high fines and jail terms for those caught attempting to trap Red Siskins, or for that matter even if one is found in your possession. Only by a hard to come by special permit are a very few breeders permitted to work with them in an attempt to preserve the species. And yet it was with great sadness that on a recent trip to Europe I witnessed a bird dealer there with 30-40 newly acquired birds from South America and he had no real idea of how to feed and care for them and was only giving them thistle (niger) and water. I seriously doubt if a single bird survived.

Contrary to what many Red Siskin keepers believe, the Red Siskin, if it is taught to, will eat a balanced seed diet which contains a high percentage of carbohydrates. The ideal diet is one consisting of: 25% canary; 25% thistle; 25% Panicum (german millet, also called small finch); 5% flax; 5% hemp; 5% lettuce and 10% steel cut oats. Several of the advertisers in this magazine carry a good siskin mix. All year round I soak sprayed millet, using one stem for every 5 birds, greens such as watercress, dandelion, chicory, cucumbers, oranges, etc. are fed daily. Some breeders like to use live food such as meal worms. I use egg yolk, cooked 20 minutes at a slow boil (use the yolk only, never the white) as my source of animal protein supplement and I use it only when I am breeding, I never use more than 1/2 teaspoon egg yolk per

bird.

When breeding I have tried many different nestling foods, they seem to have a preference in this order: soak seed minced with a little bit of Protein-25 (or any commercial nestling food); chopped meal worms (I haven't had much luck with these); moistened egg biscuits. All of these are fed in addition to the regular seed of course and with tremendous amounts of greens, which they dearly love.

One good way to get your siskins to eat other seeds when he is used to thistle is to pull a little trick on him at feeding time. What I do is to remove the seed cup as if I were intending to fill it with fresh seed mixture. I blow away the husks and add a tiny bit of fresh seed, shaking the cup to redistribute the seeds and I return the cup to the cage. The Siskin is then forced to eat all the seeds instead of just eating those that are his favorite and ignoring the rest, since he counts on you replenishing his supply daily. Always be careful to change him over slowly so as not to starve a particularly stubborn bird.

The Red Siskin has a tremendous vitality and shows it by his vigorous reproduction and it is very common to see an 8 or 9 year old Siskin breeding true or hybridizing with canaries! The Red Siskin male will hybridize at almost any time with the canary, the best time to breed siskin to siskin is in April or in very warm, humid weather. February and March are best for Siskin-Canary hybridizing. The Siskin is a very strong bird and has a life span approximately twice that of the canary, 10 years not being unusual at all and I have seen and owned many 11 and 12 year old Siskins.

The Black Hooded Red Siskin has a deep red colored body with a head hood of coal black. The wings having a horizontal pattern break which is the same color as the body. The under feathers are grayish black. The color pattern is fabulous to look at, and if well and properly cared for the texture is so sleek and glossy. The female carries the dimorphic factor for the species, she is of the same pattern but grey colored. As a matter of fact I own one that has mutated off to white just like a dimorphic canary.

I hope with luck to own some pure white dimorphic Red Siskin females in a few years.

The Red Siskin has been used in many diverse breeding programs, one of the most popular is breeding Red Siskin to female canary, the reds having the gift of producing a  $f_1$  generation that is fertile, not an easy achievement, you must admit. However, some of the  $f_1$ 's that have been tried in their first breeding

season were not fertile, but did become fertile in their second or third year. In hybridizing I would recommend using a large female that carries the red genes, such as the red factor and either lipochromic clear (clear dimorphic is best) or melanic brown or bronze (also dimorphic). Remember the dimorphic and the red genes (orange ground color) was inherited by these canaries from the siskins! You have a much greater chance of having more fertile  $f_1$ 's and this breeding will produce very fine looking progeny.

Now a days there are quite a few dedicated breeders, breeding the Red Siskin true. It isn't so difficult but it takes lots of attention and patience. The Siskin female acts up and behaves very similarly to the canary hen. They both make the same type of nest. The siskin lays a clutch of eggs, usually 4 eggs, laying one every day for 4 days. She sits her nest for 12-13 days, however heres where your trouble begins. Too much noise and she may decide that she will not sit on that clutch. Yet next to her may be another Siskin female who won't mind at all. I know so many of these stories that I could fill pages with them. But suffice to say that hthe female Siskin is a good but temperamental breeder. So all this points out the unpredictability, yet the average breeding Siskin is high, not as high as canaries, but you must remember that a female Siskin, 7 years old may still produce you beautiful, healthy babies. With Red Siskins it is best to let Mother Nature decide when she is ready to breed.

Many years ago while I was judging a color bred show in New Jersey, Mr. Neil Rombardo introduced me to an old time breeder (his name unfortunately escapes my memory at this moment) who had successfully bred Red Siskin to Red Siskin for many years and had decided to breed his  $f_1$  cross (Red Siskin to Canary) back to the Red Siskin females and pursue a larger siskin, since the red factor gene had already been accomplished in the canary. By the way, this story was verified by many long time breeders from the area. Anyway, this old timer told me that he had produced a few babies the first year and one of those babies (an  $f_1$  cross) was bred back to it's mother and this breeding was so successful that he bred quite a few  $f_1$ 's back to Red Siskin females, the resulting third generation looked perfectly like a red siskin only about 50% larger in size. He proceeded to tell me that when he attempted to sell these third generation Siskin-Canary crosses the reactions of many of the prospective purchasers was somewhat less than tactful, and many stated that they

*continued on page 38*



**October 21, 22, & 23, 1977**

**The Gold Coast  
Exotic Bird Club  
presents**

**Second Annual Open Bird Show**

Holiday Inn Lakeside,  
Boca Raton, Fl Exit 28 west  
of Florida Turnpike SR808

\$16.00 Single \$18.00 Double

Show Coordinator  
Katie Turning,  
2829 S.W. 4th Place,  
Fort Lauderdale  
(305) 587-1687

**October 22, 1977  
The Greater Pittsburgh  
Cage Bird Society  
will present its  
Annual All Bird Show**

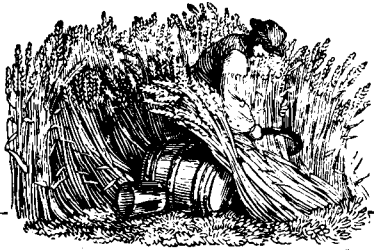
at the Holiday Inn,

Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 3,  
Warrendale, PA. The Budgie  
judge will be Corienne Traver.  
Gino Abbate and Marilyn  
Simons will judge canaries. Dr.  
Val Clear will judge foreign  
birds.

For additional information  
contact Penny Luczak,  
show secretary, 203 Rogina  
St., Pgh., PA 15209.

**November 18, 19, 20, 1977  
Central California  
Cage Bird Club  
presents  
24th Annual Show**

Modesto Racquet Club  
200 Norwegian Ave.  
Modesto, California 95350  
Show Theme: Anything Goes  
Show Manager:  
Ray Ricketts  
620 Amber  
Modesto, CA. 95350  
Show Sec./Tres.:  
Dan Minuzzo  
3420 Colonial Dr.  
Modesto, CA. 95350



## GOLDEN TONE

Formulated Seed Mixtures  
Vitamin Enriched

Specializing in  
Canary, Parakeet, Finch, Cockatiel,  
Racing Pigeon Mixes

Mfg. By **L & D SEED CO.**  
P.O. Box 4115 Santa Clara, Cal. 95054

Southern California Distributor  
**VARI-FEATHER PRODUCTS, INC.**  
Phil Dubois  
P.O. Box 568, Garden Grove, CA 92642  
**714- 831-9178**

## COCKATIELS Care & Breeding

by Jo Hall

**\$4.95**

(plus 50c handling and postage)

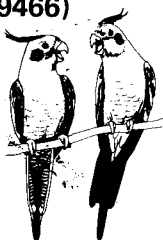
An up-to-date, practical book of helpful information covering all aspects of the care and breeding of cockatiels, based on the observations, accumulated knowledge and personal experiences of the author in raising cockatiels. This book has detailed drawings pertaining to aviary and cage constructions and includes many beautiful photographs of the author's birds bred and raised at Shady Grove Aviary.

**Mrs. Jo Hall** Shady Grove Aviary  
Rt. 1, Box 33 Thorndale, TX. 76577

# h&k bird farm

315 S. Laurel Ave.  
Brea, California 92621  
714 (529-9466)

**BUY - SELL  
TRADE**



**MOST CAGE  
BIRDS  
FEED AND EQUIPMENT  
Ship Anywhere**

## NEWCASTLE DISEASE/FEB. '77 continued from page 23

lance will continue.  
July 27, 1977

Total number of premises involved in Virginia and California outbreaks was 252, with about 13,400 birds in 23 States. Indemnities for both outbreaks amounted to about \$981,700. Total cost of the Virginia and California outbreaks was approximately \$1,500,000.

Some day the complete story may be written and it may become a part of the public record. Only then will we really have The End of the Story. It will be the end of the story for the February 1977 Outbreak. The Newcastle story will go on and we will be devastated again and again. That is, unless you and I stop the smuggling. Yes, You and I, not the government. We are the ones who are the customers for the smugglers. They sell us psittacosis and we buy it. They sell us Pacheco's Parrot Disease and we buy it. They sell us inclusion body viruses and we buy it. They sell us Exotic Newcastle and we buy it. We get a good deal though. Sometimes we even save up to \$50.00.

## BLACK HOODED RED SISKIN continued from page 33

wanted to work with pure Red Siskins or only Red Siskin-Canary f<sub>1</sub>'s. So in a fit of pique the old timer threw open the cage doors and released all the third generation Siskin-Canary crosses. Sadly they are now lost forever to the fancy and such a pity that these birds could not have been used as a foundation to continue the work and fix the strain for posterity.

I would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who is working on similar projects. After all we once upon a time did not have a white canary, nor Frills, nor Norwich, recessive and sex linked. All of them came from the Serinus Canarius from the passerine of the Fringillidae family, an inhabitant of an African island. So please folks if you have f<sub>2</sub> crosses (female) don't discard or discount them without test mating them for fertility (if she lays eggs then she's fertile so please work with her), lets give this fascinating possibility a chance of becoming an established reality.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**CLASSIFIED RATES** - \$3.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of 9¢ per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be **RECEIVED BY 15th** day of month preceding publication.

**BIRDS FOR SALE:** Complete line of birds, large and small, from Canaries to Cockatoos. Call or write for our newest price list. All birds U.S.D.A. quarantine released and guaranteed healthy. Call now! **SMITH'S EXOTIC AVIARIES**, P.O. Box 305, Herndon, VA. 22070. Call (703) 620-2222.

**FOR SALE:** All types of Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Lorys, Toucans, Waterfowl, etc. We operate and own our quarantine station! We also rent the station. Louisiana Fauna Institute, P.O. Box 654, Sildell, Louisiana 70459. Phone (504) 643-8978 or 641-7195.

**WANTED:** Information on Feral Amazon Parrots - for graduate research on behavior and ecology of So. Cal. populations. Numbers, species, locations, activities, etc. Jeff Froke, Box 174, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. (213) 355-3685.

Hyacinthine Macaws, tame, \$4,000; Palm Black Cockatoos, tame, \$3,500 or best offer. Private party. Box 014116, Miami, Florida 33101.

**FOR SALE: TWO FINE BOOKLETS** to help with care and training of Cage Birds. "Raising Parrakeets for Pleasure and Profit". "Raising Canaries for Pleasure and Profit". \$3.00 each - or both for \$5.00. Mrs. A.D. Myers, 6076 - 82nd Terrace, Pinellas Park, Florida 33565.

**WANTED:** pair Stanley Rosellas, unrelated, healthy birds, and one Many-color hen (P. var. Iu). **FOR SALE:** One Massena's Lorikeet. Rudy Yarbrough, 2155 Ferry, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 585-8074.

**LIVE MEAL WORMS** encourage breeding, provide natural vitamin-packed nutrients for growth and development. Fun to hand feed for taming! Wholesale to Club Members: 5000 @ \$9.25; 10,000 @ 17.50, 20,000 @ 32.00. Handy cups of 500 in bran only \$15.60 per dozen. **SO POOL YOUR ORDERS!** Call tonight (714) 298-5678 until 7 p.m. Olympic Meal Worms, Dept. A.F.A., Box 2500, La Jolla, CA. 92038.

**FOR SALE:** Welded Wire 1/2" x 1/2", 4' x 100'. Also available in 1/2" x 1", 4' x 100' roll. Wholesale price. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave. L.A., CA. 90025. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

**WANTED:** Zebra Finches in quantities of 150 to 1000. Looking for 1st class birds - top prices paid. Write to Novak's Aviary, 113 K Brook Ave., Deer Park, NY 11729.

Canaries: "American Singers" bred from A.S. banded birds. Crested and regulars, all colors, 1977 hatch. Will ship (reasonable prices). G. Gambino, 6566 Ave. A., New Orleans, LA. 70124. (504) 488-2079.

**FOR SALE:** Baby Chattering Lories, Rainbow Lories. \$150 each. Marianne Hayes, Route 5, Box 135-B, Denton, Texas 76201. (817) 382-7097.

**FOR SALE:** 1 pair of Triton Cockatoos, true compatible pair, tattooed - \$2000.00. Call (714) 653-7461.

**FOR SALE:** Salvador's Fig Parrot, \$1600 per pair. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA 90025. Phone (213) 884-5476 evenings.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BUDGERIGAR and FOREIGN BIRD SOCIETY** presents their 22nd ANNUAL SHOW at the Oakland Hyatt House. NOV 4, 5, & 6th.

**FOR SALE: AFRICAN GREY PARROTS**, new season young. Offering other imported bird species monthly as available. **BRONSON BIRDS**, 70 Nagle Ave., New York, N.Y. 10040. Phone (212) 942-1150.

**FOR SALE:** Diamond Sparrows, Parsons, Chestnut Breasted Mannikins, Tri-color Parrot Finches, Fire Finches, Red Parrot Finches, Cordon Bleus, Gold Breasted Waxbills, Lavendar Finches. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA. 90025.

**FOR SALE:** Red Rump Parrakeets, Turquoise Parrakeets, Bourkes, Golden Mantle & Stanley Rosellas, Normal Cockatiels. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave., L.A., CA. 90025.

**FOR SALE - Orange cheek Amazon Parrot.** Finger tame. Etta Culver, 7111 Reseda Blvd., Reseda, CA. Phone 881-3421 days; 349-1526 evenings.