

GOCBS NEWS LINE

June 2011



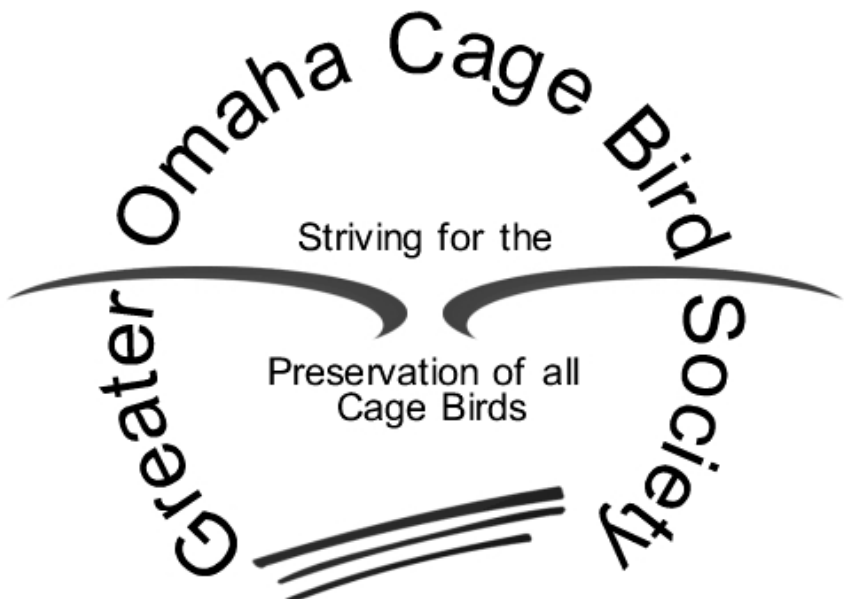
Meetings are open to the public
3:00 pm on the Third Sunday
At Nebraska Humane Society, Omaha
www.GreaterOmahaCageBirdSociety.com

Don't Forget!



**June
Meeting:**

**June 19th
Father's Day**



2011 GOCBS Officers

President	Rick Kling renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686
Vice President	Michelle Mutchler-Burns gopack8763@aol.com	(712) 322-1448
Secretary	Glenn Morrison	
Treasurer	Marcia Delehoy plbs@qwestoffice.net	(402) 453-5235
Membership	Ginger Bostwick glbostwick@cox.net	(402) 932-5866
Newsletter	Elsa Ashelford pandora1641@yahoo.com	(402) 309-0683

2011 GOCBS Officer Trustees

Karen Sward		(712) 352-3646
Bill Owens	earlowens21@yahoo.com	(402) 218-6026
Vance Delehoy	plbs@qwestoffice.net	(402) 453-5235

Adoption - Placement

Bill Owens		(402) 218-6026
Ed Larson		(402) 812-8669
Michelle Mutchler-Burns (Iowa)		(712) 322-1448

2011 GOCBS Fair Coordinator

Rick Kling	renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686
Carla Owens (Assistant)	xenagreenzoo@yahoo.com	(402) 218-6028

Presidents Letter - June 2011

Dear GOCBS Members,

With June here, we are now half way into the year. It's amazing how time flies when you're having fun. May was a very busy month for the club. This reflects on the club's commitment to our members and the community.

We hosted the clinic with Dr. McDonald and we had our spring bird fair. Both events we had many of our members as volunteers as well as board members present assisting in the functions. Thanks go out to all of those that participated.

There are some events coming up so watch the website calendar for those dates. Next month is our open house and we need to know what birds will be focused on. This way we can have species profiles available for hand outs to potential new bird owners. We are hoping to take pictures that may be used for a possible calendar in the fall.

Check out the website and sign up for e-mail announcements.

Thank you,

Rick Kling
President, GOCBS



Daily Bird Cage Cleaning *by Limoeg Veigroeg*

Bird Cage Bedding:

Changing bedding once, even twice a day, is highly recommended. Doing this, make sure the cage is easily accessible without any risk of bird escaping. No matter if you use newspaper or other paper liners make sure that they will not cause problems to your bird in case of ingesting. Avoid any items that have glue or colored ink on them. You better find safe paper cardboard that could be easily removed and replaced. Depending on the size of your bird you may use several layers for bedding the cage as it gives you the opportunity to change just the top one.

Bird Cage Dishes:

All food and water dishes must be cleaned with non-toxic cleansers under a hot water and then thoroughly dried. As doing that make sure no trace of soap, disinfectant or any other cleanser that you use remains on the dishes. Drying is very important step of the clean process because otherwise if the dishes are not absolutely dry that may cause dampening and then molding of the seeds or pellets. A good solution to avoid that unpleasant and undesirable situation is to have at least two sets of dishes that you can have on your disposal when the one set is on process of drying. Materials as plastic or stainless steel are very useful for long lasting usage because they can withstand washings over and over again for a long period of time.

No matter what item you use as a dish - a bowl, cup, bottle or can, make sure that you have available accessory for perfect cleaning, for example a bottle brush, to avoid any droppings or disinfectant left on the dish surface.

Bird Cage Accessories:

Each one of the accessories you placed in the cage should be regularly removed and cleaned with hot soapy water or other cleanser, rinsed and dried thoroughly before they are brought back in the cage. Doing that observe the items carefully for any accumulations of droppings and make sure you remove them all.

Bird Cage Surrounding area: All seed, pellet, hull, feather pickings and other debris should be swept or vacuumed from the bottom of the cage. If the cage is provided with an apron it can help for collecting the pickings. It can be easily removed and clean daily.



About the Author

Limoeg Veigroeg is owner & editor of www.birdcagesforum.com where you can find information on every type of pet birds and every type of bird cages and accessories. BirdCagesForum provides detailed information in decorative, large, custom, acrylic, antique, wooden, and discount bird cages sale, as well as cage covers, bird cage play stands, bird perches, bird toys, bird swings and bird foods.

Flood Disaster Assistance



With the recent release of the flood waters from Gavin's Point Dam, we are looking at some really wet times to come. If you or some one you know needs assistance with your birds, we will do what we can to help you find foster homes, or fulfill other needs. Feel free to contact us for more information:

Rick Kling
President, Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society
(402) 922-5686
renotoo402@cox.net



Chloe Welstead
Nebraska State Coordinator, American Federation of Aviculture
(402) 450-2059 leave message
chloe@nebraskabirdlady.com

Easter Begg Hunt

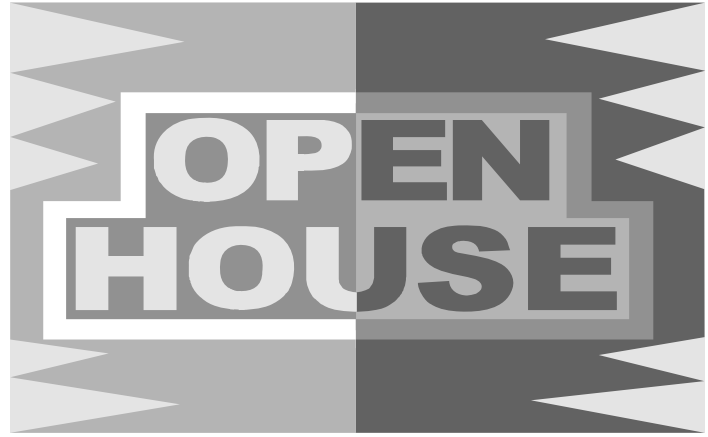
Three Dog Bakery sponsored this event on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at Mid-town Crossing in Omaha. The GOCBS attended and gave away two Easter baskets, one with items for a child, and one with items for a dog. To win one of the baskets, people had to guess how many jelly beans were in the jar! It was a close call, but the winners were really close, no one guessed exact!

The baskets and all of the goodies inside were donated by Vance & Marcia of Paul Lucht Feed, Rick, and Steve. Thank you all for your donations.

This event was just one of the many ways GOCBS can get out into the public and help educate people about companion birds. We would like to increase the number of Education Outreach Events the club attends. Your time would be appreciated greatly. If you know of an event or can help out, please let a board member know. Even if you don't feel that you know enough, you can learn while you are there and tell people about our club meetings!

There is an event coming up in October at the Plattsmouth Library. We would love to see you there!

Join us on July 17th at
the Humane Society.
1 pm to 4 pm
See a variety of birds find out
more info about the different
species of birds available!



If you are able to bring birds to show to the public, please contact a board member so that we can have information sheets available.

Drs. Foster & Smith
www.drsfostersmith.com

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Finches In Aviculture

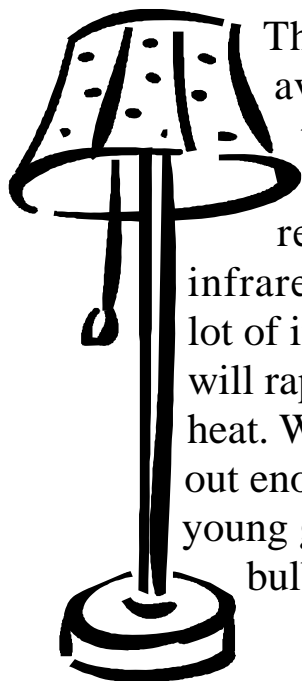
by ROBERT G. BLACK, PO Box 653, Belmont, CA 94002

This article appeared in the January issue of American Cage-Bird Magazine.

Lighting for Finches and Other Cage Birds

All of the finches and other surface dwelling creatures of our planet developed under the balance of light wavelengths emitted continuously by our sun. As they strike the earth's atmosphere, the length of the light waves is modified and some of the harmful rays are filtered out by the atmosphere. The greater depth or space on the atmosphere that the rays go through, the more they are changed towards the red and infrared end of the visible spectrum. This is why the setting sun is so orange in color; its light must pass through hundreds of miles of atmosphere before it reaches our eyes.

When this normal balance of light in which birds evolved is altered, as by indoor, artificial lighting, there are short and long-term effects on the birds' lives, health, and reproduction. Some few of these more noticeable effects are now known, but most are still completely unknown. For example, it can be physically proven that unbalanced light that strikes the human eye will result in an immediate reduction in muscle power and physical ability. This will also affect the muscle strength and endurance of finches and other birds, and this is one reason why birds living indoors under artificial lights tire more easily and are easier to catch than those maintained in outdoor aviaries.



There are a wide variety of artificial light bulbs and tubes now available, and most of these produce a balance of light wavelengths that is far different from that of natural sunlight. The standard incandescent light bulb, for example, produces light heavily in the red and invisible infrared wavelengths. Though we cannot see infrared radiation, we can feel it as heat. An incandescent bulb produces a lot of infrared or heat radiation. In a small, enclosed room, one light bulb will rapidly raise the temperature of the room through this large output of heat. When used in brooders and other enclosed places, a small bulb puts out enough heat to keep the temperature of a small area quite warm for young gallinaceous birds, or baby psittacines that are being hand fed. A bulb that is too large can put out so

Continued on page 10

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Saturday 9am to 1pm

Questions welcome! Just stop in, or call and ask.

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~ Kaytee ~ LaFeber ~

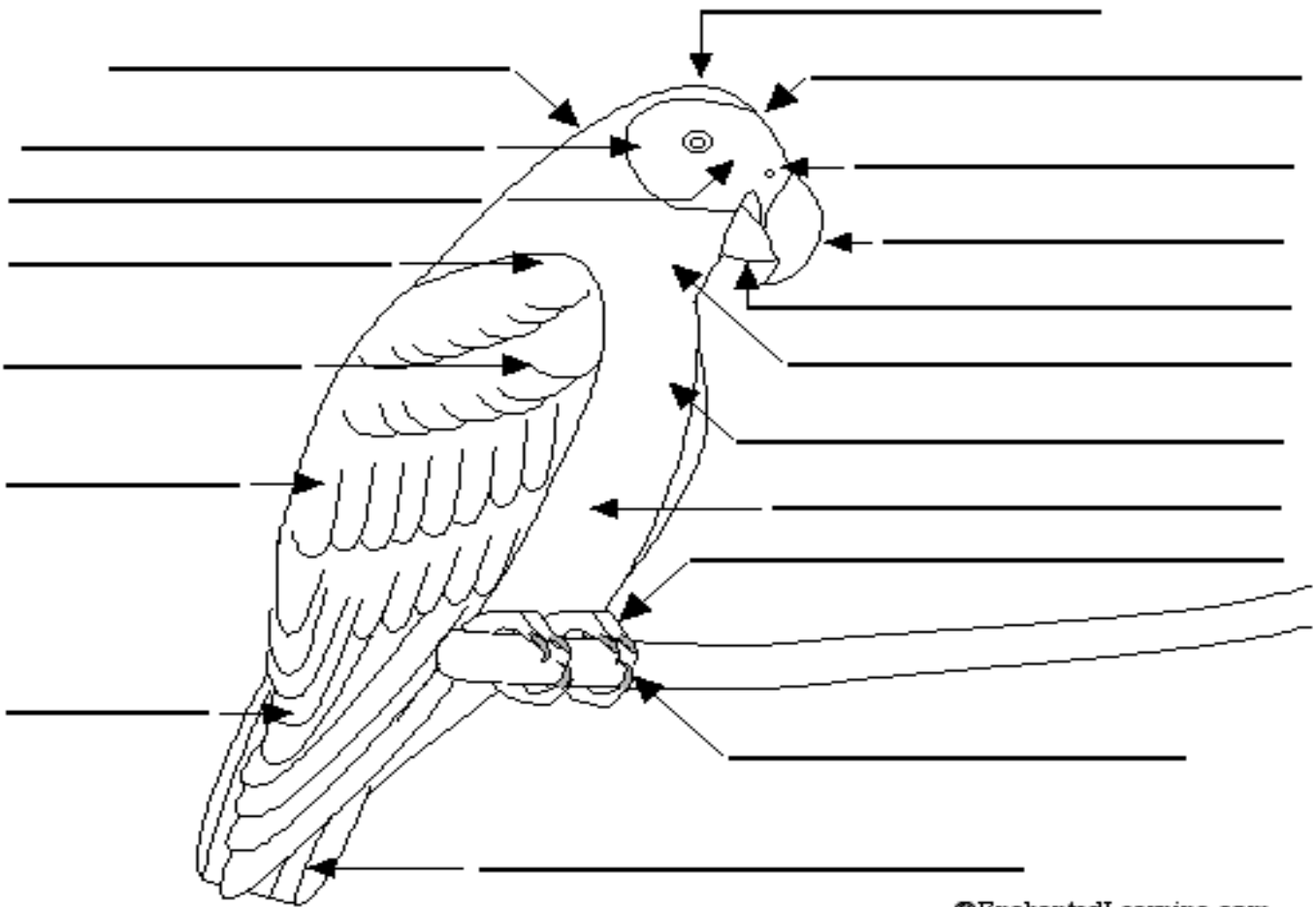
~ Kaylor of Colorado ~ L'Avian ~

~ Roudybush ~ TropikTreat ~

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Ask about our GOCBS Member Discount



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abdomen - the belly.

auriculars (ear coverts) - the feathers that cover the bird's ear opening (located behind the eyes).

breast - the area over the belly and under the throat.

cere - the waxy-looking bumps on the upper beak of some birds

claws - hard talons at the end of each toe.

crown - the top of the bird's head.

forehead - the area directly above the eyes.

lore - the area on each side of a bird's face, between the eyes and the upper bill.

lower mandible - the lower part of the bill.

nape - the back of the neck.

primaries - the main flight feathers on the wings (they are located on lower [outer] parts of the wings).

scapulars - feathers on the shoulder (also called lesser secondary coverts).

secondaries - the smaller flight feathers on the wings - they are on the upper part of the wings (above the primaries).

tail feathers - flight feathers at the end of the bird (used for steering).

toes - the digits of the feet.

throat - the area under head and above the chest.

upper mandible - the upper part of the bill.

wing coverts - small feathers that cover the base of larger wing feathers (located at the top of the wings under the scapulars).

much heat that it will dehydrate, burn, or kill sensitive baby birds. The incandescent bulbs do not emit any light in the ultraviolet wavelengths.

The commonly used fluorescent lighting tubes emit little or no light in red or infrared ranges of the spectrum, and little or no ultraviolet. Those that are manufactured as daylight fluorescent tubes have a better balance of the light colors of the spectrum. The commercial tubes such as "Vita-Lite" has a good balance of the light wavelengths that are nearest to the balance of natural sunlight, but they range from two to ten times the cost of the standard fluorescents. A report published in the November, 1971, issue of ACBM illustrates the importance of full spectrum lighting in maintaining birds in captivity. The Bronx Zoo had for four years maintained a group of Tufted Puffins under artificial lights. During this time, there has been no breeding attempts. However, when the Zoo installed full-spectrum lighting, the puffins produced a fertile egg for the first time in captivity.



The basis for the observed effects of various wavelengths of light on living things is not yet understood. We do know from solid research that light affects glandular development. We also know that under light stimulation, the pineal gland controls the synthesis and release of hormones and enzymes into the bloodstream. Perhaps most important, light received through the eye stimulates the pituitary gland. Since the pituitary gland is the master balance gland of the endocrine system and of the body, light in this indirect manner will influence all of the glands of the body. Though research has not yet pinpointed many of the physical effects of this glandular light influence, there can be no doubt that these effects are profound and far-reaching. Research by William Rowan as long ago as 1925 showed that Slate-colored Juncos could be made to migrate northward rather than towards the south in the fall by

varying the light-dark cycle they were exposed to before their release. Also, experience with ducks many years ago showed that hooding them to close off light to the eyes definitely prevents the stimulation of the male sex glands.



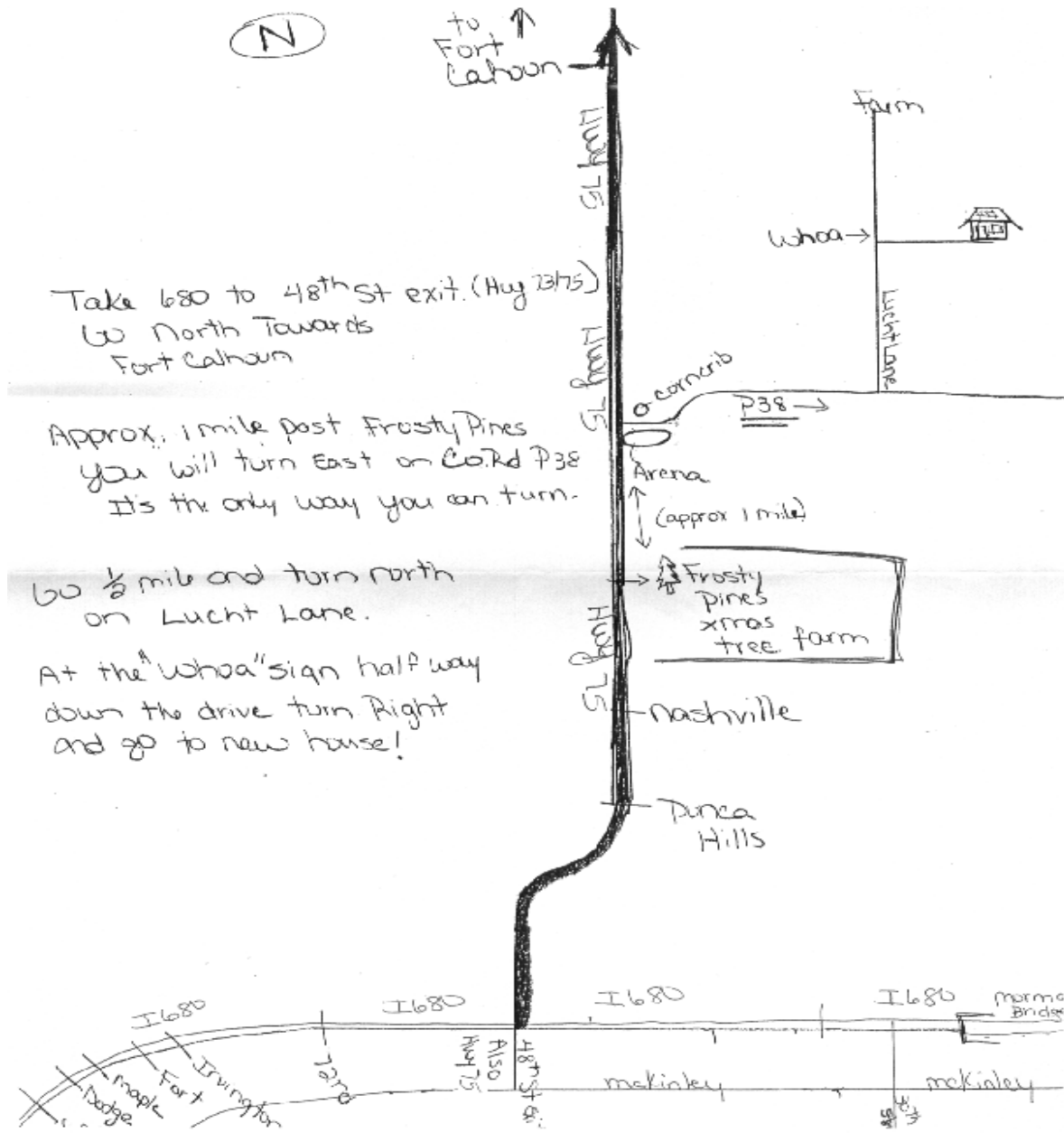
Canary breeders have known for hundreds of years that the gradually lengthening days of spring are a primary factor in bringing the canaries into breeding condition. It has also been proven that the red wave lengths of the

Summer Picnic

Sunday August 21, 2011

This will be held at Vance & Marcia's house. Please bring your lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. This will be outside, so bringing your birds may not be a good choice. More information will be given at the meeting and in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions feel free to contact a board member!



Directions (included on map):

- Take 680 to 48th Street Exit (Hwy 73/75) and go North towards Fort Calhoun
- Approximately 1 mile past "Frosty Pines" you will turn East (right) on County Road P38 (it is the only way you can turn).
- Go 1/2 mile and turn North (left) on Lucht Lane.
- At the "WHOA" sign, go half way down the drive and turn right towards the new house!

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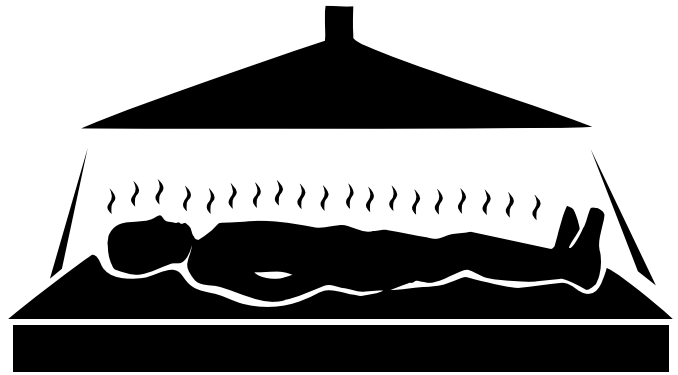
Saturday 8am to Noon

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www.GreaterOmahaCageBirdSociety.com



spectrum are a decisive influence in bringing birds into breeding condition. As a consequence, if you have finches that are failing to come into breeding condition at the appropriate time, you might try installing a red light to increase the concentration of these wavelengths to which your finches are being exposed. Do this in addition to gradually lengthening the daylight hours for the birds.



The ultraviolet wavelengths are of particular importance for the health and breeding of finches and other cage birds. These invisible ultraviolet wavelengths are classified into two general groups, called the long wavelength ultraviolet and the short wavelength ultraviolet. Natural sunlight hitting the earth is rich in long wavelength ultraviolet, which is closer to visible light. It is also called near ultraviolet, since it is the nearest to the visible light. The long wavelength ultraviolet alone will cause pigment darkening in the skin (tanning) without burning. The commercial black lights give off light in the long wavelength range of ultraviolet. Ultra violet light will not pass through glass, but will pass through most clear plastics and quartz.

... allows the formation of vitamin D.

The short wavelength ultraviolet, also called far ultraviolet, is farther away from visible light. It can be dangerous and is the form of ultraviolet that causes sunburn with overexposure. The germicidal lamps used in hospitals to kill microorganisms emit ultraviolet light in the short wavelengths. And yet, this short-wave ultraviolet is not all bad, for it

is this area of the ultraviolet wavelengths striking the skin that allows the formation of vitamin D. Recent research has shown that many ultraviolet sources are not able to cause the formation of vitamin D on the skin, because the ultraviolet radiation is not intense enough. The presence of ultraviolet light alone is not sufficient: the intensity is also crucial. The sun's ultraviolet radiation, of course, has the necessary intensity for D synthesis. A sun lamp also emits ultraviolet radiation in the intensity required. However, other artificial lights do not emit radiation of sufficient intensity for D formation.

Another proven way in which ultraviolet light affects our finches and other birds is in the sex of the offspring of your breeding efforts. The long wavelength ultraviolet seems to be the primary factor in this influence. Experiments with fish, chinchillas, and other animals showed that the addition of full-spectrum lights in place of standard incandescent or fluorescent tubes resulted in an enormous increase in the number of female offspring produced in breeding efforts under artificial light. The frequent complaint that Society Finches and Gouldian Finches are producing a vast majority of males is undoubtedly the result of indoor breeding under artificial lights that almost totally lack light in the ultraviolet wavelengths.

In my own breeding, I was getting from 75% to 90% males while breeding these finches under artificial light indoors. After reading about the effects of ultraviolet light in increasing the production of female offspring, I installed one four-foot commercial black light tube in my bird room, placed so that it shined into all of the cages. This one simple change was sufficient to restore a normal 50/50 sex ratio to the offspring of all of the species in my bird room. Even the over abundant production of males in the Society Finches and Cutthroat Finches changed with the next nests of eggs laid so that the breeding birds produced an equal amount of males and females. Though an excess of males when breeding canaries, budgerigars, and cockatiels may be highly desirable, since males are always in demand as pets and singers, a large excess of males can be a minor disaster in breeding such birds as finches and doves, which are usually maintained in pairs.

For a thorough coverage of the subject of light in relation to living things, I would recommend that you read the detailed works of John N. Ott. He became interested in light through his work in time-lapse photography, and has published several books on this important subject. His book, *Health and Light* contains excellent coverage of this subject. Though chicken breeders and egg farm managers have known for many years that days lengthened with artificial lighting will cause the hens to lay more eggs, the importance of lighting has not been stressed sufficiently to bird breeders and the aviculture community. The lighting you supply for your birds indoors will affect their dispositions, their health, and their breeding. Your lighting conditions may well spell the difference between success and failure in the maintenance and breeding of finches and other cage birds.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers *continued from page 14*

Why do birds not fall over while sleeping on a perch? Their feet have tendons that lock them in a gripping position.

Why do birds sing so much at dawn? The dawn air results in the best transmission of songs to defend the territory and/or attract a mate; the poor light is also better for singing than feeding.

What causes the color in birds? While many colors are caused by pigments - some from arising heredity and some from diet - reflection and diffraction of light resulting from the structure of feathers is responsible for the colors in some birds.

Where do feathers come from? Only birds have feathers, which originate from the skin and , once grown, become dead tissue; if a bird loses a grown feather, it will often grow a new one within weeks.

Do birds smell? All birds have nostrils or nares, usually on their bills; while it is not their strongest sense, all birds can smell to some degree; the best “noses” are found in turkey vultures, kiwis, and peterels.

How well do birds hear? Their ears are located under small stiff feathers on each side of their head; average hearing capability ranges from 5,000 hertz in songbirds to 30,000 hertz in some owls.

Disclaimer: The content provided by Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society in our newsletter is for educational purposes only and is in no way intended to be substitute for professional services or professional advice. Unless otherwise indicated, the statements found in this newsletter are either derived or quoted from printed materials and express the opinions of other bird handlers, trainers, or bird owners. All techniques or information recommended or documented in our newsletter should be considered the view of others and we will not accept responsibility for actions you take due to materials found in this newsletter. By making use of the content found in this newsletter, our newsletter readers agree that it is his or her sole responsibility to determine the suitability of the content and holds harmless the Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society, the editor, or any other person associated with Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society or this newsletter in any way. Any questions about this "Disclaimer" should be addressed to the president of Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society. Contact the president of the club and your questions or concerns will be answered as quickly as possible.

Meetings & Special Event Dates

Meeting	June 19
Meeting	July 17
Open House At Humane Society	July 17 1pm - 4pm
Club Picnic	August 21
Fall Bird Fair	September 18
No Meeting	August & September

GOCBS meets at 3:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

Our Meeting Location!



Nebraska
Humane
Society

8949 Fort Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Adoption Application Form - New Form Required

Effective January 2011

Please mark the box and write the species next to the bird(s) you are interested in. The Adoption fee is listed. Adoption Fostering

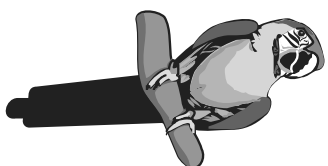
Finch	\$1.00	Quaker	\$15.00
Budgie	\$2.00	Amazon	\$25.00
Canary	\$5.00	Grey	\$50.00
Lovebird	\$5.00	Cockatoo	\$50.00
Parrotlet	\$10.00	Macaw	\$50.00
Cockatiel	\$10.00	Other	TBD
Conure	\$15.00	Other	TBD

- Contact Bill Owens (402) 218-6026 for information on the birds that are available for adoption. There is a minimal fee requested to adopt a bird. There is never a charge to place a bird up for adoption.
- Forms that have all or most boxes marked or without specific information **will be discarded** at the discretion of the Adoption Committee.
- Birds will be offered to club members first, then to the general public.
- The Adoption Committee will review applications and will decide on a home. In the case of several qualified homes, a name will be drawn from a hat. When there are no current adoption forms, the Committee will let people know through the newsletter or announcements at the meetings what birds are available.
- Volunteers are needed for fostering birds. If you have a room or quarantine area, and want to sign up to foster, mark the box above.
- Lost and found birds will stay in foster care for two weeks while attempts are made to find the original owner before adopting them out.
- Please note that all adoptions will take place locally, unless circumstances require otherwise. GOCBS is not responsible for the health or behavior of the birds being adopted. We encourage anyone interested in adopting a bird to have it checked out by an avian veterinarian and of course, to quarantine it from other birds in the home for a minimum of 30 days.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

WHO NEEDS BIRD CLUBS ANYWAY?

If you keep birds as pets or raise them for a hobby, **YOU DO!** Bird clubs are great resources for anyone interested in keeping birds. All bird owners go through similar experiences, so the sources of information about a variety of subjects can be a big help.

Membership fees are as follows:

	<i>January - December</i>	<i>July-December 1/2 Price</i>
Junior (under 16)	\$7.50/year	\$3.75
Single	\$15.00/year	\$7.50
Family	\$20.00/year	\$10.00
Business Associate	\$20.00/year	\$10.00

Meetings are at 3:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Nebraska Humane Society, 8929 Fort Street, Omaha, Nebraska

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO G.O.C.B.S.

Please fill out the following information:

Date: _____ New membership: _____ Renewal membership: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

(DON'T FORGET ZIP CODE)

Birth Date: Month/Day (only) _____ (list all names from above)

Home phone: _____ (____ roster or ____ unlisted)

Work phone: _____ (____ roster or ____ unlisted)

E-Mail Address: _____ (for Newsletter)

Pet birds: _____

Birds you breed: _____

Please bring this to one of the meetings or mail to:

GOCBS, c/o Ginger Bostwick, 4406 State St., Omaha, NE 68112

Year _____ Pd \$ _____ ca/ck j _____ s _____ f _____ ba _____ MC _____