

## Use of Conservation Fund

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On behalf of the committee

The Conservation Fund was established several years ago for the following purposes:

- 1) To provide a loan facility (up to 6 months) to members who wished to purchase 'most threatened' and 'threatened' finch species;
- 2) To provide some funding assistance to get individual birds sexed, and assess bloodlines.

The Conservation Fund has not been used over the last two years. As part of a fresh initiative, a threat classification listing for finches found in New Zealand was published in the June 2008 issue of 'Finches'. The updated listing provides clarity about what species of finch are considered 'most threatened' and 'threatened'. The listings help prioritise how members of the committee can decide how the Conservation Fund can be used, should requests for assistance be received. Species in the 'most threatened' category are accorded highest priority, followed by 'threatened' species.

As highlighted in the article published in the July 2008 issue of Finches, there is an increased desire to expand the range of purposes that the Conservation Fund could be put too. This reflects the fact that some of the species in the two threatened categories need more active support if they are to survive in New Zealand over the next few years. The committee considered these issues at its October meeting. The following additional purposes will now also apply:

- 3) To contribute to the purchase of specialist equipment (eg, incubator) that may aid in the breeding of the species;
- 4) To contribute to the freight costs associated with the transfer of birds to member(s) capable and particularly interested in the breeding of the species;
- 5) To enable the committee or a person authorised by the committee to directly purchase 'most threatened' and 'threatened' finches provided that:
  - i) a suitable holding aviary is available;
  - ii) the price paid is reasonable and considers whether sufficient funds are available for other future unforeseen purchases;
  - iii) purchased birds are offered to specialist breeders within the NZFBA;
  - iv) any specialist breeder receiving the birds may not on-sell the birds without first offering them back to the NZFBA through the committee for re-distribution to specialist breeders;
  - v) in the event that no purchaser is available, the person holding the birds can continue to do so over the medium term having regard to the birds welfare prior to advertising for a suitable placement in the 'Finches' magazine.

- 6) To contribute to the purchase of specialist services (eg, veterinarian) that aid in the prevention and diagnosis of ailments affecting the viability of finches.
- 7) To contribute to the development, support, and/or implementation of breeding programmes, including proposals aimed at egg importation.

The day to day operation of the Conservation Fund is the responsibility of the committee. Key decisions will be undertaken collectively by the committee as it relates to purchases, and the identification of specialist breeders for the placement of birds etc. Further, it is suggested that the annual use of the Conservation Fund (if any) will be reported to members at each AGM. The funds available are reasonably limited, so in the foreseeable future, the level of use may remain relatively light on an annual basis.

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