

BOOK REVIEW

The GOULDIAN FINCH

By Stewart Evans & Mike Fidler

The latest publication from Indruss Productions is a well-presented hardcover edition on the Gouldian Finch. Authored by well-known Gouldian *aficionados* Professor Stewart Evans and Mike Fidler this volume is by far the best publication yet seen on this ever-popular finch.

Professor Evans is an academic biologist at the Newcastle University in the United Kingdom and has worked with Mike Fidler for many years on the study of the Gouldian. Mike Fidler has been breeding Gouldians in captivity for many years; and has produced up to 3,000 young in one season! He has also made an extensive study of the species in its native habitat, and has made a substantial financial and practical contribution to restorative work on their habitat.

The 239 pages are packed with informative text, explanatory diagrams and stunning colour photographs. The book comprises six sections, each of which is then split into a number of subsections, or chapters. The sections cover:

- **Gould's finch** - early history *etc.* (5 chapters)
- **Life under natural conditions** - (5 chapters)
- **The Gouldian Finch in captivity** - (8 chapters)
- **Mutations and Genetics** - (4 chapters)
- **Domestication and Exhibiting** - (2 chapters)
- **Contributing to bird conservation** - (2 chapters).

There are also sections on **Recommended Reading**, **Acknowledgements**, **Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary** and a comprehensive **Index**.

There are contributions by Dr. Stacey Gelis, Russell Kingston, Dr. Debra McDonald, David Meyers, and Dr. Sarah Pryke.

There is a particularly good chapter on **Health and diseases**. This encompasses 17 comprehensive pages on the subject; and should be an absolute boon to both the novice and experienced breeder of this

notoriously fickle bird. The chapters on **Mutations and Genetics** concisely set out the intricacies of this often baffling aspect of bird breeding; and will greatly assist those to whom this subject is a complete mystery.

If you are serious about keeping and breeding this jewel of the avian world this book is a **must**.

The GOULDIAN FINCH is available from the Society Book Steward, Mr. Jack Hannant on (08) 8346:2953.

The Society sincerely thanks Indra & Russell Kingston of Indruss Productions for supply of the review copy.

Reviewed by **Richard Chilton**