

## **GOULDIAN FINCH: *Chloebia (Erythrura) gouldiae***

**The Gouldian finch is becoming increasingly popular. In contrast to the African firefinches Gouldians are easy to breed. In fact, modern day Goulds seem to thrive in captivity. This was not always the case however because in years past Japanese importers would foster, or place, Gouldian finch eggs into society finch nests to be raised by them. As a result, many Gouldian chicks would become imprinted on the societies and think they were society finches instead of Gouldians. These misimprinted Gouldians would fail to mate with there own kind or, if eggs were fertile, not feed their babies.**

**Healthy properly imprinted Gouldians that are raised by there own kind are well acclimated to captivity and are easy to care for and breed. All they need is a roomy cage with a nestbox attached near the top. Give them finch mix, spray millet, a little grass sod, boiled egg shell and the birds will do the rest. Soon four to nine small white eggs will be laid. About thirteen days later the squeaks of babies will be heard. Then, within a few weeks dull greenish fledglings will be following the parents around begging for a meal. By weaning time the parents will be laying clutch two. The time it takes for juveniles to acquire adult plumage or color varies. The warmer the temperature The sooner the molt.**

**The proper common name for this species is “Lady Gouldian finch. This is because the British naturalist John Gould was so taken back by these birds that he named them in honor of his wife. The fact that this famous explorer, who identified many native Australian animals, would be so enchanted by this bird to name it “Lady” Gouldian bears testament to its unusual array of color.**

**Lady Gouldian finches may well enchant their owner as well. Males exhibit a fascinating courtship display. Cocks will entice a hen by singing a soft warbling little song while at the same time hopping on the perch as if on a pogo stick. Sometimes males can be observed singing to an “audience” of two or more birds.**

**Do check out the Lady Gouldian. Whether for unusual breathtaking color or fascinating behavior display in a small package these birds are hard to beat.**