

GROUP REPORT ON GREEN AVADAVAT FOR 2003

BACKGROUND

The idea to start a breeding group to save the Green Avadavat came about at the "First Triennial International Finch & Seedeater Convention". Mr. Graeme Phipps spoke on the finch and its venerable status in the wild. He advised it could become extinct in the medium term future. After the convention I contacted breeders and asked them to be part of a program to ensure the survival of the species in Australia.

In March 2003 an internet site www.greenavadavat.org was launched. This was done to create exposure and link the world in saving the Green Avadavat. Attached to this site is an invitation to join the "group".

OUR AIM - To save the Green Avadavat Finch from extinction in Australia.

To achieve our aim we need to pursue these objectives;

- Acquire and keep an accurate status of the Green Avadavat in Australia
- Set up links between breeders and interested parties so that the best possible breeding decisions are made.
- Attract sponsors.
- Keep records.
- Report achievements / results.

2003 REPORT - AS PER OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Present status of Green Avadavat Finches.
57 Adult Green Avadavat Finches exist in Australia as of December 2003
- ❖ Set up links
An internet site is functioning along with a "group" page.
- ❖ Attract sponsors
The Queensland Finch Society Inc is our main sponsor
- ❖ Keep Records
25 pairs were set up in 2003 and from 7 of these pairs 19 young were produced.
- ❖ Reports
8 breeders hold 57 Green Avadavats. 3 out of the 8 breeders produced 19 young this year.

WHAT NEEDS DOING IN 2004?

Now we have an accurate idea of the status of the bird, our next step is to pair up wisely. 19 young for the year is not brilliant however it is a step in the right direction. Pairs that have not bred in 2003 need to be examined and if appropriate swap, change environment or split them up until the breeding season in March.

Group members / breeders are starting to communicate with each other. This is one of our most important objectives. Some of these breeders have agreed to swap young for next years breeding program.

We need more sponsors to help with our objectives. An international dignitary such as Mr. Graeme Phipps would be a real asset along with a veterinarian to help with general check ups and DNA testing. If anyone would like to sponsor the group please send an email to greenavadavat@greenavadavat.org.

Thankyou to all the members that have helped during 2003. We have made the first step to success and if we all pull together I am sure we will achieve our goal.

Peter James
Group Leader