

## **What is an NCS State Coordinator?**

By: Julia Allen

By now, most of you have noticed an Ad in the NCS Journal and on the NCS Webpage inviting interested persons to inquire about our coordinator program. It is apparent many states are without any NCS state coordinator representation. Why is this? Well, we don't know the reason, but perhaps many members hesitate to inquire because of the unfamiliarity or the involvement the position might entail. So, this article will try to go into some of the requirements and activities associated with being a state coordinator.

Ideally, we look for a person that has been a member of NCS for at least 12 months, breeds cockatiels, is a member of a local bird club, attends the meetings and participates in some club functions throughout the year. A real plus would be to exhibit and/or attend several exhibition shows a year. However, these are guidelines and may be waived if in best interest to do so. It is required the person live in the state in which they represent.

There are several important duties that a state coordinator would be expected to perform. The most important would be to effectively recruit new members and to promote NCS, encourage clubs to affiliate with NCS when the opportunity is provided. By attending club meetings, attending some shows in order to relate to the NCS Standard for cockatiels, understanding basic genetics and record keeping, you are demonstrating the leadership NCS is looking for in state coordinators.

Some of the most effective ways to become a visible NCS representative is by having a table or booth advertising the National Cockatiel Society at a bird function, such as a bird fair, convention or show. This is most effective by having membership applications on display along with other visuals. An attractive display could be a backboard with colored pictures of the various mutations of cockatiels with brief descriptions of the pictures. Anything relating to cockatiels; breeding, genetics, and nutrition attract much interest from the public. Previous editions of the NCS Journal on display are always an attractive addition to an NCS information booth.

Usually, once a coordinator attends or participates in an organized bird function, many opportunities present themselves as further opportunities to promote NCS. Coordinators are encouraged to attend one or more NCS cockatiel exhibition shows. More understanding of what the society does and stands for is better understood by observing or exhibiting birds. Coordinators are to offer help and answers to basic questions regarding cockatiel health, genetics, and the purpose for placing closed leg bands on the baby birds. These are the most asked questions received from other cockatiel owners. First time cockatiel owners

especially require a person that can provide them answers for the questions they have about their pet cockatiels. That is what a coordinator does.

Once a person becomes a state coordinator, they receive a state listing of the members and are encouraged to send each member a letter of introduction that you are the new NCS coordinator. A letter may be sent to members of your state whenever you wish to inform them of any items of interest or importance. Coordinators are also listed in the NCS Journal and on the NCS Web page. So, you see, there are many ways to become visible and successful while having fun at the same time.

So, if you think you are an interested person eager to get involved, we WANT to hear from you! By the way, we have a good time getting together and look forward to each event to share and exchange bird happenings!