



EXPERIENCE AT THE SERVICE OF CONSERVATION

By Mike Fidler

My name is Mike Fidler, I am 81 years old, I was born in the United Kingdom (UK) and I have lived the last 20 years in Australia. I have 74 years of experience in birds breeding and 3 years breeding red siskins. About the Red Siskin conservation, I think that when a little cooperation between scientists, zoos and aviculturists could save a species from extinction, it would be a sin not to make it happen. Assuming the main reason for the decline of the RS is wildlife trafficking and not habitat destruction, then learning how to breed them in good numbers and teaching the world how to do it would lead to market demand being fulfilled by captive bred stock. The availability of good numbers (of birds) in the market place would also lead to a lowering of price making trapping and smuggling economically unviable.

I have been around the aviculturist world for a while. Mainly specialized in breeding difficult or endangered species. I have been a speaker at a number of international conventions, and written a few books, among others. I am patron of Queensland Finch Society & Hunter Valley Finch Club. Also, the founder and CEO of Save the Gouldian Fund [Dr Garry Fitt is now the CEO], and Minority shareholder and director of Naturally for Birds (<https://www.naturallyforbirds.com.au/>). Probably I am more known in scientific circles for my association with the endangered Gouldian Finch.

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