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EXPERIENCE AT THE SERVICE OF CONSERVATION

By Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy (APEC)

The Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy (APEC), founded by Dr. Caroline Efstathion and Rob Horsburgh, has been breeding Red Siskins since 2017. We produced over 30 fledglings last year and have perhaps the largest flock in the United States. Our focus is to study the diet and husbandry of Red Siskins and to loan birds to other institutions for breeding. APEC received the Silver Avy Award from the American Federation of Aviculture for our success with the Red Siskin. We developed diet and husbandry protocols for Red Siskins, which is available upon request.

For conservation of the species, it is important to keep a viable, genetically diverse population of pure, non-mutation siskins in captivity. This will serve as an Ark population in case the wild birds were to go extinct. A viable captive breeding population will hopefully also reduce and/or prevent the need to poach wild birds to meet the captive demand. Individual breeders of Red Siskins are encouraged to share information and genetics to make the long term survival of the species a reality in captivity. Therefore, APEC is trying to establish contact with private breeders to collect breeding knowledge and exchange information and bloodlines. More information about our organization and project can be found at avianpec.org and on our Facebook page, Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy.

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“A viable population in captivity for breeding could also reduce the need to harvest wild birds”