

# EXOTIC BIRDS



# Type of pet birds

- | The Class Aves consist of more than 8,500 species of birds and 29 orders of birds
- | Two orders commonly kept as pets in the United States are Psittaciformes (parrots) and Passeriformes (canaries and finches)

# Types of pet birds

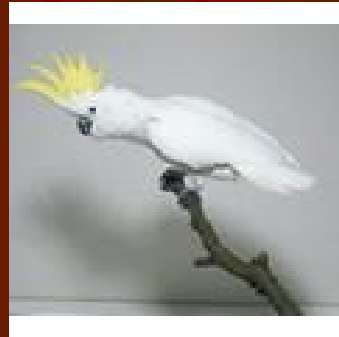
- Parrots / Hookbills / *Psittacines*
  - Parrots come in a wide variety of colors, sizes
  - Parrots will “pair bond”, which means they bond well with human companions.
  - Parrots are highly intelligent, may talk, imitate sounds
  - Parrot feet have 4 toes, 2 pointing forward and two pointing backwards.



# Parrots (*Psittaciformes*)



Cockatiels (*Nymphicinae*) [1]



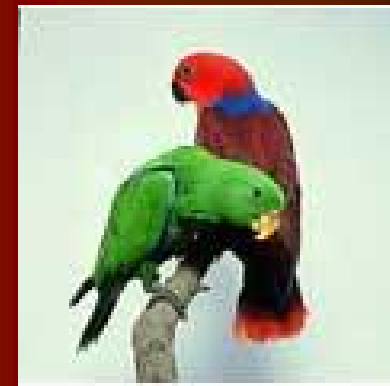
Cockatoos (*Cacatuinae*) [6]



Keas (*Nestorinae*) [1]



Lorikeets (*Lorinae*) [9]

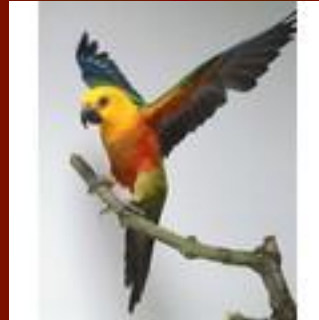


I Parrots and Relatives (*Psittacidae*) [7]

# Parrots and Relatives (*Psittacines*)



Budgerigars [1]



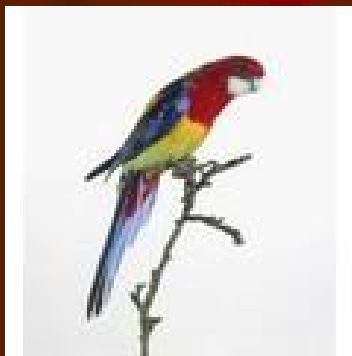
Conures [4]



Lovebirds [2]



Parakeets [9]



Rosellas [3]



Macaws [7]



True Parrots [20]



# Budgerigar

- | This small Australian parakeet loves to chatter the day away to whoever will listen – even its mirror or a plastic toy. Indisputably one of the top pet birds in the United States, the budgie is a playful, affectionate and amusing companion. “Fabulous bird, totally underrated. Inexpensive
- | Excellent choice for a first-time bird owner since a bite is relatively harmless.



# Budgie

(Budgerigar)

- | **Scientific Name:** *Melopsittacus undulatus*  
**Size:** Small, up to 9 inches  
**Native Region:** Australia  
**Life Expectancy:** 15 years  
**Noise Level:** Low; frequent chattering  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Low
- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Neglected budgies can be susceptible to a host of avian diseases, including psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD), fatty liver disease, psittacosis, polyomavirus, and chronic malnutrition
- | Males have a deep blue cere while females have a tan to brown colored cere. As babies, both males and females have a light purple cere. Determining the age of a budgie is fairly easy. Until they are 5 to 6 months old, budgie babies have stripes down their cere.



# Cockatiel

- As the No. 1 pet bird, the cockatiel doesn't shy away from the spotlight. These slender Australian parrots, available in a variety of mutations, are affectionate, playful and opinionated. They'll cuddle up under your chin as readily as they'll wander around the house (on foot) calling out to intruders.



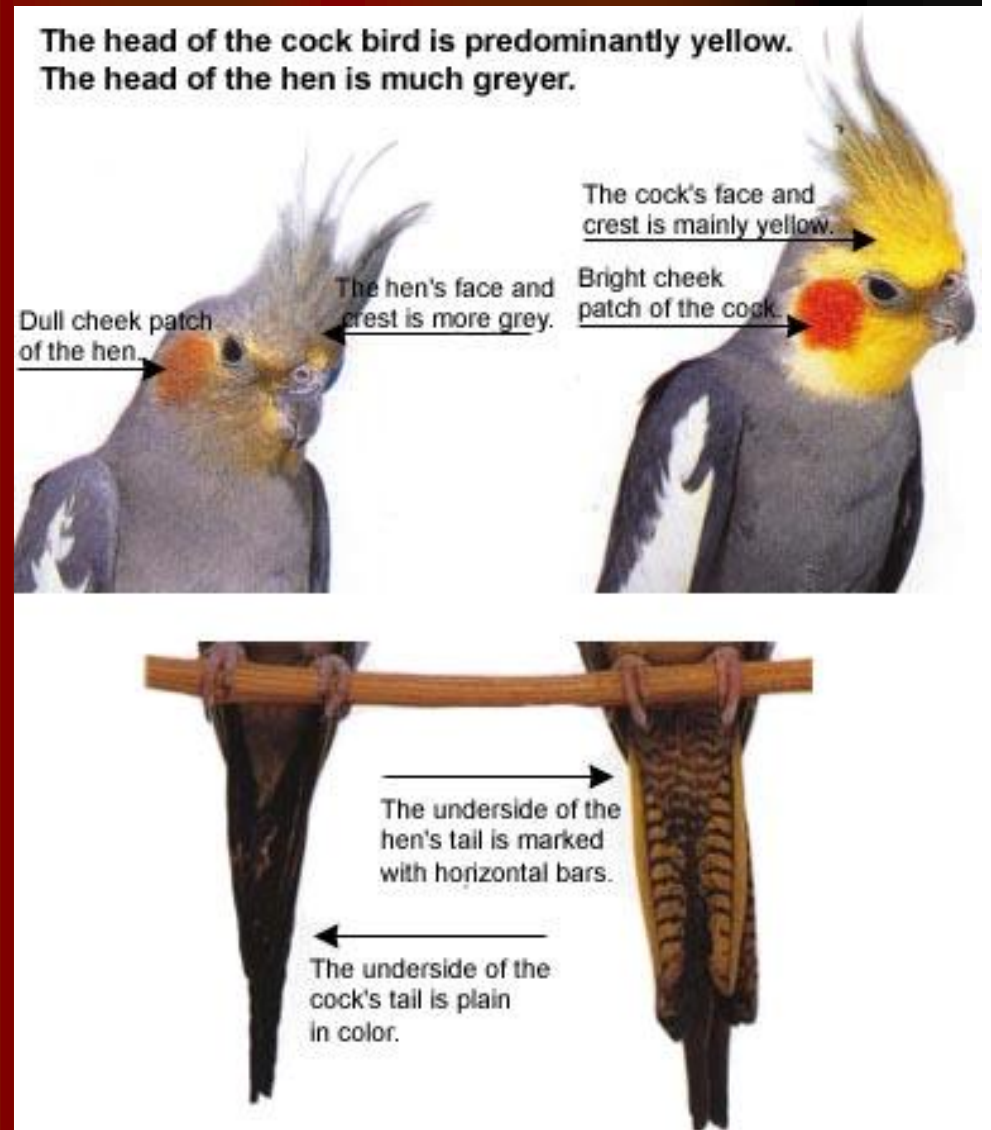


# Cockatiel

- | **Scientific Name:** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
- Size:** 12 to 13 inches
- Native Region:** Australia
- Life Expectancy:** 15 to 30 years
- Noise Level:** Moderate. Males usually sing to attract a mate or at the beginning and end of the day, while females chirp to get the attention of their owner or mate. Males are known for being more vocal than female cockatiels, whose chirping is softer.
- Talk/Trick Ability:** Moderate, a 25-word vocabulary is said to be the average. These parrots will imitate household noises such as the microwave, telephone ring or dog bark.



- Common medical concerns for cockatiels include upper respiratory and fatty liver diseases. The fungal disease aspergillosis usually affects a cockatiel's sinuses, lungs or air sacs.
- Female cockatiels commonly become chronic egg-layers if they are fed a seed and fruit diet because the fat in seeds encourages egg laying and the limited diet is deficient in vitamins and minerals.



# Cockatoos

- | Raucous and full of life, these large, short-tailed Australian parrots make an impression on all those they meet.
- | Cockatoos are noisy, affectionate, playful birds that often demand their owners' undivided attention but they'll return that devotion two-fold. Their feathering dramatically ranges the color spectrum from blacks and reds to pink and white and yellow.



# Moluccan Cockatoo

- | **Scientific Name:** *Cacatua moluccensis*  
**Size:** Large, up to 20 inches  
**Native Region:** Indonesia  
**Life Expectancy:** 65 years  
**Noise Level:** Loud.  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Moderate

- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Without enough mental and physical stimulation, Moluccan cockatoos can resort to destructive behavior such as feather picking. They can be prone to psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD), fatty liver disease, obesity and bumblefoot Moluccan cockatoos are known to be dusty birds, which is a concern for those with allergies.





# Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo

- | **Scientific Name:** *Cacatua galerita*; (*Cacatua sulphurea* — lesser)  
**Size:** Medium; Lesser — up to 13 inches; Greater — up to 20 inches  
**Native Region:** Australia, New Guinea  
**Life Expectancy:** 65 years  
**Noise Level:** Loud  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Moderate



**Behavior/Health Concerns:** A stressful household or a lack of the appropriate amount of human interaction can cause bad behavior in these somewhat high-strung pet birds. This pet bird does best in a home where it is the only bird. Sulphur-crested cockatoos can become territorial once they have matured and they are often destructive chewers.

# Umbrella Cockatoo

- | **Scientific Name:** *Cacatua alba*  
**Size:** Medium, 18 inches  
**Native Region:** Indonesia  
**Life Expectancy:** 65 years  
**Noise Level:** Loud  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Moderate
- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Umbrella Cockatoos can be extremely aggressive while breeding. Without enough mental and physical stimulation, they can resort destructive behaviors such as feather picking. They are susceptible to psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD), fatty liver disease, obesity and bumblefoot





# Goffin's Cockatoo (*Cacatua goffini*)

- | Scientific Name: *Cacatua goffini*  
Size: Medium, 14 inches  
Native Region: Indonesia  
Life Expectancy: 65 years  
Noise Level: Loud  
Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate
- | Behavior/Health Concerns:  
Without enough mental and physical stimulation, they can resort destructive behaviors such as feather picking.



# Eclectus Parrots

- Probably best known for their bright Christmas coloring, Eclectus parrots generally make easy-going pets that softly chortle or talk to their owners rather than sidle up for a cuddle. They prefer a calm, quiet home environment that includes challenging daily activities. No playful

Their feathers really glow from several good baths a week



# Red-Sided Eclectus

- Scientific Name: *Eclectus roratus polychloros*
  - Size: Medium, up to 14 inches
  - Native Region: South Pacific
  - Life Expectancy: up to 40 years
  - Noise Level: Low
  - Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate; can learn to talk if socialized early.
- 
- Behavior/Health Concerns:** Red-sided Eclectus parrots are susceptible to feather picking, respiratory infections and excessive chewing. They require a higher vitamin-A intake than other parrots. Vitamin A-enriched foods include carrots, squash, broccoli, kale and cooked sweet potatoes. Cases of feather picking in this pet bird are often caused by malnutrition and vitamin-A deficiency. Red-sided Eclectus parrots are sexually dimorphic birds, which that their sex can be distinguished by their coloring



# Macaws

- Native to Central and South America, macaws are the gentle giants of the parrot species. They're the largest parrot species and some of the most popular pet birds, because of their endearing characteristics. Then again, these social birds can create quite a racket when they want to, and those large beaks intimidate many. You'll need a lot of space and time to keep your macaw happy, but it will reward you with a comical, friendly and affectionate pet.



# Blue and Gold Macaw

- | **Scientific Name:** *Ara ararauna*
- Size:** Large, up to 33 inches
- Native Region:** South America
- Life Expectancy:** 60 years average, up to 80 years
- Noise Level:** Loud
- Talk/Trick Ability:** Very Good







- Behavior/Health Concerns Blue and Gold macaw require more fat in their diet than other parrots, which you can provide with pellet-based diet, fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and the occasional nut. They are prolific chewers, so offer toys to chew and destroy often. They are susceptible to overgrown beaks, papillomas, proventricular dilatation disease (PDD, also known as “macaw wasting” disease), psittacosis and vitamin-A sensitivity.



# Green-Winged Macaw

- | **Scientific Name:** *Ara chloroptera*
- | **Size:** Large, up to 37.5 inches
- | **Native Region:** Mexico, Central America, South America
- | **Life Expectancy:** 60 years average, up to 80 years
- | **Noise Level:** Loud
- | **Talk/Trick:**
- | **Ability:** Very Good



# Scarlet Macaw



- | **Scientific Name:** *Ara macao*
- | **Size:** Large, up to 38 inches
- | **Native Region:** Central and South America
- | **Life Expectancy:** 60 years average, up to 80 years
- | **Noise Level:** Loud
- | **Talk/Trick**
- | **Ability:** Very good

# Military Macaw

- | Scientific Name: *Ara militaris*
- | Size: Large, up to 34 inches
- | Native Region: Mexico, South America
- | Life Expectancy: 60 years average, up to 80 years
- | Noise Level: Loud
- | Talk/Trick
- | Ability: Moderate



# Hyacinth Macaw

- Scientific Name: *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
- Size: Large, up to 40 inches
- Native Region: South America
- Life Expectancy: 60 years average, up to 80 years
- Noise Level: Loud
- Talk/Trick Ability: Very good
- They are prolific chewers and susceptible to overgrown beaks, so provide wood and other hard toys to give their beaks a work out. They are also susceptible to papillomas, proventricular dilatation disease (PDD, also known as "macaw wasting" disease), polyomavirus, psittacosis and vitamin-A sensitivity. Exposure to natural sunlight is also important.



# Congo African Grey

Scientific Name: *Psittacus erithacus erithacus*

Size: Medium 13 inches

Native Region: Africa

Life Expectancy: up to 50 years

Noise Level: Moderate

Talk/Trick Ability: Known as the Einstein's of the bird world, African greys have excellent talking ability and are thought to recognize the meaning of words as well. This parrot will benefit from new challenges and continued learning. It is recommended that grey pet birds have a variety of toys that stimulate thinking.





- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Biting and aggression are more common with males, and excessive shyness is more common with females. African greys are susceptible to feather picking, calcium, vitamin-A and vitamin-D deficiencies, respiratory infections, psittacosis and psittacine beak and feather disease (Pbfd). African greys are sensitive to stress and do best in a low or stress-free environment.





# Meyer's Parrot

- | **Scientific Name:** *Poicephalus meyeri*  
**Size:** Small, 8 inches  
**Native Region:** Africa  
**Life Expectancy:** up to 50 years  
**Noise Level:** Moderate  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Moderate, but not the best talker.
- | **Behavior/Health**  
**Concerns:** Meyer's parrots are mellow and will easily interact with all members of the family. They are not great talkers and are actually considered one of the quietest parrots without making particularly loud calls.



# Amazon Parrots

- Without Amazons, the pet bird community might be a little duller. These boisterous, clownish parrots love to sing and dance – literally – and they eat and yell with the same amount of enthusiasm. Twenty-six species comprise the Amazona genus, although only a handful of them are found in the pet trade. They're mostly stocky, medium to large green parrots with short tails. "Generally speaking, Amazons are rowdy, intelligent, exuberant birds who are prone to noisiness. Males can be headstrong as they mature. If they were humans, they would be the life of any party, dancing on the table, wearing a lampshade.



# Amazons

- | Amazona
- | Amazons are from Central and South America; Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Brazil
- | One of the first animals Columbus discovered in the new world
- | Have good talking ability; highly curious and adventurous
- | Can become aggressive, temperamental



# Blue-Fronted Amazon

Scientific Name: *Amazona aestiva*

Size: Medium, 14.5 inches

Native Region: South America

Life Expectancy: 50 years

Noise Level: Loud

Talk/Trick Ability: Very Good

## Behavior/Health

Concerns: Obesity is a concern with blue-fronted Amazon.

Provide your Amazon with a balanced, low-fat diet, supplemented with plenty of exercise. Blue-fronted Amazons tend to have Vitamin-A and calcium deficiencies. They are also susceptible to psittacosis and poxvirus infections.

“Extremely intelligent, excellent talkers, lots of noise.”



# Double Yellow-Headed Amazon



- | **Scientific Name:** *Amazona oratrix*  
**Size:** Medium, up to 14 inches  
**Native Region:** Mexico, Central America  
**Life Expectancy:** 50 years  
**Noise Level:** Loud  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Very good
- | **Behavior/Health**  
**Concerns:** Obesity is an important concern for the double yellow-headed Amazon's health. Provide your pet bird with a balanced, low-fat diet supplemented with plenty fruits and vegetables as well as foods high in natural beta carotenes, such as carrots, beets and sweet potatoes. Double yellow-headed Amazons are susceptible to vitamin-A and calcium deficiencies, psittacosis and poxvirus infections.



# Yellow-Naped Amazon

- | Scientific Name: *Amazona auropalliata*  
Size: Medium, up to 14 inches  
Native Region: Central America  
Life Expectancy: 50 years  
Noise Level: Loud  
Talk/Trick Ability: Very Good
- | Behavior/Health  
Concerns: Most Amazons have a tendency for obesity, so be certain that your yellow-crowned Amazon receives a balanced, low-fat diet of pellets, fruits and vegetables along with plenty of exercise. They are also susceptible to vitamin-A and calcium deficiencies, psittacosis and pox-virus infections.



# Conures

- Two major genera make up the general category of conures where more than 50 individual bird species are grouped: Aratingas (the louder, more boisterous species) and Pyrrhura (more demure, often smaller species). These small to medium-sized, mostly South American, parrots charm pet owners and breeders alike with their clownish, noisy behavior that sometimes lands them in trouble. Conures always want to be in the middle of the action, and they'll work to win over your attention and affection



# Sun Conure

- | Scientific Name: *Aratinga solstitialis*  
Size: Small, up to 12 inches  
Native Region: South America  
Life Expectancy: up to 30 years  
Noise Level: Moderate to Loud  
Talk/Trick Ability: Fair
- | Behavior/Health Concerns: Sun Conures need plenty of entertainment and interaction. Sun conures are susceptible to feather picking and common psittacine diseases.



# Blue-Crowned-Conure



- | Scientific Name: *Aratinga acuticaudata*  
Size: Medium, 15 inches  
Native Region: South America  
Life Expectancy: up to 30 years  
Noise Level: Moderate  
Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate
- | Behavior/Health  
Concerns: Blue-crowned Conures need interesting entertainment and interaction. Provide your conure with plastic, wood, puzzle, musical, rope, leather and other varieties of toys.



# Green-Cheeked Conure



- Scientific Name: *Pyrrhura molinae*
- Size: Small, up to 10 inches
- Native Region: South America
- Life Expectancy: up to 30 years
- Noise Level: Low to Moderate; quieter than other conures.
- Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate



# Black-Headed Cacique



- | Scientific Name: *Pionites melanocephala*  
Size: Medium, 9 inches  
Native Region: South America  
Life Expectancy: 30 years  
Noise Level: Medium  
Talk/Trick Ability: Fair, likes to play, so benefits from trick training and can mimic sounds
- | Behavior/Health Concerns: If not kept well entertained, the black-headed caique can become destructive and prone to screeching. They are generally hardy, but keep the cage clean as they like to play and bounce around on the cage floor. This pet bird can be beaky and does sometimes become aggressive with other birds in the household,

# Parakeets

- These brightly-colored Asian and African parakeets are often kept as aviary birds, but they're making their way into homes as pets with their grace and social nature. *Psittacula* parakeets earned a reputation as nippy, noisy birds, but their owners are fiercely loyal to them, pointing out their good qualities, such as their easy-going and independent nature. Fourteen species make up the *Psittacula* genus, but the plum-headed, ring-necked, are the most common species kept as pets in the United States



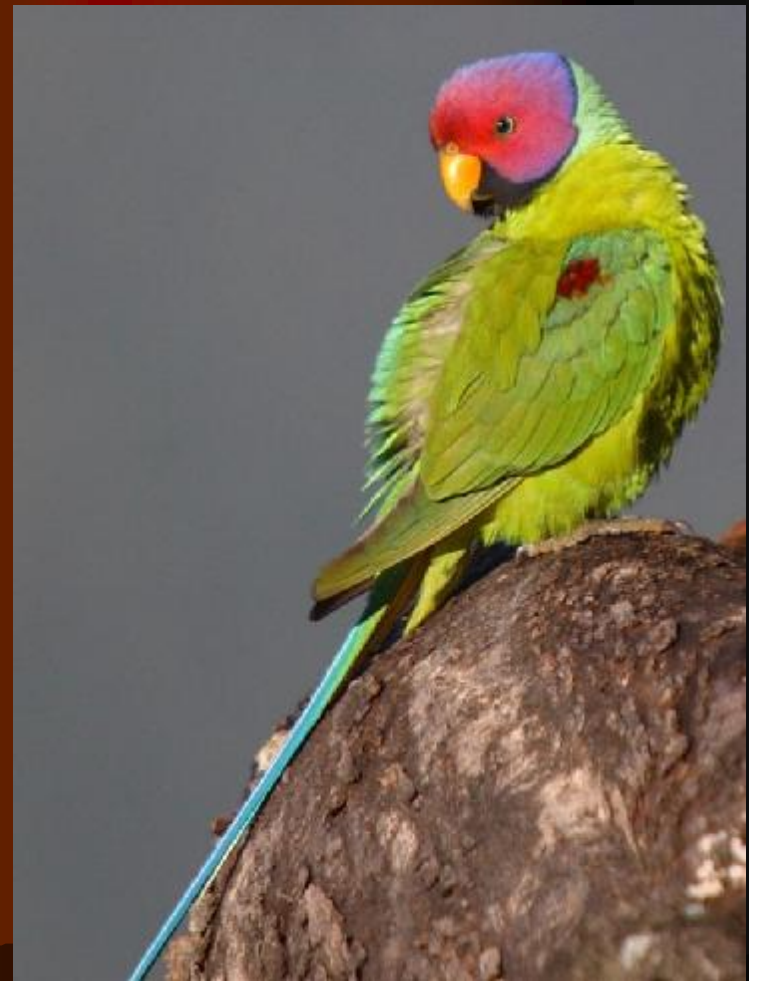
# Indian Ring-Necked Parakeet

- **Scientific Name:** *Psittacula krameri manillensis*
  - **Size:** Medium, 16 inches
  - **Native Region:** India
  - **Life Expectancy:** 15 to 30 years
  - **Noise Level:** Moderate
  - **Talk/Trick Ability:** Fair; can be good mimics.
- 
- **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Indian ring-necked parakeets can develop social phobias with regular interaction and handling. Enjoy chewing, so provide soft wood toys. Generally not picky eaters, provide a varied diet with plenty of fruit, vegetables, green and whole grains. Males have a more distinct rose collar and facial markings than the females. They have a narrow black stripe on the mandible under the throat and a black lower mandible.



# Plum-Headed Parakeet

- | Scientific Name: *Psittacula cyanocephala*  
Size: Small, up to 13 inches  
Native Region: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka  
Life Expectancy: 15 to 30 years  
Noise Level: Low  
Talk/Trick Ability: Fair
- | Behavior/Health  
Concerns: Plum-headed parakeets are not as big chewers as other *Psittaculas*. Watch the temperature, because this species is sensitive to cold and wet conditions. Males develop a plum-red head that fades to a purplish-blue color toward the lower cheeks, hind crown and nape of the neck.



# Grey-Cheeked Parakeet



Scientific Name: *Brotogeris pyrrhopterus*

Size: Small, up to 8 inches

Native Region: South America

Life Expectancy: up to 15 years

Noise Level: Moderate

Talk/Trick Ability: Fair

## Behavior/Health

Concerns: Grey-cheeked parakeets are susceptible to mites, PBFD, psittacosis and bacterial hepatitis. Tuberculosis was common among imported birds. Grey-cheeked parakeets also require extra fruit in their diet, and some breeders recommend less protein to avoid gout. These pet birds are somewhat loud and screech,



# Quaker or Monk Parakeet

- | This small South American parakeet is a common sight in the United States, both in the home and flying free in urban centers where it has made a home for its wild flock. Gregarious and social, life with a quaker is never dull. Quakers have a great sense of humor. They laugh very easily and imitate laughter and voices with amazing accuracy. They are strong willed, but can be controlled easily with step-up commands and exercises



# Naturalized Quaker

- | **Scientific Name:** *Myiopsitta monachus*  
**Size:** Small, up to 13 inches  
**Native Region:** South America  
**Life Expectancy:** up to 30 years  
**Noise Level:** Low  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Fair; can develop an extensive vocabulary, but may not have the clearest voice.
- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** In the wild, quakers are prolific nest builders, so in captivity they often become protective of their cage, food dish or homemade nest. Behavior such as territoriality, screeching and other quaker quirks can be modified if owners are consistent about training with their bird. Quakers are also prone to destructive behaviors such as feather picking or self-mutilation



# Lory species

If left with only one word to describe the multitude of species and subspecies that make up the subfamily Loriinae, it would be "energetic. They're constantly on the go – eating, bathing, beating up toys or hanging upside down. Native to Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and the surrounding islands, these colorful, small- to mid-sized parrots distinguish themselves from other parrots with their diet: nectar and pollen.



# Red Lory

- | Scientific Name: *Eos bornea*  
Size: Small, 12 inches  
Native Region: Indonesia  
Life Expectancy: 20 years  
Noise Level: Moderate  
Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate

- | Behavior/Health  
Concerns: Red lorries are susceptible to hemochromatosis (iron storage disease) and visceral gout. They also can have screaming and biting tendencies. Red lorries are less aggressive than other lorries, but be cautious when introducing a new bird because some red lorries can become jealous. Red lorries can be fearless - attacking dogs, cats and the vacuum cleaner.



# Goldie's Lorikeet

- | Scientific Name: *Psitteuteles goldiei*  
Size: 7.5 inches  
Native Region: New Guinea  
Life Expectancy: 20 years  
Noise Level: Low  
Talk/Trick Ability: Moderate, but not as chatty as other lories.
- | Behavior/Health  
Concerns: Goldie's Lorikeets are susceptible to hemochromatosis or iron-storage disease. They need nectar as the base of their diet. The nectar or powder diet should be low iron. Fresh fruits are also good foods to add to the nectar and/or powder bird diet.





# Lovebirds

These small, stocky African parrots' feisty nature keeps their owners on their toes. They love to beat up their toys, shred anything they can get their beaks on and they'll chase larger birds that get in their way. They're chatterboxes, too. Occasionally your lovebird will take a break to share a quiet moment with you – if you're lucky! Nine species make up the lovebird *Agapornis* genus, although only a few of those are kept as pets in the United States.



# Masked Lovebird

- | **Scientific Name:** *Agapornis personatus*  
**Size:** Small, up to 6 inches  
**Native Region:** Africa  
**Life Expectancy:** 20 years  
**Noise Level:** Low, although can let out a shrill shriek from time to time.  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Not known as a talker, but does enjoy learning tricks
- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** The masked lovebird can be nippy, territorial and a prolific chewer. Masked lovebirds can overindulge on seed, so make sure to provide plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and exercise. Because they are good escape artists. Masked lovebird's age can be determined by the color of its beak. Adults have a red, orange, light gray or horn-colored beak, depending on the species



# Peach-Faced Lovebird

- | **Scientific Name:** *Agapornis roseicollis*  
**Size:** Small, 6.5 inches  
**Native Region:** Africa  
**Life Expectancy:** 20 years  
**Noise Level:** Low  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** Fair; not known as a talker, but enjoys learning tricks
- | **Behavior/Health**  
**Concerns:** Peach-faced lovebirds can be nippy and territorial, so daily handling and reinforcement of good behavior is necessary. Adults have a red, orange, light gray or horn-colored beak, depending on the species. Juvenile peach-faced lovebirds have black-marked beaks. The exception is in the black-collared lovebird, which has a gray-black beak as an adult.



# Passeriformes

## I Softbills / *Passiformes*

- I Valued for singing ability
- I Often easy to keep
- I Softbills have feet with 4 toes; 3 pointing forward and 1 pointing back
- I Flightly and easily stressed
- I Not usually handled, but are admired from afar
- I Types include: Finches, Canaries, Mynah birds

# Zebra Finch

- | **Scientific Name:** *Poephila guttata*  
**Size:** Small, up to 4.5 inches  
**Native Region:** Australia  
**Life Expectancy:** up to 15 years  
**Noise Level:** Low  
**Talk/Trick Ability:** None, although will respond to owner's voice.
- | **Behavior/Health Concerns:** Although they are generally a hardy species, young zebra finches can experience egg-binding. Zebra finches require additional food during a molt. The male zebra finch is gray with a black tail and large white bars. Their throat and upper breast is zebra striped, and they have a red beak and vivid orange cheek patches. A female zebra finch's beak is a paler color than the male's. Best kept in pairs.





# Canary

- | *Serinus canaria*
- | The quintessential pet bird, the canary has enjoyed steady popularity for more than a century. Its beautiful song and color and its charming nature have endeared it to many bird enthusiasts. All canaries originate from the same species, but there are three types, or breeds, popular in the United States: color-bred canaries, type canaries and song canaries. Noted for singing ability; males sing the best and are the most expensive
- | From Canary Islands



# Columbiformes

## Doves/Pigeons

Doves often kept as pets, pigeons  
used to race, carry messages

# Doves and Pigeons

- More than 300 species of doves and pigeons (really the same type of bird, although the term pigeon generally denotes a larger bird)
- These seed- or fruit-eating, large-bodied birds are often found in aviaries, but they can also make excellent pets.
- Two of the most common species, the ring-necked and diamond doves, come in a variety of mutations.



# Columbiformes

- You'll find several bird clubs devoted just to doves, and other clubs – local, national and international – focus exclusively on racing or homing pigeons.

