

Parrot Family

- Contains some of the smartest birds.
- Many species can be taught to talk, are affectionate, and make excellent pets.
- Members of the parrot family are known for their large beaks, especially the Macaws.
- Includes Cockatoos, Cockatiels, Conures, Macaws, Parrots, Parakeets, Lovebirds, Hanging Parakeets

Lories and Lorikeets (Parrot Family)

- Brush-like tongues used to lap up nectar and pollen from flowers



Cockatoos (Parrot Family)

- Crest or tuft of feathers on the top of the head
- Ability to mimic words and sounds
- Intelligent
- Range in length from 13-30"
- Popular birds that make excellent pets
- Tame easily

Cockatoos (Parrot Family)



Cockatiel (Parrot Family)

- One of the most popular pet birds
- About 12" long (the size of a small cockatoo)
- Commonly found in pet stores at a reasonable price
- Gray cockatiels are mostly available.
- Ideal for beginners and youngsters
- Easy to raise and affectionate

Cockatiel (Parrot Family)



Blue and Gold Macaw (Parrot Family)

- Up to 30" long
- Most alert and intelligent of all macaws
- Very curious and mischievous
- Prices usually range from \$600-\$1000
- This species is one of the more popular macaws and most commonly seen

Blue and Gold Macaw (Parrot Family)



Petz' Conure (Parrot Family)

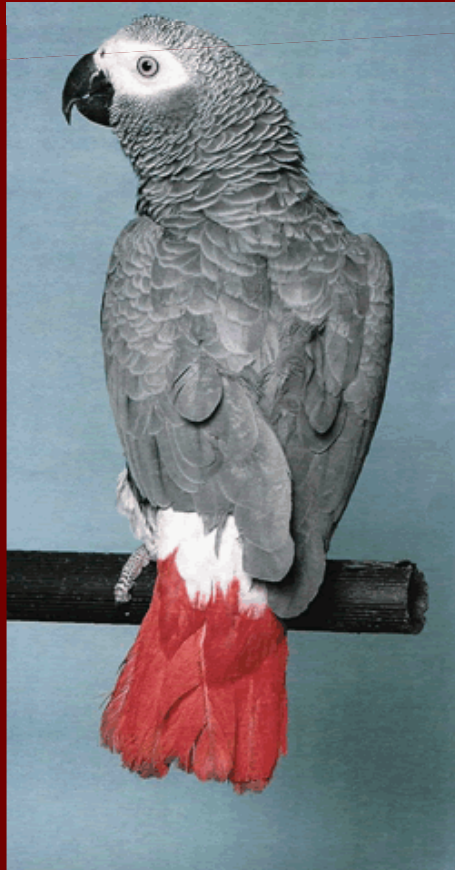
- Sold as a dwarf parrot in the US
- Primary color is green
- Becomes very tame
- Excellent pet



African Gray Parrot (Parrot Family)

- 13" long
- Primary color is gray
- Very alert, intelligent and affectionate
- Considered to be the best talker of all birds
- Voice closely resembles a human voice

African Gray Parrot (Parrot Family)



Budgerigar-*budgie* (Parrot Family)

- Most popular pet bird in the world
- Australian bird that gets its name, which means good bird or good food, from the Aborigines
- About 7" long with a primary color of yellowish-green
- Can be taught to talk with proper training
- Easy to care for, inexpensive pet
- Eats food from floor of cage

Budgerigar-*budgie* (Parrot Family)



Indian Ringneck Parakeet (Parrot Family)

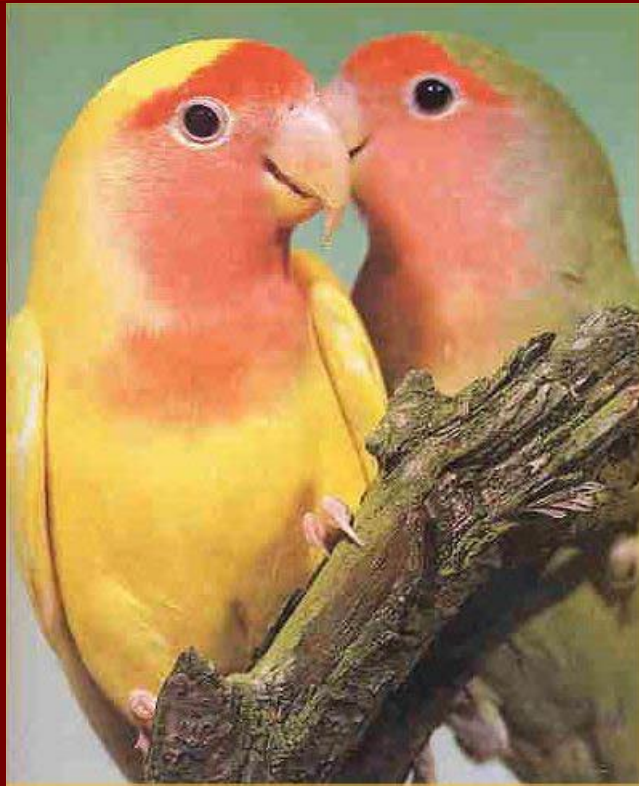
- 17" long with tapering tail making up about half of its length
- Pastel green color
- Excellent pet and good talker
- Price range from \$150-\$500



Lovebirds (Parrot Family)

- Hardy and long-lived birds that make excellent pets if obtained when very young
- Sometimes have a harsh voice
- Most common pet species is the Peach Faced Lovebird (Rosy-faced lovebird)

Lovebirds (Parrot Family)



Toucans (Woodpecker Family)

- Fairly rare as pets
- May cost \$2500 or more
- Very noisy birds
- About the size of a macaw
- Extremely large bill, which can be almost as long as the bird's body

Toucans (Woodpecker Family)



Perching Birds

- Largest family of birds
- Almost 60% of all birds (5,100 of 9,000 bird species)
- Good singers known as song birds

Starlings (Perching Family)

- Talking Mynah bird is in this group. It is a black bird with an orange bill
- Has the ability to mimic the human voice and other sounds
- Require lots of care
- Cages must be cleaned daily because Mynah birds have a diet of fruit
- Prices range from \$300 to \$500

Starlings (Perching Family)



Canary (Perching Family)

- Very important pet
- Some are bred for their color
- Others are bred for their singing ability
- Some are bred to have a crested top (feathering on the top of the head)

Canary (Perching Family)



Whydah birds (Perching Family)



- Pronounced Widow
- Have bright colors for 6-8 months and then fade to dull colors

Finches (Perching Family)

- Small birds that are sociable in nature
- Bengalese Finch is the most social of all birds
- Zebra Finch is the most widely kept and bred finch in captivity.

Finches (Perching Family)



Objective 19.02

- Discuss the care and maintenance of pet birds.

Cages

- For large parrot-type birds must be made of heavy-gauge metal
 - Size ranges from 26" long x 20" wide x 20" high for a single cockatiel to 6' x 3' x 3' for a mynah bird
 - Cockatoos, Conures, Macaws, and Parrots need larger cages



Cages

- Canaries, lovebirds, and budgerigars like the company of other birds and should not be caged singly
- Cages are usually smaller
 - 18" x 10" x 10" for a pair of canaries
 - 24" x 14" x 48" for a pair of budgies
 - 4' x 4' x 4' for a pair of lovebirds



Cages

- Finches need a rectangular cage to allow long horizontal flight to imitate their natural flight and reduce stress from circular flight.
- Finches need a larger cage than canaries and budgies.



Cages

- Macaws need a cage 3' long x 2' wide x 3 ½' high.
- A cage for macaws can be constructed using 12- to 14-gauge wire with a ½" x 3" wire mesh.
- Smaller wire mesh is needed for outside cages to prevent mice, rats, and other birds from being a problem.

Perches

- Size and style depend on the bird
- Most store bought cages come with hard plastic perches which may be uncomfortable for birds.
 - If birds refuse to perch, replace plastic perches with wood perches that are more natural for birds.



Perches

- Larger birds like larger perches, smaller birds like smaller perches
 - Finches/canaries- 1/2" round perch
 - Budgerigars- 1/2" oval perch
 - Parrots- 1' square perch

Perches

- The perch for large parrot-type birds must be replaced as these birds destroy wood perches. However, the bird exercises its beak and stays busy in the process.



Perches

- Limbs and tree branches make natural perches, but care must be taken to insure they are free of mold and pesticide residue.

Perches

- Tapered perches work well because they give the bird a choice of most of the comfortable perching spot.



Water and Feed Containers

- Water containers need to be hard and easy to clean materials like glass, ceramic, or stainless steel



Water and Feed Containers

- Gravity-type waterers that hang outside the cage with a metal spout/tube extending into the cage work excellent.



Water and Feed Containers

- Feed containers may be plastic for smaller birds, but parrot-type birds need the same kind of material used for watering containers



Toys

- Prevent boredom
- Large parrot-type birds need stainless-steel chains with bells
- Smaller birds like canaries and finches can have mirrors, chains with bells, and ladders



Cage Location

- Location of cage must be out of direct sunlight, free from drafts, in a place of constant temperature, and protected from hazards like poisonous plants and pets.

