

Songbird ReMix

PET SHOP



Keeping your Budgies happy during long render periods



Sweeten-up Poser with Lorikeets



DAZ|Studio is the perfect home for Gouldian Finches
See Page 1

Sun Conures can animate any scene



Quality CG Birds for Poser & DAZ|Studio



**Avian Models for 3D Applications
Characters and Texture Mapping by Ken Gilliland**

Songbird ReMix Pet Shop

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Songbird ReMix

Pet Shop

Introduction

Songbird ReMix Pet Shop adds many of the most popular and beloved companion birds to the Songbird ReMix library. Included are 11 species of companion birds, many with male and female markings and with a variety of mutations. Birds featured such as the Ring Neck Parakeet, the playful Budgerigar, that songster the canary and the colorful Sun Conure and Lorikeet have been on wish lists for some time. This is the Songbird collection many have been waiting for!

Overview and Use






Select **Figures** in Runtime Folder and go to the **Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you'll find an assortment of files that are easily broken into 2 groups: **Conforming Parts** and **Bird Base models**. Let's look at what they are and how you use them:

- **Bird Base Models**
 - **SBRM Base Model**- The primary bird model base for about 90% of SBRM birds
 - **SBRM Gamebird Base Model**- This model is specifically for use for the button quail. See the “**G**” icon in the lower right corner? This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the “**G**” icon **use this model**.
 - **SBRM Parrot Base Model**- This model is specifically for use with Parrots. See the “**P**” icon in the lower right corner? This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the “**P**” icon **use this model**
- **Conforming Parts** (All Conforming Crests or Tails have alphabetical icons in the lower right corners such as “**C20**”, “**C3**” or “**T1**”. This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the same icon use that particular Conforming Part. ***Be sure to read this:*** Most conforming parts are Crests which cover the head part. When posing the Base Model, the Conforming Part will follow any Bend, Twist or Rotate Commands. It will not obey any **SCALE** or **MORPH** commands

you give the Base Model. You must manually scale the Conforming Part and with morphs such as “OpenBeak” you must also set it’s counterpart in the head part of the Conforming Crest. So Now let’s look at what’s included in Conforming Parts:

- **<C3> Conforming Crest3.** For use with the Black-capped Canary’s black cap
- **<C20> Conforming Cockatoo Crest.** For use with the Parrot Base and the Parrot Full Body Morph. There’s a slew of Head morphs such as AstryFeathers, RaiseCrest, BigFeather, OpenBeak and others. In this package, you’ll use the crest on the Cockatiel.

Quick Reference Guide

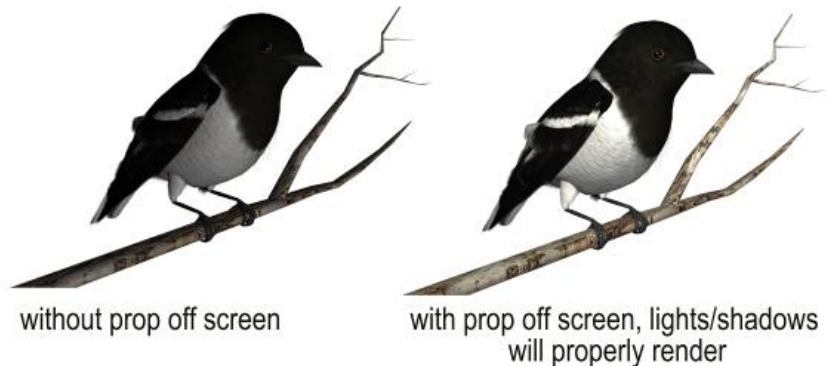
Load Model(s)	To Create... (apply MAT/MOR files)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gouldian Finches • Zebra Finches • Domestic Canary • Domestic Yellow-Orange Canary • Domestic Red Canary • Wild Canary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Black-capped Canary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Buttonquail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgerigar • Rainbow Lorikeet • Indian & African Ring-neck Parakeets • Peach-faced Lovebird • Sun Conure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockatiel

Creating a Songbird ReMix Bird

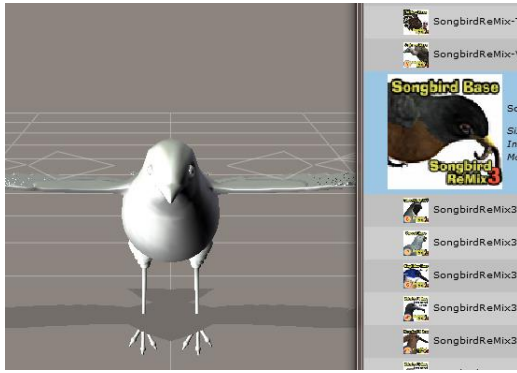
1. Choose what you want to load. For this example, we'll create a Lovebird species.
2. Load Poser or DAZ Studio and select **FIGURES** and the Songbird ReMix folder. DAZ Studio users will select the "Poser Formats" → "My Library" → "FIGURES" → "Songbird ReMix".
3. Because all of the Lovebirds use the "Parrot" base model (**P**) we'll load that.
4. Go to the **POSES** folder and **Songbird ReMix** Master folder, then select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. This again, for DAZ Studio users will be found in the "Poser Formats" file section.
5. Select the Peach-faced Lovebird Species and load/apply it by clicking the mouse on to our loaded Songbird ReMix base model. This species pose contains morph and texture settings to turn the generic model into the selected Lovebird. It will automatically apply the correct DAZ Studio material settings if you are using DAZ Studio.

Scaling and Square Shadows in Poser

All the birds in this package have to scaled proportionally to DAZ 3D's Victoria and Michael models. The smallest of the included birds **MAY** render with a Square shadow or improper lighting. This is a bug in Poser. Poser can't figure out how to render a shadow for something really small, so it creates a square shadow. The solution is to put a larger item that casts a normal Poser shadow in the scene (even if it is off camera) and the square shadows will be fixed or BODY scale the bird to a larger size.

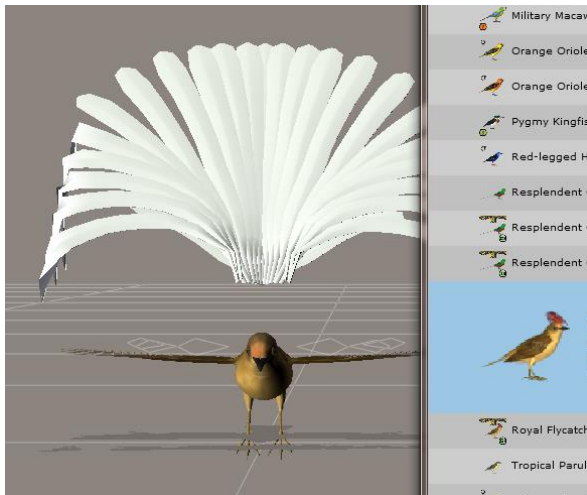
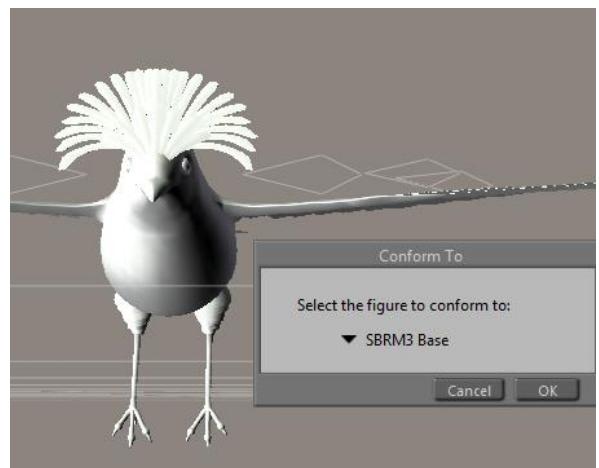


How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in Poser



1. In the Figures section, load a Bird base Model. Then load the appropriate conforming part for the bird you're trying to create.
2. Conform it to the bird base model.

3. Select the Base Model and go to POSES. Select and apply the appropriate Character/Material pose setting for the bird you're creating.



4. The Conforming part will look wrong. That's okay—we're going to fix that now. Select the conforming part and apply appropriate Character/Material pose for the part.

5. Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.



Updates and Freebies

The Songbird ReMix series is constantly growing and improving. New morphs and additions to upcoming and future products often end up benefiting existing sets with new geometry, morphs and textures.

Songbirdremix.com always has the latest updates and additions to existing Songbird ReMix products (often months before they are updated at DAZ), plus the latest digital and real bird news, tutorials, videos, all the Field Guides, free bird characters, props and much more...

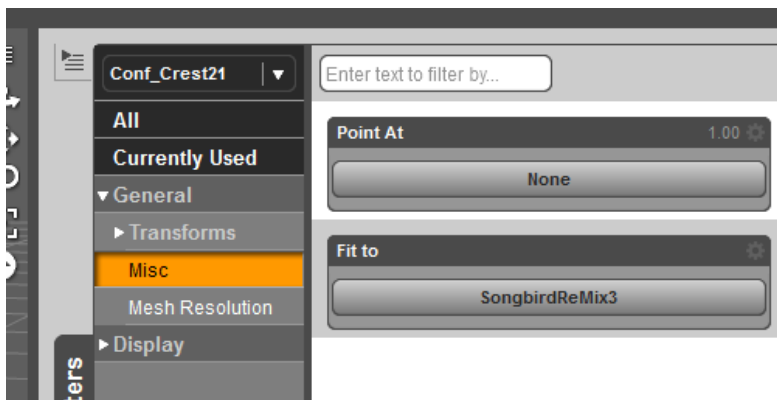
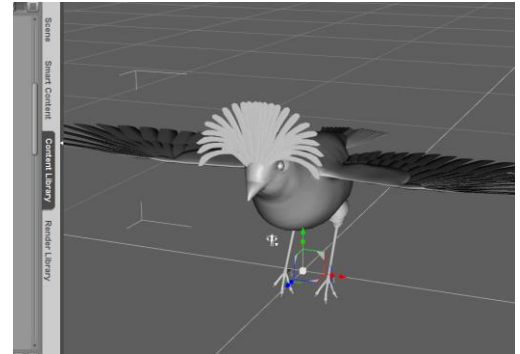
[Songbird ReMix.com](http://SongbirdReMix.com)



How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in DAZ Studio

In the **Runtime** folder, select **Figures** and load the **Songbird ReMix Model** and the appropriate **Conforming Crest** in Studio. Select the **Conforming Crest** by selecting on the screen or in the **Scene Tab**.

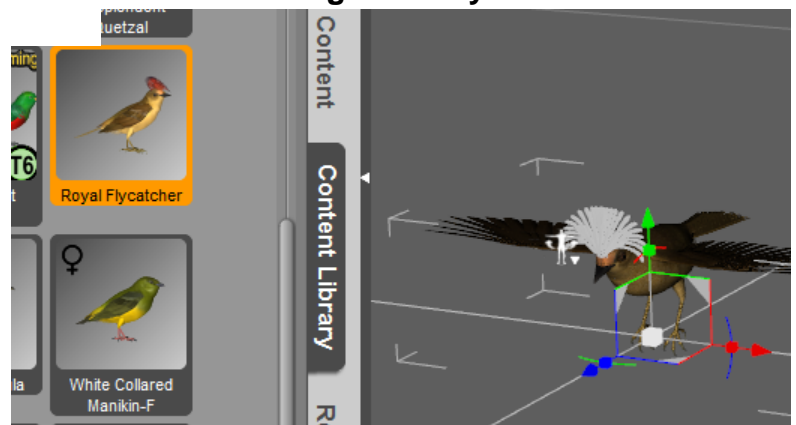
Now, using the **"FIT TO"** command in the **Parameters Tab**, Select the **Songbird ReMix Model**. Go back to the **Scene Tab** and select the **Songbird ReMix Model**.



Select the **Studio Content Folder** and go to the **Animals : SBRM : !CreateYour Own : Characters** folder and select the appropriate **Songbird Remix library**. Apply the **Character** setting to the bird base. It will probably reduce the size significantly and

change the shape of the bird. Now that the bird is sized, select the conforming part and apply the conforming part character settings.

Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.



About the Pet Bird Trade

It was with some trepidation that I approached doing a Songbird ReMix Project with the Pet Shop angle. While birds have been one of the oldest companion pets, the pet bird trade through history has brought its share of destruction. During the great immigration period to the United States, travelers brought their favorite pets such as European House Sparrows and Starlings to North America. Their release into the wild has harmed the indigenous bird species. The capture of birds throughout the world have brought some species to the brink of extinction in the wild. Although many countries have banned the exporting of birds, smuggling continues in cruel and gruesome ways such as stuffing live birds into PVC tubes and hoping enough live through the smuggling to make a profit.

If you choose to have a companion bird, make sure it's from a licensed bird breeder. If you tire of your pet, try to find it a good home or return to a pet shop—**don't release it into the wild!** I can assure you that all birds found in this collection, have been raised and cared for within the law and have the proper papers...

The United States and Companion Birds

All native birds are protected under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act and it is **against the law to take them from the wild**. There are 41 bird species that have been exempted from licensing. These species, and all exotic (non-native) birds may be held without a license. It is illegal to have non-exempt native birds in your possession **without** an appropriate license from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The following 41 species have been exempted from licensing requirements, as it is considered that there is little risk to their wild populations from aviculture. All of these species may be kept and traded without the need for a license.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Little Corella, Long-billed Corella, Western Corella, Cockatiel, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red-collared Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Port Lincoln Parrot, Twenty-eight Parrot, Red-capped Parrot, Hooded Parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Princess Parrot, Bourke's Parrot, Elegant Parrot, Scarlet-chested Parrot, Adelaide Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Pale-headed Rosella, Yellow Rosella, Western Rosella, Budgerigar, Bar-shouldered Dove, Diamond Dove, Emerald Dove, Peaceful Dove, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, Brown Quail, King Quail, Stubble Quail, Little Button-Quail, Painted Button-Quail, Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, Gouldian Finch, Painted Finch, Star Finch and Zebra Finch.

For more information: [NSW Bird Keepers' License Species List](#)

Songbird ReMix

Pet Shop Field Guide

Budgerigar (Parakeet)

Rainbow Lorikeet

Cockatiel

Zebra Finch

Gouldian Finch

Indian & African Ring-neck Parakeets

Peach-faced Lovebird

Domestic & Wild Canary

Small Buttonquail

Sun Conure

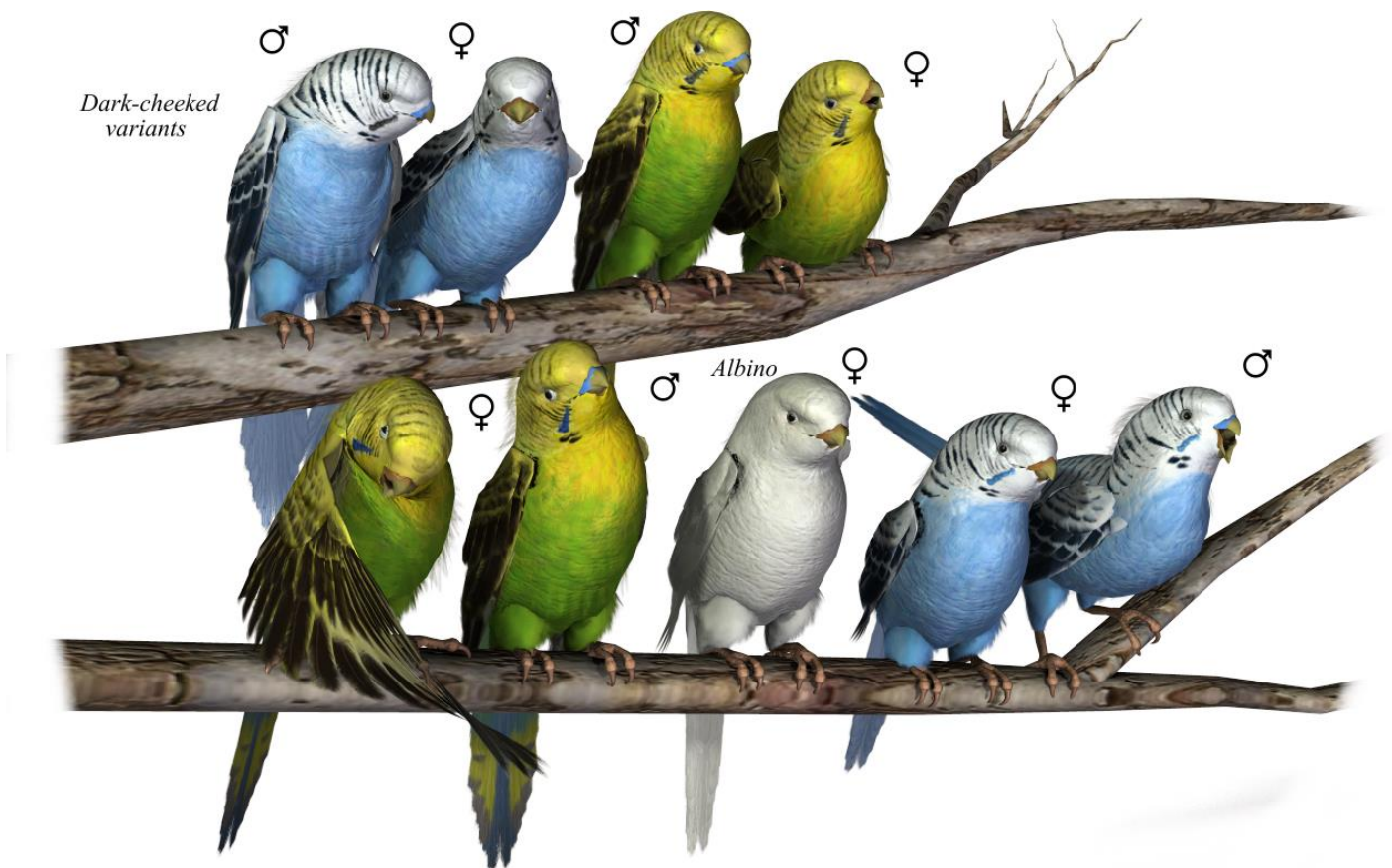
Common Name: Budgerigar

Scientific Name: *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Size: 7 inches (18 cm) **Note:** Budgerigars have been bred down and up in sizes from American Parakeet (5-6 inches (13-15cm)) to the English Budgie (10 inches (25.5cm)).

Habitat: Australia; occurs naturally throughout much of mainland Australia, but is absent from the far south-west, the north of the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the majority of the east coast. Budgerigars are nomadic and large flocks of birds can be seen in most open habitat types, but seldom far from water. Very large flocks, numbering occasionally in the tens of thousands, are seen after a season of abundant rainfall and food. Flocks are usually much smaller, however, and range from as few as three birds up to 100 or more. Birds in a flock fly in a characteristic undulating manner

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown.



Diet: Spinifex seeds, grass seeds, and ripening wheat. Birds in captivity also eat fruits and vegetables such as apples, oranges, bananas, strawberries, carrots, unsprayed lettuces, parsley, peaches and spinach.

Breeding: Breeding generally takes place between June and September in the North and between August and January in the South. The nesting takes place in a tree cavity, fence post or even a log laying on the ground. 4-6 eggs are incubated for 17-19 days, with the young fledging about 30 days after hatching.

Cool Facts: While many Americans refer to the Budgerigar as a parakeet, the term “Budgie” is more common. The term “Parakeet” refers to a number of small parrots with long flat tails. I’m sure much to the Budgies’ dismay, the term “Budgerigar” comes from an Aborigine phrase that means "good to eat". It is believed to be the most common pet parrot in the world, and it has been bred in captivity since the 1850s.

There are currently over 32 primary mutations in the Budgerigar Parakeet enabling hundreds of possible secondary mutations (stable combined primary mutations) & color varieties (unstable combined mutations). Breeders have worked over the decades to produce a wide range of color and feather mutations. Feather mutations can produce crests or very long shaggy feathers.

Both male and female budgerigars sing and can learn to mimic sounds, however it is much more pronounced in males. Budgies are, as are all parrots, intelligent and very social animals. They need and enjoy interaction with humans or other budgerigars and the stimulation of toys. A common behavior is the chewing of material such as wood, especially for female budgerigars.

Budgerigars in the wild are nomadic birds found in open habitats, primarily in scrublands, open woodlands and grasslands of Australia. The birds are normally found in small flocks, but can form very large flocks if the conditions are right. Flock movement is tied to the availability of food and water, and drought conditions will drive flocks into wooded habitats or coastal areas.

Hazards in the house: Common household hazards include fumes from the kitchen (**especially fumes from non-stick pans**) – Companion birds should never be kept in a kitchen for this reason. They are also sensitive to smoke from cigarettes, aerosol sprays such as deodorant, air freshener and polish. Plug in air fresheners/ stand-alone fan fresheners can be very toxic, as are some scented candles. Chocolate and avocado is very poisonous to most birds.

Common Name: Rainbow Lorikeet

Scientific Name: *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Size: 10 to 12 inches (25-30 cm)

Habitat: Australia; found in Coastal Eastern Australia, from Queensland to South Australia; also in northwest Tasmania. Found in rainforests, coastal bush and woodland areas.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown. The Rainbow Lorikeet appears to have benefited from artificial feeding stations and prolific-fruiting and flowering trees and shrubs.

Diet: Mostly pollen and nectar, occasional fruit and seed. They can be frequent visitors at bird feeders that supply store-bought nectar, sunflower seeds, and fruits such as apricots, plums, apples and pears.

Breeding: Breeding usually occurs during September to December, and mated pairs nest in eucalyptus tree hollows. The eggs of the Rainbow Lorikeet are laid on chewed, decayed wood, usually in a hollow limb of a eucalypt tree. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female incubates the eggs. Both parents feed the young. They are very loving to their mate and seem to pair for life, but the males being males, do look to other females if given the chance.

Cool Facts: Lorikeets possess a brush-like tongue that is adapted especially for their particular diet of pollens and nectar. They often feed on flowers (especially from the Grevillea tree). Fruit trees are also favorites. Lorikeets often strip fruit trees bare when the new fruit ripens, such as Apricots, plums or peaches.

Captive lorikeets have a long lifespan, often in excess of 20 years. In the wild, they congregate in flocks and are very active, noisy, gregarious and at times will fight each other. When the fracas dies down, all is well again. On the ground, they appear to hop and are very swift flyers.



Common Name: Cockatiel

Scientific Name: *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Size: 12-13 inches (30-33cm)

Habitat: Australia; widespread throughout mainland Australia, but is uncommon in Tasmania, with only a few sightings being reported to date. Throughout its range, the Cockatiel is strongly nomadic, moving around in response to the availability of food and water.



Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** unknown.

Diet: Grass seeds, nuts, berries and grain. They may feed either on the ground or in trees, and always in groups of either small to large numbers.

Breeding: Cockatiels can breed at any time, usually in response to

availability of water. Both sexes share the incubation of the eggs, which are laid in a hollow, high up in trees. Suitable nesting areas are close to water. Cockatiels enter the nest hollow tail first.

Cool facts: The cockatiel's scientific name "*Nymphicus hollandicus*" comes from one of the earliest groups of Europeans to see cockatiels in their native habitat. Travelers from Holland thought they were so beautiful that they named them after the mythical creatures, the nymphs. The species name refers to New Holland, an old name for Australia where they were found. Cockatiels are more closely related to the Calyptorhynchinae family (black cockatoos) than to the Cacatuinae family (white cockatoos).

Cockatiels are one of the most popular companion birds due to their size, and mild temperament. While capable of speech, cockatiels are much better at mimicking whistles. The average lifespan of a cockatiel in captivity is generally 12-20 years.

Common Name: Zebra Finch

Scientific Name: *Taeniopygia guttata castanotis*

Size: 4 to 4 ½ inches (10-12cm)

Habitat: Australia; found across the Australian mainland, with the exception of Cape York Peninsula and some coastal areas. They are also found in Timor and the Lesser Sunda Islands. Most commonly found in the drier areas of Australia, living year round in social flocks of up to 100 or more birds. They can be found in a variety of habitats, mainly dry wooded grasslands, bordering watercourses.

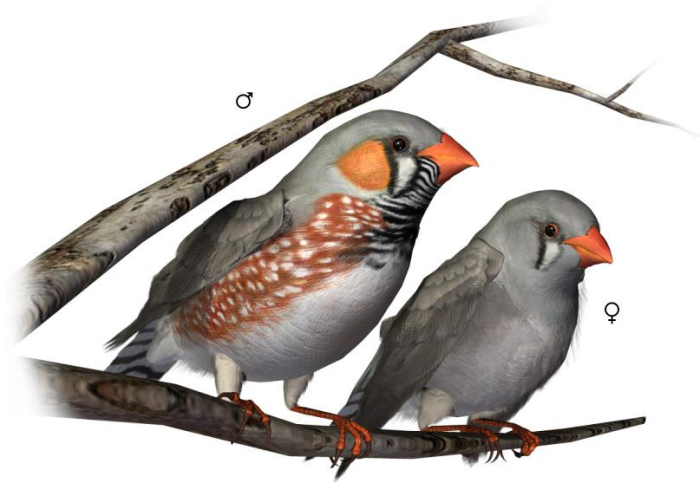
Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown. The introduction of artificial dams and water tanks has actually increased the Zebra Finch's natural range, as the birds need to drink on a regular basis.

Diet: Seeds, primarily millet; occasionally fruit and insects. Feeding takes place on the ground in large flocks, and, unlike some other grassfinches, birds never pull seed heads down with their feet.

Breeding: Zebra Finch breeds after substantial rains in its native habitat, which can occur at any time of the year. Birds in captivity breed year-round. Wild birds are adaptable and varied in their nesting habits, with nests being found in cavities, scrub, low trees, bushes, on the ground, in termite hills, rabbit burrows, nests of other birds, and the in cracks, crevices, and ledges of human structures. 3-12 eggs are laid. Outside of the breeding time, brood nests are constructed for sleeping.

Cool Facts: Zebra Finches are sometimes used as avian model organisms. They are commonly used to study the auditory processing capabilities of the brain, due to their ability to recognize and process other Zebra Finches' songs. Their popularity as model organisms is also related to their prolific breeding, an adaptation to their usually dry environment. This ability also makes them popular as pet songbirds, and they are usually found at relatively inexpensive prices.

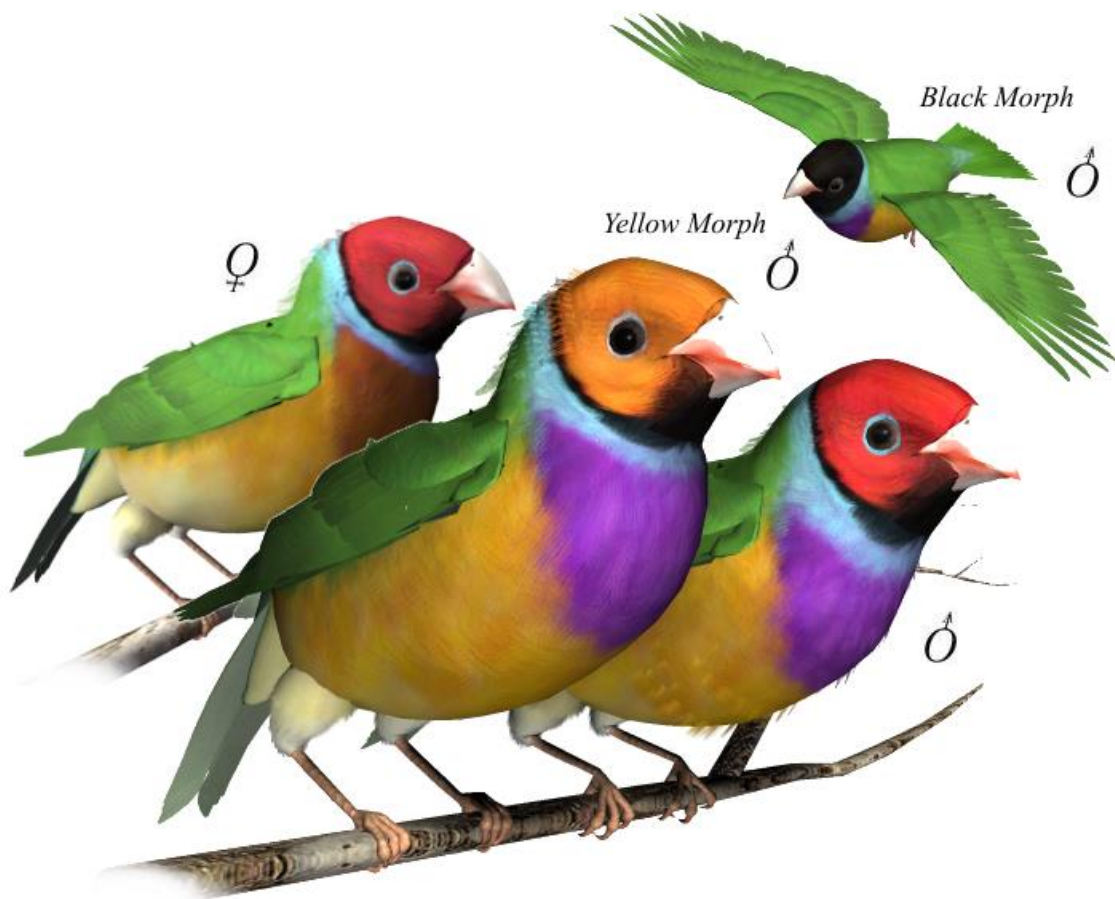
Zebra Finches also need a lot of calcium, especially as pets. Lack of calcium can be fatal to females when laying eggs. A cuttlebone in a cage helps to provide a healthier diet. Zebra finches can be tamed with patience when it's the only bird in the cage.



Common Name: Gouldian Finch
Scientific Name: *Chloebia gouldiae*

Size: 5 to 5 ½ inches (11-12.5 cm)

Habitat: Australia; patchily distributed in tropical northern sub-coastal areas from Derby, Western Australia, to the Gulf of Carpentaria and thinly to central Cape York Peninsula, but is locally common in the north and north-western parts of its range. Seldom found far from water. Throughout its range the species inhabits the edges of mangroves and thickets, and savannas dotted with trees.



Status: Endangered (in the wild) **Global population:** 2,000 - 10,000 with a decreasing trend. Grazing and altered fire regimes are thought to be the main threats. Cattle and other livestock cause changes in grass species composition and phenology, with the most severe impact probably due to a reduction in the abundance of grass species that set seed earliest in the wet season. Also illegal

trapping for the Pet Trade, along the susceptibility of the species to the parasitic air-sac mite, *Sternastoma tracheacolum* has reduced its numbers alarmingly.

Diet: Ripe or half-ripe grass seeds. During the breeding season, however, the diet consists almost entirely of insects. Insects are rich in protein and help satisfy the demanding appetite of the young birds. Birds feed in small to large groups, and food may be taken on the ground or in flight.

Breeding: Gouldian Finches breed readily both in colonies and as a pair in captivity. They use either open or covered nests. Both birds will build the nest. The female will lay a clutch of 4 to 8 eggs and they will hatch in 14 to 15 days. The young leave the nest about 18 to 21 days after they hatch and in 6 to 8 weeks will be on their own, after their first molt. Their adult plumage comes in between 6 and 12 months.

Cool Facts: This finch, sometimes called the “Lady Gouldian Finch”, was named for Elizabeth Gould, wife of the British ornithological artist John Gould. Since Gould was neither a lord nor a knight, Mrs Gould did not hold the title 'Lady', so this name is a modern misnomer. 'Gouldian Finch' is the more common and accepted name which is used internationally.

Gouldian Finches are the stars in the Viewsonic Corporation logos.

The Gouldian Finch is the only grassfinch that nests exclusively in tree hollows or holes in termite mounds.

Gouldian Finches are social and live in large groups all year long in the wild. They are friendly with other finches and do well when kept in groups. If you wish to mix bird types, they do very well in aviaries with Zebra Finches and Society Finches.

Common Name: Indian Ring-neck Parakeet
Scientific Name: *Psittacula krameri manillensis*

Size: 16 ½ inches (42 cm)

Habitat: Asia; Southern India, Ceylon and island of Rameswaram and introduced populations worldwide. Found in open country with trees, bush savannah, dry forests, often in cultivated areas, urban areas, parks and gardens.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown.

Diet: Seeds, fruits, berries, flowers and nectar (especially from *Salmalia* and *Erythrina* flowers); after breeding season gather in huge flocks and forage in grain, millet, rice and maize fields as well as fruit and coffee plantations, often causing considerable damage.

Breeding: December to May in India, November to June on Ceylon laying 3-6 eggs in abandoned woodpecker holes or palm trees. Ring-necks have a love/hate relationship with their partners and may become very aggressive and perhaps kill their partner before or after courtship. Both care for the nest and young.

Cool Facts: These birds were first bred by the people of India at least 3,000 years ago, and the creation of color mutations was practiced even then. The royals prized them as companion pets and for their speech abilities. It was a popular status symbol in Indian culture to have a parakeet. Ring-necks were the first parrots brought to the Grecian world. Even Socrates owned one and wrote of its beauty and speech abilities. Romans also bred them for pets in their aviaries. In the 1920's Ring-necks popularity increased worldwide and is now one of the most popular birds in the pet trade.

From about 20 known primary mutations, breeders have created 200-300 secondary mutations of the Ring-neck parakeet. Primary colors include: Lutino, Blue, Albino, Grey-green, Grey, Cinnamon, Turquoise, Dilute, some Fallow types, Clear-tail, Violet, Dark-green, Cobalt, Pied and many more. The Indian Ring-neck is considered one of the champions of color and feather mutations in the companion bird world.



Common Name: African Ring-neck Parakeet
Scientific Name: *Psittacula krameri krameri*

Size: 15 ¾ inches (40 cm)

Habitat: Africa; West Africa in Guinea, Senegal and Southern Mauretania, East to Western Uganda and Southern Sudan. Found in dry forests and savannah.

Status: Least Concern.

Global Population: Unknown.

Diet: Seeds, fruits, berries, flowers and nectar.

Breeding: August to November laying 3-6 eggs in abandon woodpecker holes or palm trees. Ring-necks have a love/hate relationship with their partners and may become very aggressive and perhaps kill their partner before or after courtship. Both care for the nest and young.

Cool Facts: The

differences between the African and Indian Ring Necks are slight. The African is slightly smaller and a little more yellow-green.

Ring-necks are gregarious, somewhat loud and love to chew on branches. They make excellent companion pets, are happy with moderate attention given to them. Most parrots are very needy, if alone.

In the wild, they form small groups to forage, while roosting occurs in larger flocks. The larger flocks can number more than one thousand birds. As with most parrots, they're noisy, conspicuous and far from shy. They prefer to stay in one area, only moving around in that area when foraging. The flight movement is swift and direct with rapid wing beats.



Common Name: Peach or Rosy-faced Lovebird
Scientific Name: *Agapornis roseicollis*

Size: 6 inches (15 cm)

Habitat: Africa; Northwest corner of South Africa, through the western half of Namibia, and into the southwest corner of Angola. Deserts, woodlands, and poorly wooded areas, as long as the few trees are located near water.



Status: Least Concern.

Global Population:
Unknown.

Diet: Seeds, especially from Albizia and Acacia, also flowers and some insects. In captivity, millet is amongst its favorites.

Breeding: Seasonal breeding in the wild and year-round in captivity. 4 to 6 eggs are laid in one season

Cool Facts: The peach-faced lovebird is the most popular lovebird in the pet trade, living 15 to 25 years.

Females are dominant and males must wait for the females' approval by assuming a fluffed position before approaching. M. Rowan in his 1983 work, *"The Doves, Parrots, Louries and Cuckoos of Southern Africa"* described the courtship: "Males feed their mates during courtship. Because feeding is an important component of the interaction between mates, males use head bobbing, similar to the movement used in feeding, to attract females. Scratching is also used during courtship. A male will position himself near a female and scratch her head, especially the area around the beak and the beak itself. When a male is trying to approach a female, he creeps towards her in a sideways fashion known as sidling. If she appears aggressive, he tries to approach from the other side in a process known as switch sidling; however, if she seems receptive he continues sidling toward her".

Being a very social bird, in the wild, it tends to move around in flocks of typically 5 and 20 birds. At times, when seeds ripen in their natural environment, groups of about 100 are not uncommon.

Common Name: Domestic & Wild Canary
Scientific Name: *Serinus canaria (domesticus)*

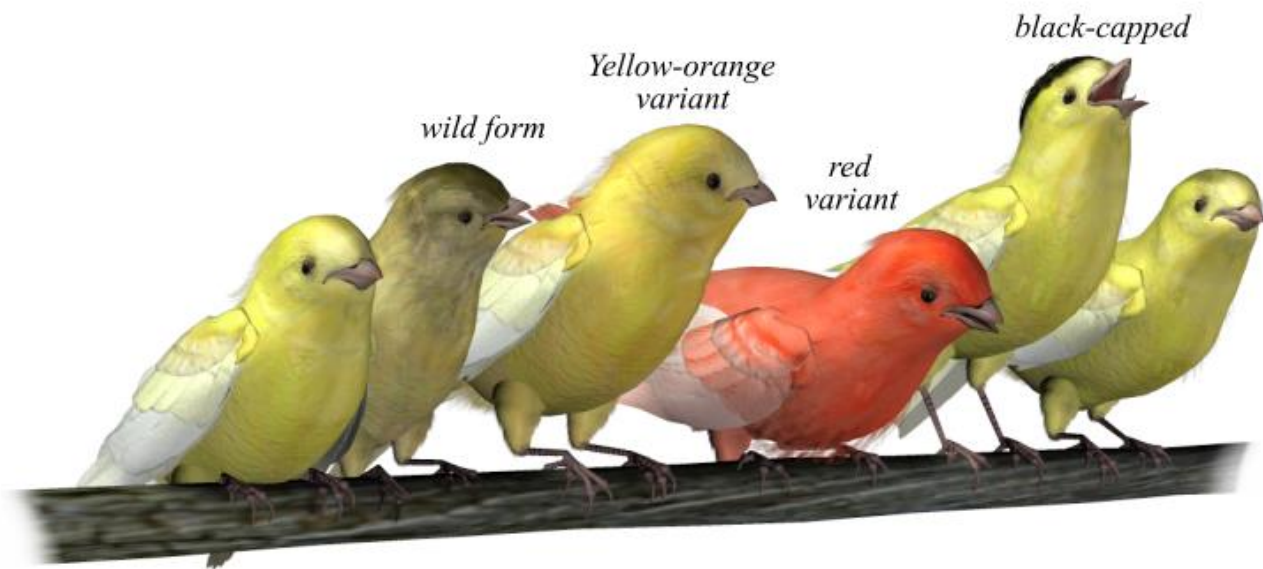
Size: Domestic: 4 ½ to 8 inches (11.5-20 cm); Wild: 5 to 5 ½ inches (12.5-13.5 cm)

Habitat: Africa; Madeira and the Canary Islands.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** 60,000 - 300,000 Mature individuals in the Wild.

Diet: Seed, some fruit and insects.

Breeding: In captivity, canaries can breed year-round; with a hen laying four to six eggs a month. Male and female sometimes will act aggressively toward each other and, if in captivity, should be separated.



Cool Facts: While you'd assume the Canary Islands were named for the canaries that were found there, they were actually named for *canaria*, "of the dogs" in Latin, referring to the numerous wild dogs that were found there by the Romans.

Canaries were first bred in captivity in the 1600s by Monks. They were brought over by Spanish sailors to Europe. At first, the monks only sold male canaries which were prized for their singing abilities. This also kept the birds in short supply and drove the price up. Eventually Italians obtained females and started breeding them, driving down the price. This made them very popular and resulted in many variants arising and the birds being bred all over Europe.

Canary in the Coal Mine? Miners used canaries as early forms of carbon monoxide or methane detection in mines. Three or more canaries were taken down new shafts, and if one or more exhibited abnormal behavior, they determined that the shaft was unsafe. Their high metabolism rate makes them susceptible to toxic fumes. The use of canaries in British mines was phased out in 1986. In the first Mercedes-Benz airbag tests, canaries rode shotgun to check for leaks from the airbag.

Canaries are territorial and not social. Two or more males in a cage will stop all males from singing. They generally do not appreciate company in the same cage. It will be seen as an intruder, not as a companion.

Although, caged canaries seem to appreciate a solitary existence, they do require a frequent change of scenery to be happy, such as trading toys and cage locations. Canaries are susceptible to fumes and drafts and should not be placed in the kitchen or by open windows.

“Tweety Bird” of Warner Bros Cartoon fame is probably the most famous canary.

Common Name: Small Buttonquail
Scientific Name: *Turnix sylvatica*

Size: 7 inches (18cm)

Habitat: Eurasia and Africa; Southern Spain and Africa through India and tropical Asia to Indonesia. Found in warm grasslands or or scrub jungle.

Status: Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown.

Diet: Feeds on the ground, eating insects and seeds. As pets, they are very fond of mealworms.

Breeding: The female initiates courtship and builds the ground nest. The male incubates the normally four speckled greyish eggs, and tends the young, which can run as soon as they are hatched.



Cool Facts: While Buttonquail resemble and carry the Quail name, they are not related to true Quail. They, in fact, are part of the (Charadriiformes) shorebird family.

They prefer to run and avoid flying. The female calls with a deep *hoom-hoom-hoom* and the male replies *kek-kek-kek*.

As companion pets, Buttonquail are neat and relatively quiet. They are very active, always searching for seed and whatever else they can find. Some people use Buttonquail as a way to keep the bottoms of their aviaries clear of spilled seed. They can become very tame if raised by hand.

Common Name: Sun Conure or Sun Parakeet
Scientific Name: *Aratinga solstitialis*

Size: 12 inches (30 cm)

Habitat: South America; restricted to central Guyana and Roraima state, Brazil, and may previously have occurred in Surinam. Found in the canopy of forests.

Status: Endangered.

Global Population:
1,000-2,499 mature individuals in the wild.

Due to high demand in the pet trade this once common species has declined dramatically during the last twenty years. It has been heavily exported from Guyana during this time, leading its virtual extirpation from that country. Trappers from Guyana and French Guiana have since travelled over the border to Brazil to buy birds for export. An annual export quota of 600 birds was set by Guyana in the 1980s and it is thought that more than 2,200 were imported into the United States between 1981 and 1985. Trade is ongoing, and due to the ease with which birds can be attracted to bait (e.g. corn) and the large distances they will travel it is easy to trap all the individuals in an area



Diet: Seed, flowers, fruit, vegetables and occasionally insects. Cabbage, avocado, iceberg lettuce and parsley can harm conures.

Breeding: Occurs in the spring and winter, although spring breeding is more common. The incubation period is 23 days and is usually a clutch of four to five.

Cool Facts: This Conure relatively common in captivity, but it is not known what percentage of this population are hybrids between *A. s. solstitialis* and *A. s. pintoii*. The Sun Conure, once known as the “Sun Parakeet” can live 25 to 30 years.

It is very gregarious and can be quite loud domestically if it feels it isn't getting the proper amount of attention. It needs almost constant stimulation during it's waking hours such as interaction with other birds, humans or toys. As with most parrots, it is a voracious wood chewer.

The Sun Conure can learn to “talk” and can acquire a moderate vocabulary for a parrot. Although many believe parrots only mimic what they hear, Parrots do associate those mimicked words with an action or situation.

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