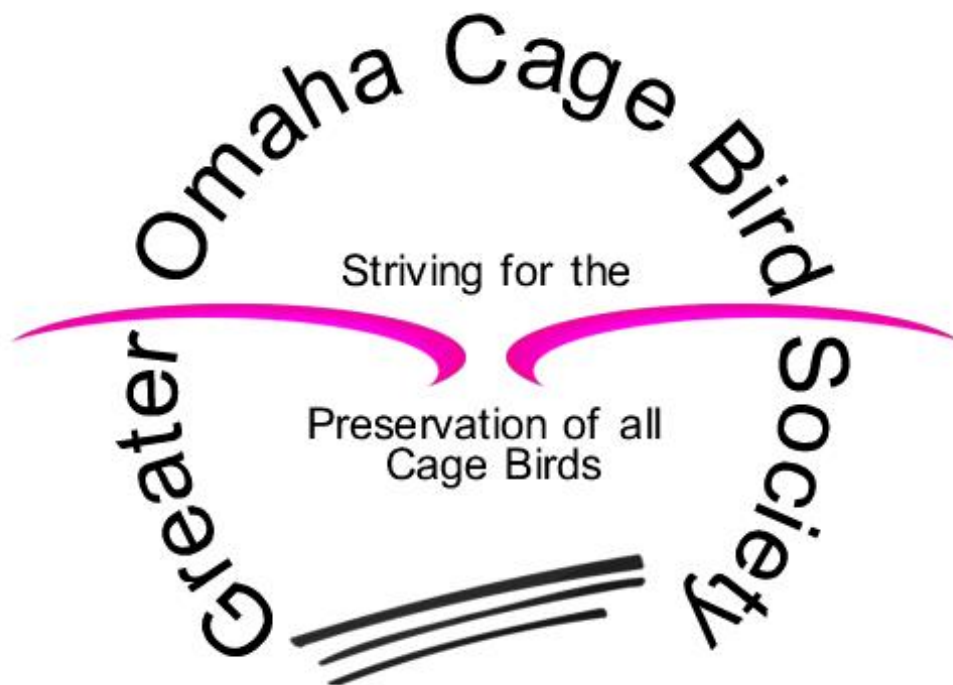


GOCBS NEWS LINE

January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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President	Rick Kling renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686
Vice President	Michelle Mutchler-Burns gopack8763@aol.com	(712) 322-1448
Treasurer	Marcia Delehoy plbs@qwestoffice.net	(402) 453-5235
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Newsletter	Elsa Ashelford pandora1641@yahoo.com	(402) 309-0683
2011 GOCBS Officer Trustees		
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Adoption - Placement		
	Michelle Mutchler-Burns (Iowa)	(712) 322-1448
2011 GOCBS Fair Coordinator		
	Rick Kling renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686

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Presidents Letter - January 2012

Dear GOCBS Members,

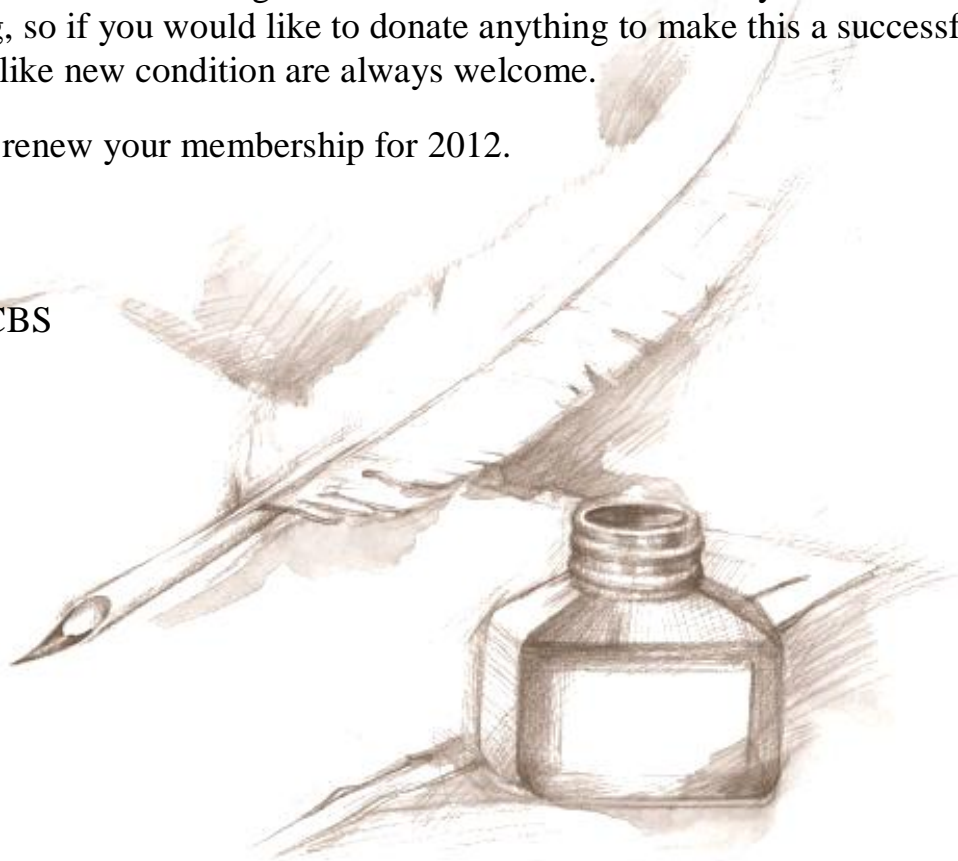
Can you believe the awesome weather to start out the winter season? Here we are in January and the start of another year. With the elections, we welcome the new board for 2012 and will introduce them at the January meeting.

THANK YOU to all of you that brought things to share at the holiday party resulting in a day that was enjoyed by all.

With the start of the New Year, it is always a good time to get new ideas for the direction of the club. If you have any ideas we would like to hear them. Here are a few examples: Do you have any ideas on where the club could hold an information table? This may be at schools, nursing homes, etc. Are you experienced in a certain bird related topic that you may want to present at a club meeting? If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to volunteer at events you can talk to any board member at the meetings. Please remember that we always have a raffle at each meeting, so if you would like to donate anything to make this a successful event, items in like new condition are always welcome.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2012.

Thank you,
Rick Kling
President, GOCBS



Taxonomy Update

Compiled by Chloe Welstead
Certified Avian Specialist - Certified Aviculturist II

Parrots, also known as psittacines are birds of the roughly 372 species in 86 genera that make up the order Psittaciformes, found in most tropical and subtropical regions. The order is subdivided into three families: the Psittacidae ('true' parrots), the Cacatuidae (cockatoos) and the Strigopidae (New Zealand parrots).

Macaws, Amazons, Lorikeets, Cockatoos, Lovebirds, Parakeets and many others are all considered parrots.

Parrot evolutionary groups (families) is in flux. The classifications below reflect the current status, which is disputed and therefore subject to change when new studies resolve some open questions. The Psittaciformes comprise three main lineages: Strigopidae, Psittacidae and Cacatuidae.

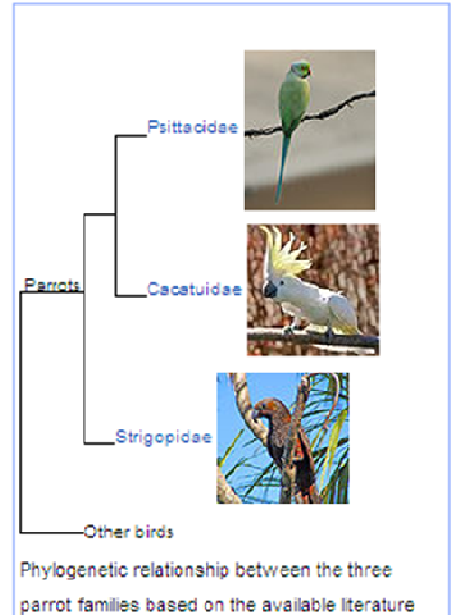
The Strigopidae were considered part of the Psittacidae, but recent studies place this group of New Zealand species at the base of the parrot tree next to the remaining members of the Psittacidae as well as all members of the Cacatuidae.

The Cacatuidae (cockatoos & cockatiels) are quite distinct, having a movable head crest, a different arrangement of the carotid arteries, a gall bladder, differences in the skull bones, and lack the Dyck texture feathers which, in the Psittacidae, scatters light in such a way as to produce the vibrant colors of so many parrots. Colorful feathers with high levels of *psittacofulvin* resist the feather-degrading bacterium *Bacillus licheniformis* better than white ones.

The Psittacidae family, true parrots are about 330 species of birds in the biological order Psittaciformes. True parrots are more widespread than cockatoos & New Zealand parrots, with species in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia and east across the Pacific Ocean as far as Polynesia.

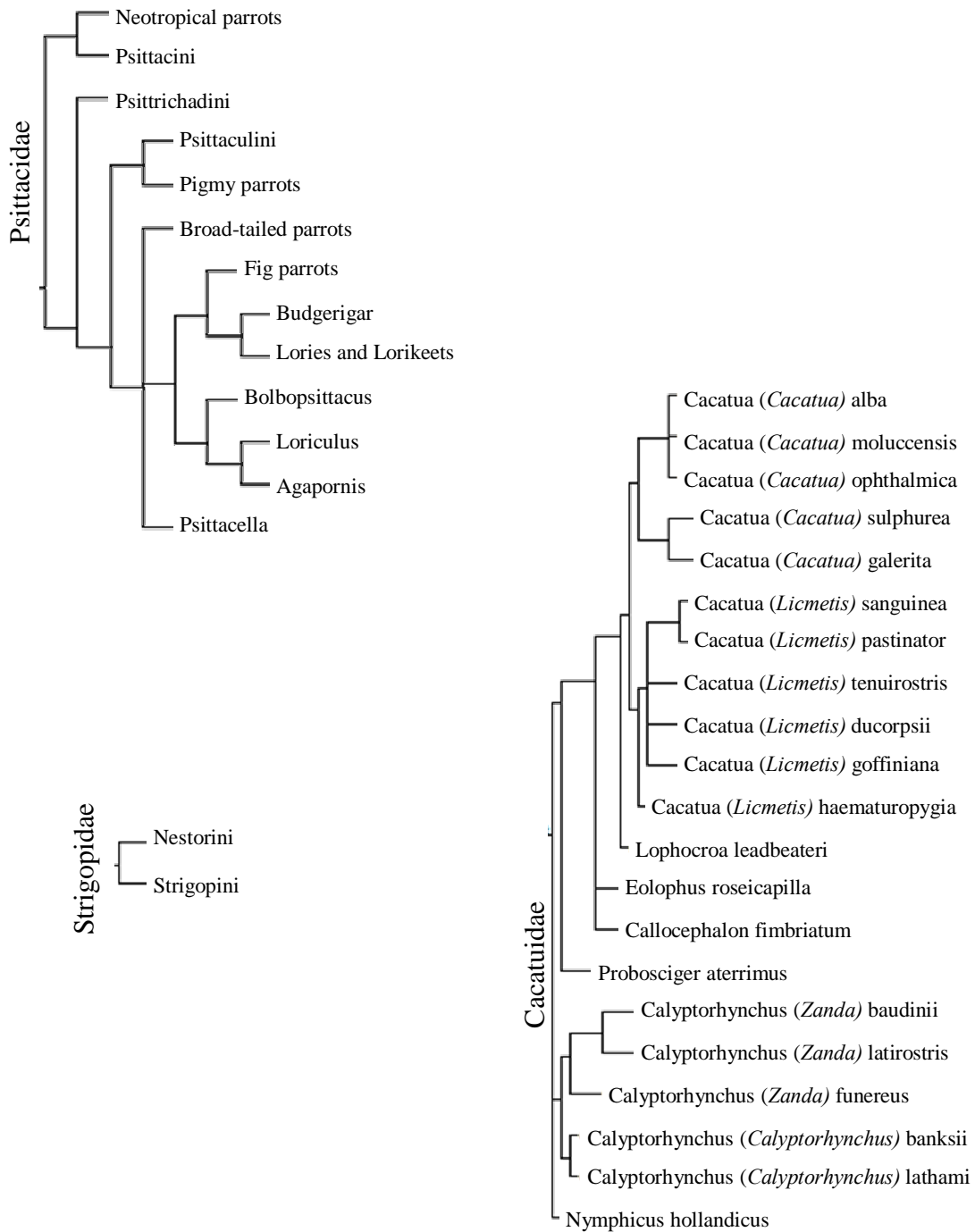
Lorikeets were previously regarded as a third family, Loriidae, but studies using large amounts of DNA data place the group in the middle of the Psittacidae family, with as closest relatives the fig parrots and the Budgerigar Parakeet.

Though there is great diversity among these birds, there are similarities as well. All parrots have curved beaks and all are zygodactyls, meaning they have four toes on each foot,



Continued on page 5

two pointing forward and two projecting backward. Most parrots eat fruit, flowers, buds, nuts, seeds, and some small creatures such as insects. Parrots are found in warm climates all over most of the world. The greatest diversities exist in Australasia, Central America, and South America.



Easy, Fun Bird Toys That You Can Make At Home!

By Alyson Kalhagen, About.com Guide

Assemble Your Materials

Being especially intelligent animals, it is important for birds to receive adequate mental stimulation in order to keep from becoming bored, depressed, and destructive. The easiest way to fulfill this need is to supply your pet with plenty of bird-safe toys.

Because birds need their toys to be changed out frequently, and because many times their toys end up shredded, broken, or otherwise torn apart, it can help to have a few extras on hand. One creative way to provide your bird with fun toys is to make them yourself at home.

Cardboard toys are clean, non-toxic, disposable, and fun, all of which make them wonderful for both birds and owners. To make some simple toys for your bird, you will need to gather the necessary materials. Once your supplies are gathered together, spread newspaper out over your work space to protect any surfaces from the food dye.



- 1 or 2 cardboard paper towel tubes
- Food Coloring
- A clean new paintbrush (any size)
- Scissors
- Four small containers for dye
- 2 cups of cold water
- Newspaper (to cover work area)

Prepare the dye

Once your work space is clear and covered with newspaper, you should begin to prepare the dye that you will use to color the cardboard.

Start by adding 1/2 cup of water to each of the four containers. Then, in each one, place 30 - 45 drops of food coloring, so that the dye is very dark.

Since cardboard is brown rather than white, the dye must be very dark so that it will show up once the tube is dry.

Continued on page 8

GOCBS meets at 3:00 PM
Hope to see you there!

Our Meeting Location!



Nebraska
Humane Society

8949 Fort Street
Omaha, Nebraska



GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

WHO NEEDS BIRD CLUBS ANYWAY?

If you keep birds as pets or raise them for a hobby, ***YOU DO!!***

Bird clubs are great resources for anyone interested in keeping birds. All bird owners go through similar experiences, so the sources of information about a variety of subjects can be a big help. Club members can recommend places to buy your supplies, teach you how to hand feed babies, and refer you to a qualified avian veterinarian. Or, if you have had a lot of experience, you may be able to help share that type of information with someone else who is just getting started out.

Bird clubs can also keep you aware of current legislation that may affect which species of birds you may keep or how many. Clubs may have functions that would interest you, such as fairs, shows, swap meets, and clinics. Meetings may include guest speakers. Even if you join only to get the newsletters, you will be well-informed! Another great benefit is that you meet a lot of people with similar interests, and some great, long-lasting friendships may evolve!

Meetings & Special Event Dates

Meeting	January 15
Meeting	February 19

Paint Colors on the tube

After the colors are mixed, use a paintbrush to paint the dye onto the cardboard tube. Make sure to use a new, clean paintbrush.

Brushes that have been used before can harbor remnants of potentially toxic paints, which could make your bird sick if he ingests them.

Use a basting motion to transfer the dye to the tube, and be sure to completely saturate the cardboard with color to get a bright result once it is dry.

Don't worry if the colors mix or run together. This can create a neat tie-dyed effect that many birds enjoy!

Stand Tube Upright to Dry

Once the tube has been painted, stand it upright on a paper towel or piece of newspaper to dry over night. Make sure to stand the tube on the end that has darker colors, as the dye will probably drip down a bit during the drying process.

Then you are done coloring the tubes, place them upright in a safe place to dry overnight. Make sure that the tubes are completely dry before attempting to cut them. The wet tubes are very flimsy and fragile and could fall apart if not allowed to dry thoroughly.

If you can't wait to surprise your bird, it is possible to speed up the drying process by using a hairdryer on a low setting. Make sure to work over the newspaper when doing this, as the force from the dryer sometimes sends droplets of dye flying!

Cut the tube

After the tube is dry, use scissors to cut spirals, rings, and other shapes out of the cardboard. Don't be afraid to get creative with this project.

There are endless modifications you can make to these toys with items that are laying around the house. For example, if you have some twine on hand, try stringing together a few cardboard rings to make a chain. If you have a few large buttons, attach them to a ring of cardboard to make an interesting plaything for your bird.



When cutting the shapes, rings and spirals out of the tube, make sure to discard the parts of the tube that have rings of glue on them, so your bird does not end up eating it!

Although most of the glue washes off in the painting process, the amount that remains could be toxic if ingested. Please remember to cut these parts of the tube out and not offer them to your bird.



Present Your Bird with the toys

When you have cut the tubes into shapes that you like, give the toys to your bird. Some birds may be apprehensive of the new objects at first -- if this happens, simply place the toys near his cage until he is sure that they pose no threat.

If you have cut the tubes into spirals and rings, a fun thing to do with them is to thread them around the bars of your bird's cage. Your pet will have a ball trying to figure out how to get them off, and once he does, he will have a fun colorful prize that he can shred up and play with.

Remember that these toys are meant to be short-term, disposable entertainment for your bird. Never leave them in your bird's cage for more than 24 hours. There is a chance that bacteria could grow on the cardboard, which could lead to health problems for your pet. **Keep playtime safe by removing these toys after a day's worth of fun.**

There are no right or wrong ways to go about completing this project, as long as you and your bird enjoy yourselves. Be creative, and try different techniques. You may be surprised to find that your bird prefers your homemade creations to store bought toys. Have fun!

Some parrot species must fly over 500 miles a day in the wild to forage for food. So, how much exercise does your parrot get?

At any given time, there are anywhere between one and two billion living birds on the planet.

A bird's feathers weigh more than its skeleton does. Light as a feather??

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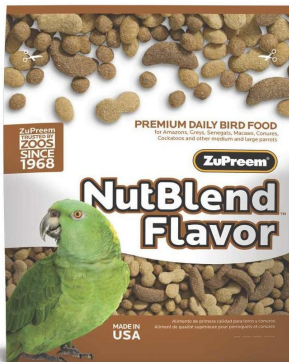
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Parrots come in almost every color of the rainbow, but the eggs are always white.

Parrots don't have vocal cords, so they are actually trumpeting the sound you hear by pushing air out of their trachea. They can control the pitch of the sound by manipulating the shape and depth of the trachea. Experts say that when parrots talk, they are actually making variations on whistling.

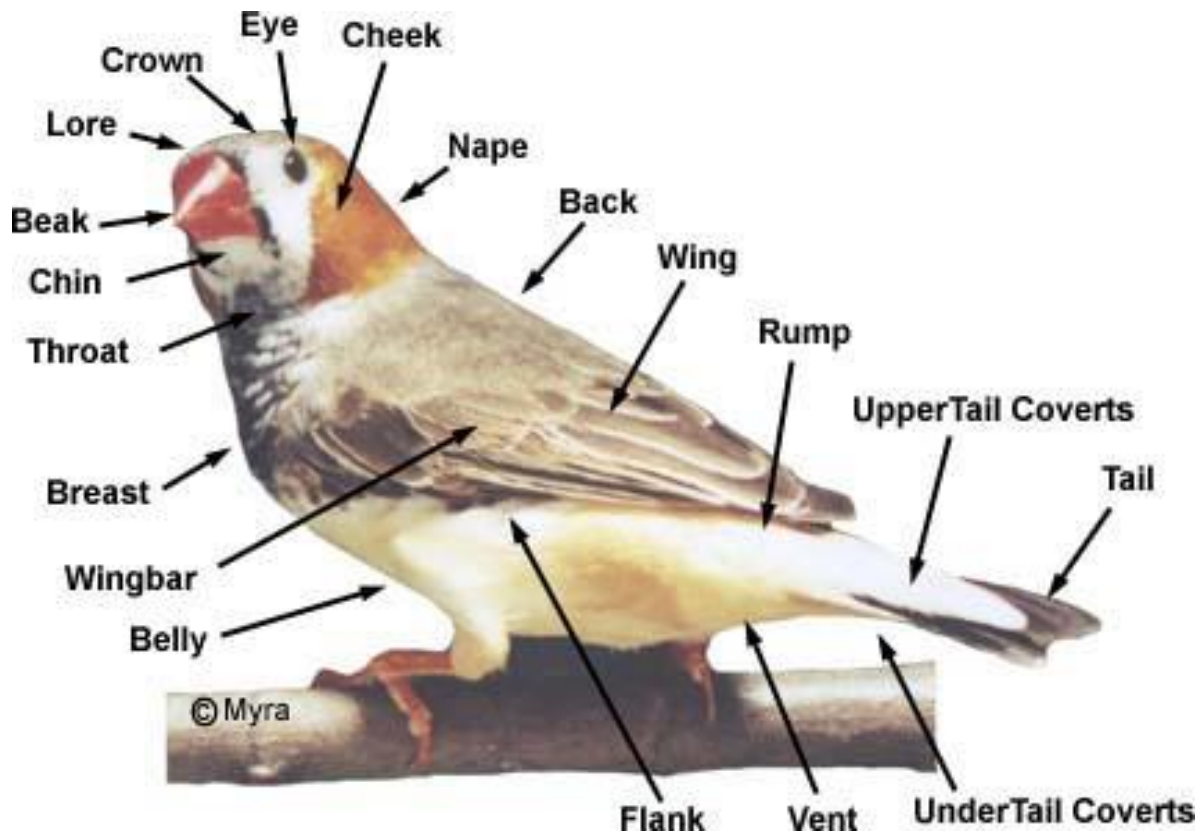
Parts of a Finch

By Myra www.LadyGouldianFinch.com

... a red headed, blue back, purple breasted what??

You look at a finch and see a small bird. It's pretty; color here, color there, a beak and a tail. We know the basic external structures from school when we were kids. Beak, tail, eye, wing, foot, leg, head, back, and so on. The basics alone are plenty for most people, there's no need to know any of the specific areas and their proper names. Unless, of course, you plan to breed mutations or show birds as a profession or hobby. Just what is what on a finch and why is it so important to know them?

We'll start at the top and work our way around the body...



Lore: This is the area around the nostrils or just behind it. In the Zebra finch and in most domestic finches the lore isn't referenced often. However if you are into wild bird watching or breeding Softbills it does help to know where this structure is.

Crown: The top of the head. In crested finches and Parrots, the crown is also the crest area.

Continued on page 12

Cheek: Also known as the Ear Patch in some wild birds and Softbills. It's often only referred to as the cheek if there is a specific markings to look for in that area (example: red-cheeked cordon bleu). In the photo shows above the Black Breast mutation of the Zebra finch, the cheek markings extend around to the back of the head.

Nape: The Yellow Naped Amazon always springs to mind when I hear the nape referred to. The nape is really just the area at the base of the head or the neck. Most finches don't have nape specific markings but several Parrots, and Softbills do.

Back: A basic structure but referred to when talking about the Saddle Backed Pied Zebra or Light Backed Zebra.

Wing: Another simple one.

Rump: Not the butt, as most people think. The rump is where the topside of the tail meets the body. The species Rosey-Rumped Waxbill, for example, will have a soft red color in this rump area, it's a distinguishing feature.

Upper Tail Coverts: My photo doesn't show these well. If you'd seen a Grey Zebra and noticed the 2 to 3 semi-long feathers on the tail that show the black and white zebra stripes you've seen the uppertail coverts. These coverts aren't always very long and they form a bridge between the rump and the tail.

Finch egg next to a dime. Photo from wikipedia.org



Tail: Another one from the good old school days. Tails may be short and stubby, long and powerful, or fancy and purely decoration but they are always called the tail.

Undertail Coverts: Just like the uppertail coverts only on the underside. :)

Vent: Here's the butt. It also refers to the feathers and their special coloring (if there is any) around the vent opening.

Flank: A popular term among zebra finch breeders. The flanks are located on each side of the body and just below each wing. Again I will apologize for the photo. This particular bird doesn't show his flanks well at all.

Belly: Fairly forthright, it's the area below the breast, between the legs, and above the vent. A rather large area in fact.

Wingbar: The long feathers on the wing are the primary flight feathers, the shorter ones just above those are the Wingbar area. The term wingbar is almost always used to describe an area of color only. If we were talking about the actual feathers they would be greater primary and secondary coverts.

Breast: This one is easy. It's that round area below the bird's head. In the Zebra Finch the Breast bar is easy to spot. It's solid black in most mutations. Even Owl finches have a thin black bar that runs across the base of the breast.

Throat: It's really the entire area between the chin and the breast. Long-tail Grass-finches have a wonderful black bib pattern that covers the throat area and sometimes touches the top of the breast area.

Chin: Right below the lower half of the beak there is a little chin area. Chins aren't commonly referred to when talking about finches but some Softbill and Parrot species have little tufts of feathers in this spot.

Beak: The beak is a very prominent feature on any bird. You can get a rough idea of a bird's basic diet simply by looking at the shape of its beak. Some birds have simple beaks others have fancy shapes and colors, all serve their purpose.

There are more specific structures on a bird such as the different types of feathers on the wing, tail, and body but I'm not going to go into that much detail. This is simply to give you a better understanding of what breeders and show judges are talking about when reviewing various species of birds.

© lady gouldian finch.com 2011

Most parrots will love seed and flowers, but there are some that don't mind a little ðsteakö. The Golden-winged Parakeets like to eat water snails, the New Zealand Kees even scavenge abandoned sheep carcasses.

The majority of parrot conservation efforts are actually spearheaded by pet owners who love the birds and want to make sure they thrive. The projects have helped fund zoo and wild life centers, and have led to brochures and other important collaterals distributed to schools nationwide.

According to the BBC, the oldest parrot on record is a Blue & Gold Macaw named Charlie. He is believed to be 104 years old and was owned at one time by Winston Churchill.

G O C B S W A N T A D S

Want ads are available to members at no cost for five (5) lines. If you are interested in more or are a non-member, the fee is \$5.00 per issue. GOCBS does not guarantee the health, quality, etc. of items listed for sale in these ads. All agreements are between buyer and seller. Verify prices, quantity and species of birds with the seller.

For Sale:

White-ear Conure *Pyrrhura leucotis*, 2 year old Male (surgically sexed by Dr. Scott McDonald. Tame, likes to talk (Pretty Bird, laughs, etc) \$400 negotiable

Contact Bev 712-484-3647 Email: mbmkscar@aol.com

For Sale:

20-year-old DNA-sexed male Green-Cheek/Mexican Red Head Amazon.

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- 2 Cut Throat Finches

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GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

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Bird clubs are great resources for anyone interested in keeping birds. All bird owners go through similar experiences, so the sources of information about a variety of subjects can be a big help.

Membership fees are as follows:

	<i>January - December</i>	<i>July-December 1/2 Price</i>
Junior (under 16)	\$7.50/year	\$3.75
Single	\$15.00/year	\$7.50
Family	\$20.00/year	\$10.00
Business Associate	\$20.00/year	\$10.00

Meetings are at 3:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Nebraska Humane Society, 8929 Fort Street, Omaha, Nebraska

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO G.O.C.B.S.

Please fill out the following information:

Date: _____ New membership: ____ Renewal membership: ____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

(DON'T FORGET ZIP CODE)

Birth Date: Month/Day (only) _____ (list all names from above)

Home phone: _____ (____roster or ____unlisted)

Work phone: _____ (____roster or ____unlisted)

E-Mail Address: _____ (for Newsletter)

Pet birds: _____

Birds you breed: _____

**Please bring this to one of the meetings or mail to:
GOCBS, c/o Ginger Bostwick, 4406 State St., Omaha, NE 68112**

Year _____ Pd \$ _____ ca/ck j____ s____ f____ ba_____

Updated May 2011



Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society
3604 North 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Don't Forget!

