



Free Flight Location:
Level 3

Free Flight Location: Level 4

This level refers to increasing further skill. Where as at previous levels we are working on teaching navigation at this level we are working on flying your bird at slightly more open locations.

A level 4 location should:

- Be a bit more open, but still have some trees for security
- Have some more elevation

Your bird should not fly here unless they are fully reliable. Flying in a more wide open space can be overwhelming to some birds.



Free Flight Location:
Level 4

Free Flight Location: Level 5

This level refers to fully enjoying the reliability of your bird. It is not for everyone or for every bird.

A level 5 location should:

- Have plenty of elevation
- Offer little trees for security (though I am a strong believer that there should always be trees somewhere for smaller species.)

Your bird should NOT fly at this location if they are not fully reliable. Recovery here is incredibly difficult.



Free Flight Location:
Level 5

Why Is Navigation Important?

- Navigation by definition is: “The process of activity of accurately ascertaining ones position and planning and following a route.”
- Navigation is incredibly important because it gives the birds the skill needed to return to you if they go out of sight. Birds don't just understand how to do this, they need to learn. An understanding of navigation can also help prevent your bird from getting lost. Please keep in mind that some species, such as cockatiels, require more on sound for navigation than just eye sight.



Teaching Navigation

Do you know how to teach your bird navigation?

Use your location choice to your advantage. Navigation isn't something that you can train and reward your bird for. It's something they need to figure out by being set up in the correct progressing locations.

Use trees to your advantage to train navigation. A location with dotted around trees encourages your birds to fly around them, giving them time where they don't see you. Slow exposure to out of sight time teaches your bird to use their surroundings to find their way back to you. Hills can also be useful.

Flying Your Birds Together

- Your bird should be confidently flying exploratory flights before you fly them with other birds. If your birds are of different stamina levels you shouldn't fly them together until the stamina levels are similar.
- Don't expect your birds to flock on the first free flight. There is a high chance they will both fly independently and you will become cross eyed trying to keep an eye on them!



Meeting With Other Free Fliers

- Once you are confident that your bird is flying exploratory flights confidently then it is time for you to look at meeting other free fliers to fly your birds together. This is always a really fun thing to do as everybody's birds can experience flocking behaviour together (although birds don't always flock initially!)
- Welcome to the mad world of free flight meets!





Continue Flying Your Birds Separately At Times

Why should you do this?

- Creates individual confidence
- Aids in teaching navigation
- Prevents complete dependency on another bird
- Ensures you continue with training
- Helps your bird focus on basics





When To Stop Bringing A Perch

- A perch is helpful to have as you can hang your carrier on it which makes it easier to put your bird into it.
- Once your bird is a confident free flier you can stop bringing the perch. You will know when they get to this stage as your bird will understand navigation, have gained a lot of skill and is responsive to you.

Congratulations!

- You have officially finished the entire course! Well done! Before we finish this PowerPoint I want you to tell me how to train a parrot to free fly. You have 1 minute! Go!
- You'll realise that teaching a bird to free fly is actually insanely easy. You just have to have the correct knowledge behind it!

