

# BIIRD

## BUYING GUIDE

New Friend	Best Parents	Habitat	Perches	Food	Did You Know?	Accessories I Love
<b>Finch</b>	Age 3 to 99 that like to observe	A long cage for flight; minimum 30 inches long x 18 wide x 18 tall for a pair of zebra finches.  Use Aspen, hardwood, newspaper, paper towel, or a pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it. Include one nest per couple.	Minimum of two (2) perches (plus one per each bird) made from dowelling, plastic or wood ranging in diameter from 3/4" to 5/8".  Include one sandy or concrete perch to keep nails trimmed.	Fresh water. High quality finch seed mix. Sprouted seeds. Millet sprays and egg food supplements (sparingly), plus greens like romaine lettuce, dandelion greens, kale, spinach and fresh fruit and vegetables. Calcium supplement or cuttlebone or crushed oyster or eggshells.	Active and fun to watch, but not handle. Chirps and peeps. Quieter than most birds. Comes in many colors. Easy to care for. Can be left alone while you are at work/school. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Needs a buddy. Please buy two or more! Live 4-10 years.	Water & food feeders. Shallow dish for a bird bath, a hay ball for foraging, a swing or swinging rope, a nest receptacle, a dim night light, visual barriers like silk or non-toxic plants, toys, mirrors, and bells. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Canary</b>	Age 3 to 99 that like to observe	20 inches wide x 24 long or longer for flight.  Bars should be spaced 3/8 inch or closer. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	Wood perches of varying diameters and irregular shapes from 3/8" to 3/4". One concrete perch for nail trimming.  DO NOT use sandpaper perches.	Fresh water.  High quality seed mix and canary pellets. Live, canned or freeze-dried mealworms, crickets and waxworms. Fresh greens; kale, broccoli, dandelions, spinach, celery, peas and watercress. Fresh fruit; apples, oranges, grapes, bananas and melon. Hard-boiled egg. Cuttlebone.	Cheerful little songbird finch. They like the company of people, but do not like to be held. They come in many colors. A solitary bird but does well with other small birds. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Easy to care for. Excellent starter bird.  Live 9-10 years.	Water & food feeders. A single toy and a mirror. Shallow dish for a bath. Damp dandelion leaves or grasses in bottom of cage for a few hours. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Budgie Parakeet</b>	Age 10 and up, with a patient touch	Minimum of 20 inches high x 20 inches deep x 20" long or longer.  Horizontal bars. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	Variety of perches, but only one or two perches in the cage at a time. 3/4" inch diameter. Oak, maple, fruit tree limbs for chewing. One concrete perch for nail trimming.  DO NOT use sandpaper perches.	Fresh water.  High quality pellets and seeds. Fresh vegetables; carrots, broccoli, corn, spinach, beans, etc.) and fruit. Sprouted seeds. Cuttlebone.	This little parakeet is friendly, gentle and need lots of attention and time outside of their cage to fly. Hand-taming is easier if the bird is very young. May mimic human speech. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Needs companionship; either people or another bird. Live 7-14 years.	Water & food feeders. A large playground. A variety of toys (rotate often). A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Lovebird</b>	Age 12 and up, with time to cuddle	Minimum of 24 inches tall x 24 wide x 24 tall.  Horizontal bars spaced 3/8 to 5/8 inch apart. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	A variety of perch sizes made from natural materials. Perches should be about 3/8" to 3/4" in diameter.  One concrete perch for nail trimming.	Fresh water.  High quality pellets and seeds (less than 25% of diet). Grasses, dried pasta, fruits and vegetables. Cuttlebone.	Colorful mini-parrot or 'pocket parrot'. Playful and curious. Social and cuddly if handled frequently when young. Chirps and squawks, but quieter than larger parrots. May screech for attention. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Needs companionship; either people or another bird. Live 10-15 years.	Water & food feeders. Chew-safe toys of wood, leather, acrylic or rawhide. Bells, ladders and tubes. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Conure</b>	Age 12 and up, with lots of time to interact	Minimum of 24 inches wide x 24 deep x 24 tall.  Bar spacing 5/8 inch to 3/4 inch. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	Perches made of softwoods or soft plastic hoses or wrapped in cotton, cork, carpet, flannel or felt. Perches should be about 5/8" to 1" in diameter. One concrete perch for nail trimming.	Fresh water.  High quality small parrot mix, supplemented with various fruits, green foods, millet spray, and occasional mealworms. Cuttlebone.	Big personalities! Smart, active and like to play, explore, chew and be touched. Need lots of direct interaction and trained to encourage good behavior. Can be taught tricks. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  NOT for those who are at work/school much of the day. Live 15-25 years.	Water & food feeders. Toys for chewing to save your furniture! Bird play pen. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Cockatiel</b>	Age 12 and up	Minimum of 36 inches wide x 20 deep x 26 tall.  Chew resistant. Horizontal bars with spacing no larger than 3/8 inch. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	Perches made of softwoods (maple or fruit trees) or soft plastic hoses or dowels wrapped in cotton, cork, carpet, flannel or felt. Perches should be about 3/4" in diameter. One concrete perch for nail trimming.	Fresh water.  High quality pellets and seeds (less than 30% of diet), various fruits and vegetables, hard-boiled eggs, legumes, cooked meats, dog food and sprouted seeds. Cuttlebone.	This small parrot is friendly, playful, gentle and easy to tame. Likes being held, but not cuddled. Can mimic speech and taught to whistle tunes. Untamed, it may nip. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Need daily time outside of cage. Clip wings & nails 2 times per year. Needs companionship of people or another bird. Will bond with people or another bird, but not both. Live 15-25 years.	Metal or ceramic water & food & seed feeders. Ladders and toys. Mirror. Cage skirt. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Cockatoo</b>	Age 18 and up, with a lot of time to devote to the bird	Smaller cockatoos: 30 inch x 36 x 48 with bar spacings of 3/4 to 1 inch. Larger Cockatoos: 24 inch x 48 x 48 with bar spacings of 1 to 1 1/2 inches.  Wrought iron or stainless. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	Perches made of wood. One that is very strong, and a few that are of lighter wood (e.g., willow, beech and fruit). One concrete perch for nail trimming.  Large enough in diameter that toes do not touch.	Fresh water.  High quality pellets should provide about 80% of diet. The other 20%; seeds, fruits, vegetables, lean meats, eggs, rice, beans, and pasta. Cuttlebone or shell grit.	Depending upon the species, can be sweet, playful, intelligent, and loud. Most require a lot of interaction. Need daily time outside of cage.  May have a powerful bite. Research species before purchase; e.g., Bare-eyed cockatoos are good for families with children. Goffin's bond strongly with owners. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Can live 40-80 years.	Metal or ceramic water & food & seed feeders. Chew toys! Softwood toys, tree branches, vegetable tanned leather, rope toys (supervise use), bells and cardboard. Hanging toys and toys that can be picked up with their feet. Toys with hanging strands to promote preening. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Quaker</b>	Age 12 and up, with time and patients	Minimum of 24 inches wide x 24 deep x 24 tall.  Made of a tough material and solid latches. Quakers love to chew and work to escape. Newspaper, paper towel or pet liner in bottom of cage. No walnut shell bedding! Cob is OK, if bird does not come into contact with it.	A variety of wood perches. Safe choices include birch, alder, hazelnut, poplar, willow, beech, elm and Manzanita. Perches should be about 3/4" to 1 1/4" in diameter. One concrete perch for nail trimming.	Fresh water.  High quality pellets, fruits, vegetables, and nuts they eat in the wild. Root vegetables, peppers and colorful produce are essential. Healthy seeds; hemp, flax and chia. Millet sprigs. Cuttlebone.	This parrot is social, active, outgoing and cuddly. It is known for its funny personality and ability to mimic sounds and singing. They like to chatter. Handfed Quakers are gentle. Need daily time outside of cage. * Refer to list of bird hazards below.  Bond closely with one owners. Aggressive only if neglected. Illegal in some states. Can live 15-30 years.	Metal or ceramic water & food & seed feeders. Toys, including chew and foraging toys, a play gym, balls, bells, puzzle toys, and a bird bath. Nest building materials. A bird cage cover. A care book.
<b>Large Parrot</b>	Age 18 and up	Varies depending upon species.	A variety of durable and natural perches.  Perches should be about 2" to 3 1/2" in diameter.  Concrete perch for nail trimming.	Varies depending upon species, but generally consists of high-quality pellets, fruits, vegetables and large seed mix.	Large birds are fascinating and can enrich your life. African Greys have been kept as pets for centuries impressing with their intelligence and ability to mimic humans. Amazon parrot owners are among the happiest enjoying these funny birds with excellent speech. Macaws are lively and make great companions. Before purchase, DO YOUR RESEARCH! Large parrots can be dangerous, messy, expensive and they live 30-80 years or more.	Varies depending upon species, but most will enjoy large wooden toys, chew and foraging toys, balls, bells, puzzle toys and a bird bath. Metal or ceramic water & food & seed feeders.