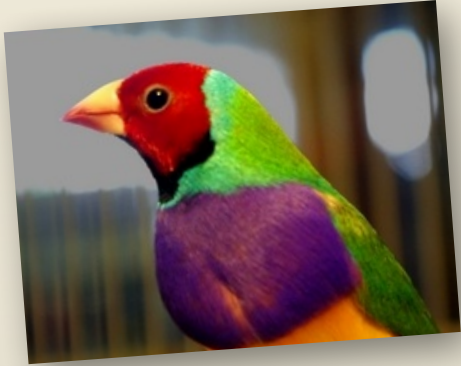


Clark's Pet Emporium

Finch Care Sheet



Species - Lady Gouldian
Color - Lavender breast Redhead

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Finch care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with birds, ranging from diet to habitat and bird husbandry. For further details regarding specific species care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

Are Finches the right pets for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you enjoy spending a fair amount of time at home where your bird will live?
- Are you the type of person that will avidly clean a pet's habitat every day / week?
- Are you willing to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure your pet's safety if necessary?
- Can you tolerate loud, vocal pets?
- Do you have large, well-lit space to house a bird cage?
- Do you prefer to spend quality time dedicated to entertaining a social, lovable animal?
- Does your lifestyle and / or future lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 8-15 years?

If you answered "absolutely!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting finches.

Shopping Check-List:

- Finch book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure with bowls
- Enclosure substrate / paper
- Variety of different perch sizes and materials
- Cage cover
- Bath container and / or sprayer
- Diet supplies - Seed, pellets, nutrition supplements, and bird gravel
- Proclivity supplies - Cuttlebone, millet, chew toys
- Millet and cuttlebone clip
- Avian-safe cleaning supplies



Right - Male Zebra Finch

Left - Albino Female Zebra Finch

Dietary Needs:

- Seed diet - Finch seed is available in several brands and mixes
- Pellet diet - Finch pellets (natural or flavored)
- Fresh fruit and vegetables - Collard greens, Parsley, Kale, Carrot, Mango, Pear, and Papaya are a healthy habit
- Treats - Dehydrated fruit cubes, Sunflower seeds, Pumpkin seeds, Treat Cakes
- Fresh, cool to lukewarm water
- Millet Spray seed clumps
- Cuttlebone or calcium supplements are essential for chewing and calcium
- Bird gravel to aid digestion

Feeding Practice:

- Ensure finch seed mix and water are always available fresh every day
- Either mix finch pellets into seed bowl, or provide a separate bowl
- Provide fresh vegetable / fruit mix at least once per week
- Allow 3 hours for fresh consumption, then remove the vegetables and fruit - bacteria start to grow on this food after about 3 hours



Housing:

- A pair of finches will require a horizontal flight cage at least 24" w X 16" d
- Enclosure must be an actual bird cage - powder coated with narrow spaced bars no greater than 1/4" apart
- Direct sunlight is physically and mentally healthy for all birds - house your finches in a well lit area and allow daily access to sun and shade
- Housing should be placed in a draft-free room - Drafts can negate the fluffy down feathers that birds use to stay warm during cool times
- Avoid housing finches in high-traffic areas that will prevent the birds from acclimating and sleeping
- Place toys, perches, and bowls in the cage, but do not over clutter the living space
- Always keep a large water source for the finches to drink and bathe in

Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Routinely remove soiled food and water every day, replacing with fresh food in clean bowls
- Perches, toys, and cage will need to be cleaned once per week, in addition to daily cleanup of seed around the cage
- Use hot water to scrub housing, or use an avian-safe cleaning product like Aviclean
- Some birds can stress out! If so, you may need to clean with a dust pan instead of a loud vacuum

Safety Tips:

Avoid animal toys with twined string. These strings can fray and pose a hazard to your bird's legs and feet! Stick to plastic, wood, and metal made with pet-safe paints and dyes.

Teflon (non-stick) coated pots and pans are the number one killer of domestic birds! They release lethal fumes when heated. Make sure you only use stainless steel and cast iron implements!

House fans rotate with enough inertia to cripple or kill any birds on impact. Even a clipped bird can gain enough thrust to fly into a fan accidentally. Turn fans off!

Avocado, apple seeds, and fruit pits contain arsenic! They are lethal to all birds! Chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol are also toxic. Do not allow access to these substances!

Let's Have Some Fun:

- Unlike many animals, socializing and play are essential for birds' health!
- Birds are very social animals - take time to talk to your finches regularly during cleaning and feeding
- Finches enjoy edible toys and new items to eat together. Products like fresh wheat grass to forage are a welcome treat
- Be sure to house several members of the same species of finch together. These birds do not acclimate to human contact like parrots and require companionship from other birds for entertainment
- Birds love new experiences - Create toys for them. A crumpled piece of paper with a seed in the middle is an avian favorite!
- If you are concerned that your finches need companionship, contact a member of Clark's Bird Department to inquire about cross-compatible species of finches



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