



# Budgerigar

Melopsittacus undulatus



We are the budgerigars, but you can call us **budgies** for short. There are over **50** of us at the zoo!

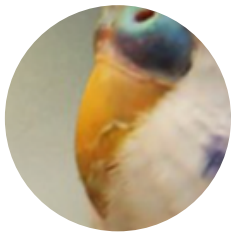
We are **social, playful, and talkative**; however, we like to hang out in **high places** and can be **reluctant to say hello**.

We live in the **Norco Aviary** during the summer when it is nice and warm, but for the rest of the year we like to stay **behind the scenes**.

## BUDGIES AT A GLANCE



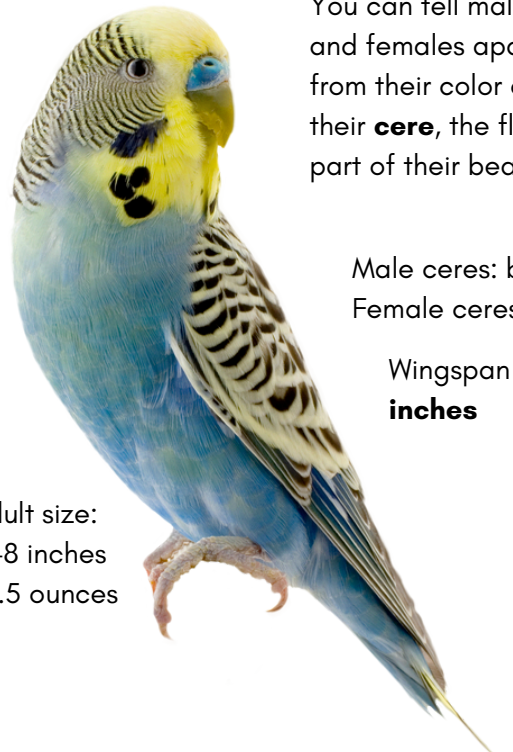
- We are covered in **feathers** that help us **regulate body temperatures** and **fly**.
- We have **colorful feathers** of **blue, white, green, and yellow**. It helps us tell each other apart.
- Certain parts of our **plumage** reflect **UV light** that enhances our plumage to help us attract **mates**.



- We have **beaks** that help us **pick and eat food**.
- In the wild, we eat **seeds, berries, fruit, and insects**.
- At the zoo, we like to eat **seeds**.



- We have **zygodactyl claws** with two toes pointing forward and two pointing backward.
- We can **climb** in all directions and **cling** onto vertical surfaces.



You can tell males and females apart from their color of their **cere**, the fleshy part of their beak

Male ceres: blue  
Female ceres: brown

Wingspan is **10-15 inches**

Adult size:  
6-8 inches  
1-1.5 ounces

Avg. life expectancy in human care:  
4-6 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:  
7-15 years

## WHERE ARE NATIVE BUDGIES HABITATS LOCATED?



Budgerigars can be found throughout Australia except for the coastal areas. They like to occupy arid regions including grasslands, savannas, scrubs, open woodlands, and farmland. Outside of Australia they have been introduced in the United States and Puerto Rico. They like to roost in high places with branches.

# Budgie Behavior

## PREENING

We use our beaks to groom and straighten out feathers on our body. We will spread oil from our uropygial gland all over our feathers.

We like to keep our bodies and feathers clean and healthy.



## STICKING TOGETHER

We are very social birds and like to gather in large colonies or groups. Sticking together helps us avoid predation and find food.

Gathering in groups helps us feel safe.



## BEAK TRIMMING

Our beaks continuously grow so we will chew on about anything to trim our beaks.

We have toys and wooden pieces to keep us entertained and help keep our beaks nice and healthy.



## MIMICRY

We can vocalize with each other. However, we can be taught speak, whistle, and mimic words.

We are communicating with each other, and trying fit in to the flock.



- Budgies are **monogamous**, sticking with one mate for life. They breed in large colonies in their range.
- Budgies are **nomadic**, they move throughout their range in response of **food** and **water availability**.
- Their **flock size** varies in size depending of food availability.

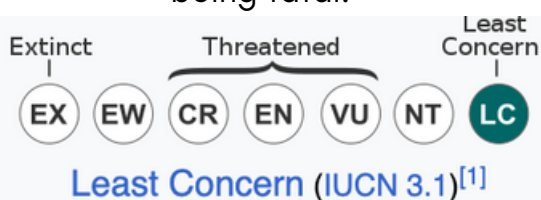
# Budgie Conservation

They are listed as **least concern**.

However, birds are hunted by feral cats.

Wild populations of birds significantly decrease due to the presence of feral cats. Between 1.4-4 billion birds die each year.

In addition, birds see differently from humans and cannot perceive glass as a solid object. They will fly and crash into glass with 57-75 percent of collisions being fatal.



## How can we help?

Having cats is great, but being responsible about their outdoor habits is crucial to helping native birds. You can keep your cats indoors or have supervised outdoor time with them.

To prevent window collisions, we can put decals, decorative patterns, sun catchers, or sticky notes spaced closely together on the surface of windows. These tell the birds that the window is not transparent and cannot be flown through.