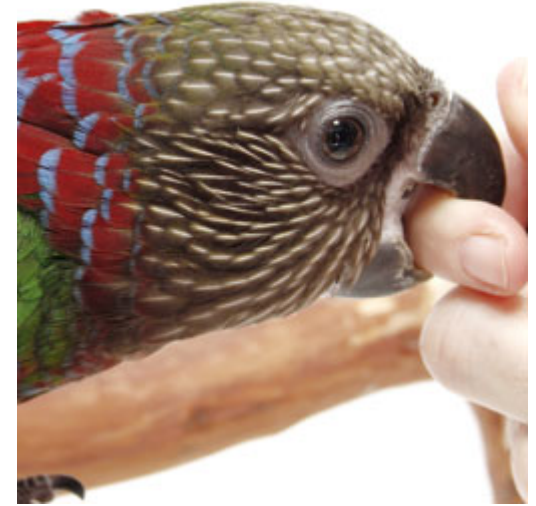




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Normal Avian Behavior

Key Points

- Species vs. breeds
- Tame vs. domesticated
- Prey animals kept in captivity
- Selection primarily for appearance not behavior (color morphs)



<http://www.birdwallpapers.com/two-parrots-wallpaper.html>

Introduction

- Prey animals
- Highly social flock behavior
- Complex interactions
- Foragers



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-behavior-and-training/bird-training/teach-this-not-that.aspx>

How this affects care

- Retain natural instincts and behaviors
- Little scientific study of behavior and health
- Captive exotic species very subject to stress
- Natural behaviors not suited to captivity



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-species/profiles/cockatoo.aspx?SWPhotoGallery=1>

Examples

- Easily stressed by normal, daily activities
- Hide illness and medical conditions
- Unwanted natural behaviors including biting, screaming, calling, chewing, aggression, etc.
- Maladaptive behaviors



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-species/default.aspx>

Social Behavior

Flocks



Red-lored Amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*)
Photograph by Bowles/Erickson | www.amazornia.us

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http://www.parrots.org/images/get_involved/wallpaper/800/wallpaper_rl_mg-800.jpg

Flocks

- Complex groups
- Decrease predation
- Improve reproductive success
- Help with foraging (cooperation)
- Protect territory



http://antpitta.com/images/photos/parrots/gallery_parrots1.htm

How flocks work

- Travel to different sites to search for food
- Improved efficiency
- Greater safety for flock members
- Size of flock varies with species and food source
- Cyclic pattern feeding vs. roosting



Red-fronted Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)
Photograph by Ron Hoff

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http://www.parrots.org/images/get_involved/wallpaper/800/wallpaper_rfp-800.jpg

Cyclical Activity

- Active with sunrise
- Vocalize, groom, forage
- May separate into smaller feeding flocks
- Decreased activity with heat
- As light decreases may gather into larger roosting flocks
- Evening flock gathers for social interaction and predator avoidance



Mitred Conure (*Aratinga mitrata*)

Photograph by Bowles/Erickson | www.amazornia.us

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Time Allocation

- Grooming 20-60%
- Foraging 40-60%
- Vocalizing 2-5%
- Social interactions 10-40%



Short-billed Corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*)
Photograph by Bruce Dehnhostel

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Bradley Bays page 53

http://www.parrots.org/images/get_involved/wallpaper/800/wallpaper_mit_crw-800.jpg

Hierarchy

- Overt aggression increases risk of injury and increases likelihood of injury
- Hierarchy established
- Supports predictable interactions
- Access to resources such as food, nesting sites, roosting spots and mates
- Important in flocks but not investigated between species

Hardy 1965; Seibert & Crowell Davis 2001



<http://www.birdtricks.com/blog/tag/body-language/>

Observed behaviors

Assertive

- Turn threat
- Beak gape
- Peck threat
- Beak spar
- Peck
- Wing flapping
- Sidle approach
- Slow advance
- Rushing

Submissive

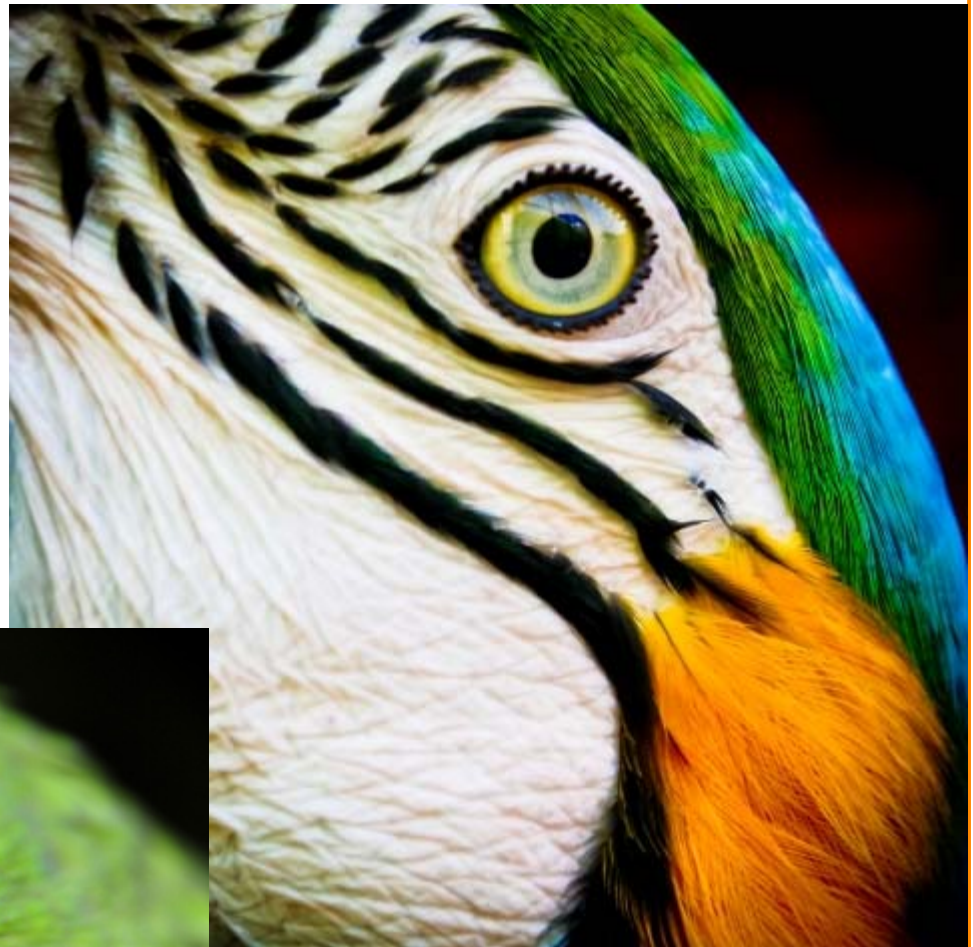
- Crouch
- Fluff feathers
- Wag heads
- Lift a foot
- Avoidance

***COCKATIELS**



<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/reading-your-parrots-body-language.html>

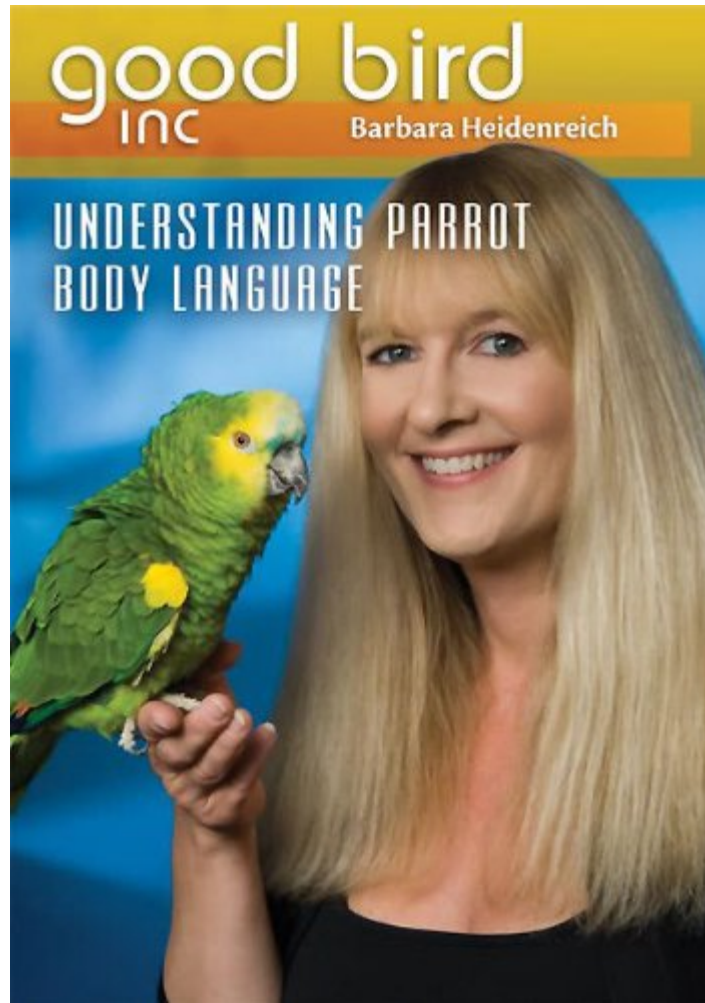
<http://www.sheknows.com/pets-and-animals/articles/810137/common-eye-disorders-in-birds>



<http://drewbmac.wordpress.com/2011/04/05/blue-and-yellow-macaw/>



Understanding Parrot Body Language



Diet

- Opportunistic foragers
- Fruits, nuts, seeds
- High-energy requirements
- Insects? Carrion?
- Specialized diets (Lories and Lorikeets)
- Seasonal variation including agricultural crops
- Scarlet macaws-43 different plant species
- Recent study 17 species consumed 102 different plant species (Gilardi 2012)



Paupuan Lorikeet (*Charmosyna papou*)
Photograph by Ron Hoff

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http://www.parrots.org/images/get_involved/wallpaper/800/wallpaper_pl-800.jpg

Reproduction

- Ritualized courtship behaviors
- Display
- Vocalization including songs
- Most common mating strategy monogamy or pair formation
- Species specific strategies include territorial, colonial or cooperative systems

Pair Bonding

- Attachment between female and male for the purpose of reproduction
- Preferential affiliative behaviors such as preening, allofeeding and touching
- Often exclude others from interactions
- Can be aggressive in defense of mate
- Monogamy but may be serial



Blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva*)
Photograph by Bowles/Erickson | www.amazornia.us

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http://www.parrots.org/images/get_involved/wallpaper/800/wallpaper_bf_mg-800.jpg

Nesting

- Most use tree cavities
- Most have individual nests
- Defend the nest area
- Monk parrots-communal nest



<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/photo/rose-ringed-parakeet-psittacula-krameri/couple-rose-ringed-parakeet-close-nesting-cavity>

Parental care

- Altricial
- Cooperative parenting
- Social interaction needed for vocal learning and social development
- Different parental strategies-communal nursery area (Meyer's Parrots)
- Juvenile foraging flocks
- Play including object play



<http://www.grey-parrot.com/gallery>

Vocal communication

- Calls and songs
- Mimicry-vocal plasticity
- Learn while in the nest
- Contact calls-loud and carry long distances
- Dialects-Amazon parrots



<http://www.scienceupdate.com/2012/07/parrot/>

Macaulay Library

<http://macaulaylibrary.org/>

Birds and people have similar genes for learning and producing vocalizations

<http://www.scienceupdate.com/2012/07/parrot/>

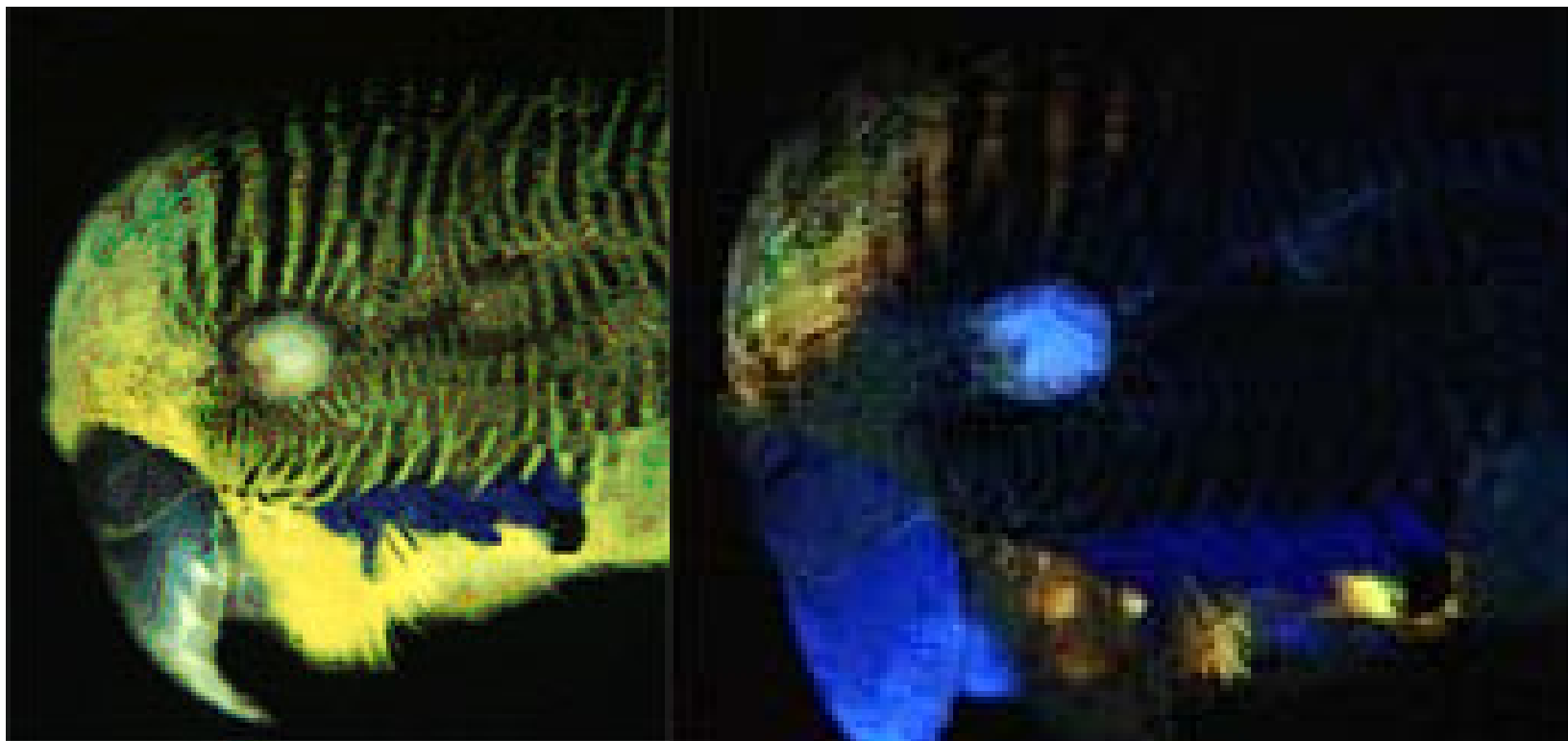


<http://atheistuniverse.net/group/avm/forum/topics/alex-the-parrot-s-last-mathematical-prowess>

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10071-012-0470-5>

Non-vocal Communication

- Signals and displays
- Plumage and color
- Tetrachromatic vision-can see into the ultraviolet range
- UV cones in retina (5 different kinds)
- Can see fluorescence-documented in 104 species
- In parakeets yellow reflects as blue fluorescence



<http://web.qbi.uq.edu.au/ecovis/birds.htm>

Many behaviors still not understood



<http://the-sieve.com/tag/world-parrot-trust/>

GEOPHAGY



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aspcapro.org/webinars

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