



## EXOTIC FINCH

*Estrilda sp., Clytospiza sp., Aidemosyne sp., Carpodacus sp., Poephilia sp., Chloebia sp., Fringillida sp., Estrildidae sp., Passeridae sp., Taeniopygia sp.*

**ORIGIN:** Exotic finches are native throughout the world any many of the genera are listed above. Fortunately, most are well established in American Aviculture and your finch was born in captivity. Only the Australian species are considered endangered.

**SIZE:** Finches reach an average adult height of 4-9 inches. Males are typically more brightly colored, but there is a variety of color mutations developed through selective breeding.

**CAGING:** Finches require a cage that is at least 18 inches tall and has a floor space of 2 square feet. Larger species will require larger cages. Square or rectangular cages are preferable to dome-shaped cages. The metal bars should be no more than ¼-inch apart. The perches should be at least ½-inch in diameter and placed at different heights in the cage. The cage should have a grate over the bottom which separates the bird from feces. The cage should be placed in a location which will allow the bird to frequently see his owners.

**SUBSTRATE:** A substrate that is easily cleaned such as newspaper is ideal. Corn cob or crushed walnut shell may also be used. The substrate should be changed daily.

**TEMPERATURE:** Finches will adjust to room temperature, but extreme heat and cool should be avoided. The cage should be placed in a location that is free from drafts and direct sunlight.

**WATER:** Finches must have access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times. The water dish should be cleaned and refilled daily. A large water dish for bathing may be offered occasionally.

**DIET:** Finches will thrive on a variety of commercial pelleted diets especially made for them, and these pellets should comprise 60%-70% of the diet. Fresh fruits and vegetables, especially dark leafy greens, should be offered several times weekly. In addition, spray millet should be available at all times. Avoid avocados, chocolate, alcohol, and caffeine as these are toxic to the bird

### RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Secure cage
- Water dish
- Food bowl
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about finch husbandry
- Perches of various sizes
- Fortified seed and pelleted food
- Spray Millet
- Cuttlebone
- Assorted bird toys for entertainment

### OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Bird bath
- Nail clippers
- Play gym
- Cement perch for natural nail filing

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**NOTE:** The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.