



Department of
Conservation and
Land Management



Information Sheet No. 1-97

AVIARY BIRDS

Introduction

Aviculture, or the keeping and breeding of birds as a hobby, is well established and popular in Australia. Nearly all species of Australian parrots and finches can be found in aviaries. Many introduced or exotic birds are also kept by aviculturists.



The following information is a guide for anyone wishing to keep and breed birds as a hobby. It is, however, only a guide and does not override any of the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act or Regulations dealing with avian fauna.

Why License Birds?

Australian birds are protected in Western Australia under the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations, which are administered by CALM.

The licensing system is aimed at conserving wild bird populations by helping to prevent the illegal trapping and trafficking of birds from the wild, in WA or elsewhere in Australia.

Why are CALM, Agriculture WA and Environment Australia Involved?

CALM has a responsibility to conserve Western Australian birds in the wild and to assist other States to do likewise. This is achieved by trying to prevent people illegally taking birds from the wild as well as protecting habitat. CALM is also concerned that introduced birds which establish populations in the wild can endanger the survival of native WA species through competition for food and nesting sites. The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo introduced from the eastern States is an example.

Agriculture WA seeks to protect primary industry from the damage that birds can cause to crops. These birds are mainly exotic, but can include native Australian birds. Agriculture WA is active in preventing the starling, an exotic bird, from establishing in WA.

Environment Australia manages the National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme. Some exotic birds allowed to be kept in WA require registration under this scheme. Contact CALM for further information (telephone 08 9334 0434).

Is a Licence Always Required?

There are 10 common species for which you do not need a licence, including a number of finches, weeros and budgerygahs. The attached application form shows whether or not you need a licence for the birds you wish to hold.

There are also another 13 species commonly found in aviaries for which you may not need a licence, depending on the numbers held. Again, check the attached application form.

What Licences Are There?

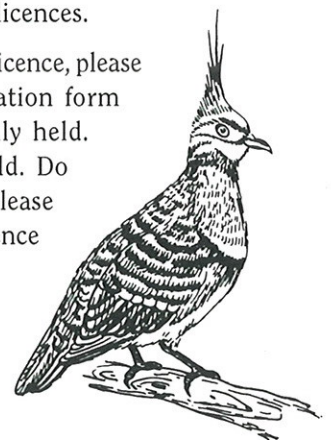
If you hold Australian birds, depending on the species and numbers, you may need one of two licences, either an Avicultural Licence, which costs \$10 per annum, or an Advanced Avicultural Licence, which costs \$20 per annum.

The keeping of exotic birds may, again depending on the species and numbers held, require a Permit to Keep Declared Animals. This Permit is issued by CALM on behalf of Agriculture WA, usually for a once-only fee of \$4.

Some exotic birds will require registration under the National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme. CALM operates the scheme in WA on behalf of the Commonwealth. The annual fee is \$30.

Some birds will require multiple licences.

If you wish to apply for or renew a licence, please indicate on the attached application form the species and numbers actually held. Include only birds currently held. Do not list intended acquisitions. Please send the completed form and licence fee to CALM.

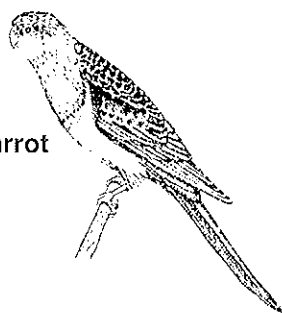


Is There a Minimum Aviary Standard?

All aviaries should be well built, and have sufficient shelter and flight areas for the birds. Aviaries should also be kept clean. Security will be enhanced if you include double doors in the aviary design.

Minimum aviary specifications apply to the following twelve birds kept under a CALM licence:

Rainbow Lorikeet
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Little Lorikeet
Musk Lorikeet
Australian (Eastern) King Parrot
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella
European Goldfinch
Java Sparrow
Diamond Firetail
Red-browed Finch



Minimum aviary standards, such as double doors, are a safeguard against these species escaping and establishing in the wild, as these birds have the potential to replace local birds by competing for food and nesting sites.

The same conditions apply to birds held under an Agriculture WA Licence.

Contact CALM for copies of the specifications.

What If I Want to Import or Export Birds?

Generally, except for the 10 exempt species mentioned earlier, a licence is needed to move birds interstate. The fee is \$20 per consignment, unless the bird is a family pet and the fee is waived. A WA licence is not required to export exotic birds. Most other States will also require a corresponding import/export licence.

There are, however, three Australian birds which cannot be imported into WA. These are:

Cape Barren Goose
Beautiful Firetail Finch
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Import of the Cape Barren Goose is prohibited, so as to keep the more common eastern subspecies separate from the rare western subspecies. The other species are not native to WA but have the potential to acclimatise and threaten local species.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo may be imported if it can be established that it is a *bona fide* family pet.

Why Can't All Australian Birds Go on One Licence?

Birds may either be exempt from licensing or require an Avicultural or Advanced Avicultural Licence, depending on:

- whether wild populations of that species are subject to illegal taking and trafficking;
- their status in the wild; and
- the ease with which they may be kept and bred.

The exempt birds are common both in the wild and in aviaries. They are easy to keep and breed readily in captivity.

Some species which may be kept by Advanced Avicultural licensees may be relatively common. They are included in the 'Advanced' category, as experience has shown they are either subject to nest destruction and illegal taking and trading, or are difficult to breed, or need special aviary conditions. Uncommon, declining and threatened species are also in this group.

For example, White-tailed Black Cockatoos are difficult to keep and breed in captivity. This, together with their low numbers in the wild because of habitat destruction, and the fact that it is subject to illegal trapping and trafficking, have placed them in the higher category. Controls are placed on the acquisition and disposal of these birds.

Will I Have to Keep Records?

Generally, no. However, CALM may require holders of an Advanced Avicultural Licence to keep records for a few selected species. In these cases, licensees will be notified of this requirement through conditions attached to their licence, and record forms will be supplied by CALM.

What If I Want to Acquire or Dispose of Birds?

If the birds are on the exempt list, or a licence is not required because of numbers held, proceed with the transfer.

Where an Avicultural Licence is required to keep the birds (see attached application form) the birds can be transferred provided both parties are licensed.

In the case of birds covered by the Advanced Avicultural Licence, both persons must be licensed and the person disposing of the birds must obtain an authority from CALM before, or within one working day of, the disposal. CALM will automatically update the licence record for both parties. If you are disposing of these birds to a licensed bird dealer, the authority is still required. On the other hand, if you are acquiring these birds from a dealer, CALM will be notified via an Advice of Sale and monthly returns sent by the dealer.

Where Can I Obtain More Information?

The above information is current at July 1997 but may be subject to change in the future.

More information can be obtained at CALM offices or by contacting the Wildlife Licensing section on (08) 9334 0440 or (08) 9334 0441.

APPLICATION FOR AVICULTURAL LICENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, 50 HAYMAN ROAD COMO, WA 6152. Ph (08) 9334 0333
 Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983.

MR MRS MISS MS	_____ SURNAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS _____	OFFICE USE ONLY
GIVEN NAMES	_____	Person No.
POSTAL ADDRESS	_____	Licence No.
	POSTCODE	Expiry Date
AVIARY ADDRESS <small>(if same as postal write "as above")</small>	_____	Current licence No.
	POSTCODE	_____ (SIGNATURE) _____
TELEPHONE	HOME _____ WORK _____	DATE _____

EXEMPT BIRDS - These birds are exempt from licensing

King Quail
Peaceful Dove
Diamond Dove
Cockatiel or Weero

Budgerigah
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Star Finch

Long-tailed (Blackheart) Finch
Banded (Double-bar) Finch
Zebra Finch

If these are the **only** birds you keep, no licence is required

AVICULTURAL LICENCE - Indicate number of each species held

FEE \$10.00

	No.		No.		No.
<i>Bourke's Parrot</i>		<i>Scarlet-chested Parrot</i>		<i>Masked Finch</i>	
<i>Turquoise Parrot</i>		<i>Pictorella Mannikin</i>			

If you hold less than a **total** of 10 of the above birds, no licence is required to keep or dispose of them

	No.		No.		No.
* <i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>		<i>Long-billed Corella (Central West)</i>		<i>Western Rosella</i>	
<i>Galah</i>		<i>Long-billed Corella (Eastern)</i>		<i>Red-capped (WA King) Parrot</i>	
<i>Little Corella</i>		<i>Port Lincoln Ringneck</i>			

If you hold less than a **total** of 4 of the above birds, no licence is required to keep or dispose of them

A licence is required to keep the birds listed below

	No.		No.		No.
<i>Stubble Quail</i>		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>		<i>Hooded Parrot</i>	
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>		<i>Mulga Parrot</i>	
<i>Red-backed Button-quail</i>		<i>Alexandra's (Princess) Parrot</i>		<i>Red-rumped Parrot</i>	
<i>Red-chested Button-quail</i>		<i>Regent (Smoker) Parrot</i>		<i>Red-vented Blue Bonnet</i>	
<i>Painted Button Quail</i>		<i>Superb Parrot</i>		<i>Yellow-vented Blue Bonnet</i>	
<i>Little Button-quail</i>		<i>Red-winged Parrot</i>		<i>Plum-headed Finch</i>	
<i>Bar-shouldered Dove</i>		<i>Australian (Eastern) King Parrot</i>		<i>Diamond Firetail</i>	
<i>Green-winged Pigeon</i>		<i>Mallee Ringneck</i>		<i>Painted Firetail</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Blue-winged Parrot</i>		<i>Red-browed Firetail</i>	
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Elegant Parrot</i>		<i>Gouldian Finch</i>	
<i>Squatter Pigeon</i>		<i>Adelaide Rosella</i>		<i>Blue-faced Finch</i>	
<i>Partridge Pigeon</i>		<i>Pale-headed Rosella</i>		<i>Yellow-rumped Mannikin</i>	
<i>Scaly-breasted Lorikeet</i>		<i>Crimson Rosella</i>		<i>Crimson Finch</i>	
<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>		<i>Eastern Rosella</i>		<i>Black-throated Finch</i>	
<i>Red-collared Lorikeet</i>		<i>Yellow Rosella</i>			

ADVANCED AVICULTURAL LICENCE (fee also covers birds listed above)

FEE \$20.00

	No.		No.		No.
<i>Spinifex (Red-plumed) Pigeon</i>		<i>Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo</i>		<i>Green Rosella</i>	
<i>Brush Bronzewing</i>		<i>Red-tailed Black Cockatoo</i>		<i>Northern Rosella</i>	
<i>Major Mitchell (Pink) Cockatoo</i>		<i>Eclectus Parrot</i>		<i>Cloncurry Parrot</i>	
<i>Gang-gang Cockatoo</i>		<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>		<i>Naretha (Little) Blue Bonnet</i>	
<i>Baudin's Black Cockatoo</i>		<i>Varied Lorikeet</i>		<i>Golden-shouldered Parrot</i>	
<i>Carnaby's Black Cockatoo</i>		<i>Swift Parrot</i>		<i>Rock Parrot</i>	

List other Australian birds held but not listed above

Exotic birds

	No.		No.		No.
.....			<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
.....			* <i>Java Sparrow</i>	

ONLY LIST BIRDS CURRENTLY HELD. DO NOT INCLUDE INTENDED ACQUISITIONS

*PERMIT TO KEEP DECLARED BIRDS ALSO REQUIRED