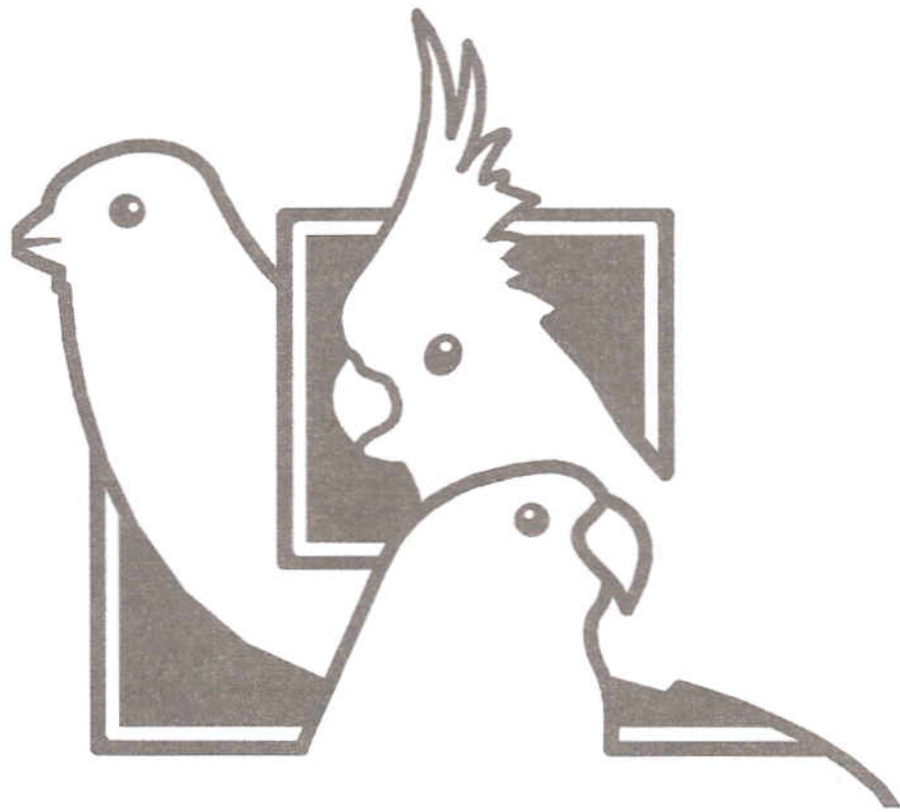


EXOTIC BIRDS



STUDY GUIDE

LEVEL I & II

EXOTIC BIRD STUDY GUIDE

Madera County 4-H

Level I & II

Written Test	Level I	Level II
Entry Form	22	29
Parts	13	23
True/False Quiz	15	12
Multiple Choice	5	6
Matching Quiz	5	
Sub-Total for Written Test	60	70

Expo Day Skills	Level I	Level II
Breed I D	5	10
Feed I D	5	10
Equipment I D	10	20
Vet Skills	25	25
Showmanship	100	100
Sub- Total for Skills	145	165
Total for Expo Skills	205	235

For practice, use your companion bird or another member's bird; look at the divisions and classes. If you have any questions regarding the entry form, your project leader, teen leader, or junior leader should be able to help you.

AVIAN

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Division 375 4-H & FFA Other Poultry

(Specify breed)

CLASS

166 All Game Birds 167 Turkeys

Division 376 Companion Bird

CLASS

168 Large - parrot, African gray

169 Medium - cockatiel, budgie, lovebird, parakeet

170 Small - finch, dove, canary

Division 378 Poultry Showmanship

No Premiums Offered

CLASS

172 4-H Mini Member 7 - 9 years of age

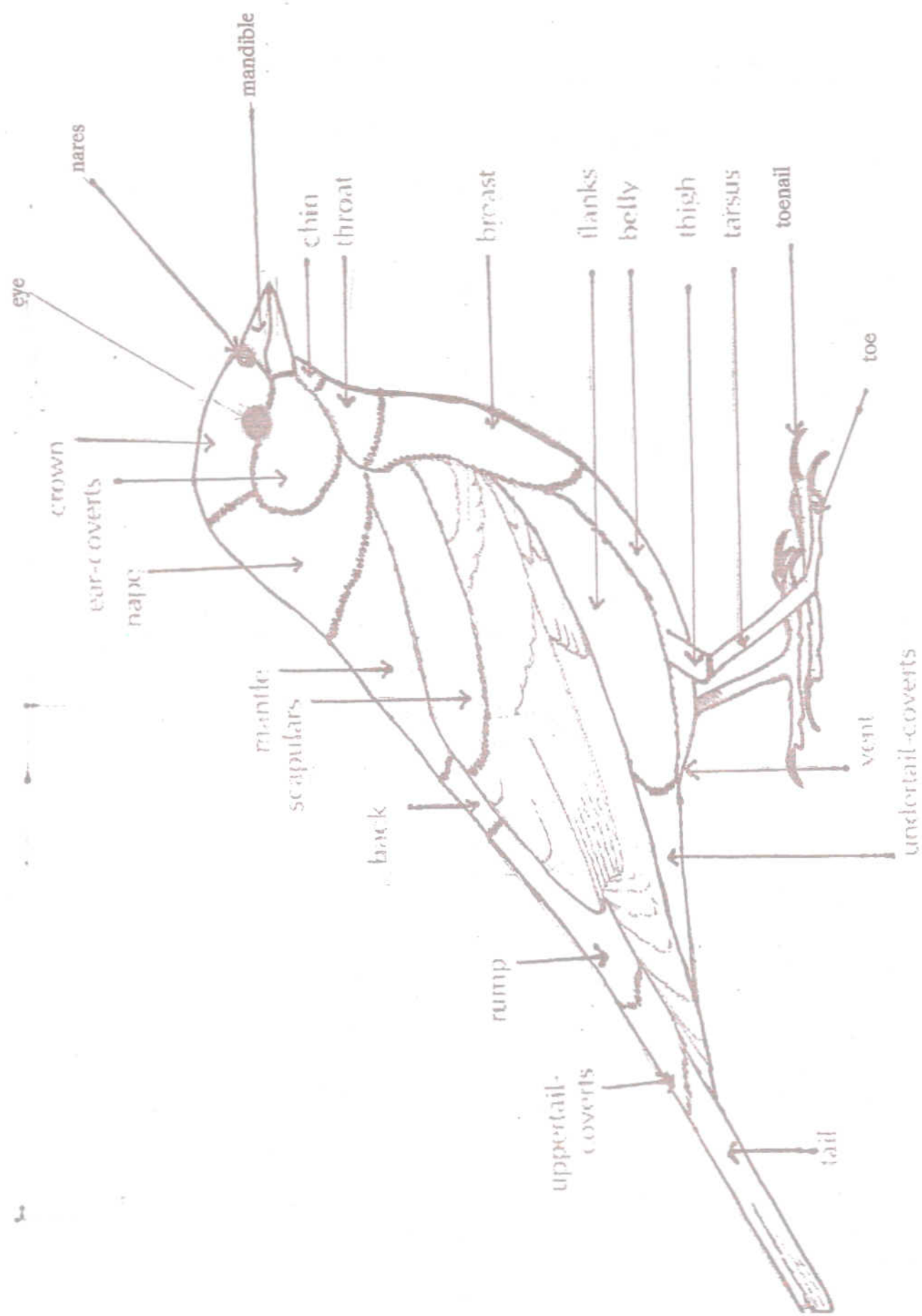
not in the fourth grade (must be enrolled in
a supervised mini member poultry project).

173 4-H Junior Showmanship 4th & 5th grade

174 4-H Intermediate Showmanship 6th thru 8th grade

175 Advanced Showmanship High School 4-H & FFA

176 Companion Bird Showmanship



General Bird Care

Change the food and water each day

Birds take the shell of the seed off to eat seed and it stays in the bowl most times giving the appearance of a full bowl of seed when in fact it is mostly shells. Water is not only use for drinking, but for washing food and taking a bath. Make sure there is plenty of fresh water each day. Sometimes a drinking tube and a bowl of water work well.

Clean your bird's cage every week

Perches, toys, and bowls should be cleaned of droppings. Also brush the bottom of the cage to remove droppings and old food. This will help keep your bird's feet clean when they walk on the bottom of the cage.

What to feed your bird

Along with seed you can feed fresh fruits and vegetables. They can be cut or grated. Some suggestions are: broccoli, spinach, string beans, apples, oranges, grapes, and zucchini. Also, frozen corn and peas are a favorite. Make sure any greens you feed are dark greens only. You will need a cuttlebone for calcium that is important for strong bones and egg laying. A mineral block will provide the minerals your bird needs.

Observe your bird

Some signs that a bird is not doing well are: loss of appetite, staying fluffed on the perch or bottom of the cage and sleeping allot, loose droppings, and glazed eyes. Most problems/if caught early, can be taken care of.

Select an Avian Veterinarian

This is one of the most important decisions you will make regarding your bird's health. This should be done before an illness occurs. Bringing your bird in for an annual physical examination provides the vet with an opportunity to make suggestions geared toward helping you provide better daily care for your bird.

Transporting your bird

A little planning can make your trip much less stressful. Never take your bird unconfined. You will need a pet carrier. They are strong, and easily cleaned and disinfected. Be sure to cover the carrier with a towel or sheet. This provides some protection against cold weather. It also provides the bird with privacy, limits its vision, and lessens the stress it might otherwise experience. Remove all toys and loose items that could ricochet and cause injury. A cage liner may be used, newspaper works well. Make every attempt to reassure the bird during its trip. Speak often and reassuringly. If the weather is cold, preheat the car before placing the bird inside. If the weather is hot, requiring the use of air conditioning, be sure to place the bird out of the direct blast of cold air vents.

Catching and handling

It is necessary to catch and handle birds when showing them. Proper catching and handling methods can avoid both injury and discomfort to the birds and the persons doing the handling. By using proper procedures, 4-H members can show skills they have learned in working with project birds.

The recommended method for removing a bird from the cage is to guide the bird to the front of the cage with your hand over its back, so the bird is facing or partially facing the cage opening. Place your other hand under the body of the bird with your forefinger level. Give the command "Step-Up". If the bird does not step-up, slightly push toward its chest and repeat the command. Once the bird has stepped up and is on your forefinger, hold your free hand over the bird's back to restrain the bird, guide the bird out of the cage.

To carry the bird use the same step-up procedure, then walk slowly with the bird on your forefinger. Some birds like to be carried resting against the holder's body. Other birds seek the highest spot on your arm and will continue to climb onto your shoulder. This is all right if the bird is small, and doesn't bite. The best rule of thumb is to hold the bird no higher than your heart. This shows the bird you are the dominate species.

When you are ready to return the bird to its cage, always return it to the cage head first. Some birds may try to grab the cage with their beak, gently pull them back till they release the cage. Then return the bird quickly into the cage head first. This may take some practice with your bird.

If your bird flies to the floor, generally it will then scamper about the floor, sometimes huddling in a coner or behind a piece of furniture. At this stage you should slowly approach the bird and surround it from below with your outstretched fingers. With a little coaxing it will hop onto your hand. Let the bird perch comfortably there, and then slowly lift your hand off the floor until you are in a standing position. During the lifting process the bird may once again fly to the floor, if this occurs start over. After several trial lifts it will be content to remain seated on top of your hand.

Training your bird

The road to good behavior starts with these
three simple commands

1. Step-Up

Hold your finger or hand in front of the bird

Place your finger above the bird's feet and level with its abdomen

Say "Step-Up".

When the bird steps up, praise it

When you are done with each brief session, reward the bird with a small food treat

2. Step-Down

Hold the bird on your finger, behind and close to the perch

Gently nudge the bird toward the perch

Say "Step-Down"

When the bird steps down, praise it

When you are done with each brief session, reward the bird with a small food treat

3. NO

If your bird bites

Scowl at it

Say "No"

Blow a puff of air into its face

Don't jerk away

It is important to be patient but firm during this time!

Washing a project bird

Exhibiting is an important part of most 4-H member's project activity. A dirty bird is a reflection on the exhibitor. Birds that are cleaned and properly groomed are impressive both to the judge and the viewing public. In order to receive top placing, members must do a good job of selecting birds and then properly clean them and prepare them for the show.

Supplies needed: a container of warm water, a soft toothbrush, old soft towels and a clean cage in a warm draft free area. White birds especially need washing to have a good clean appearance.

Rinse the feathers clean, being careful to wash in the direction that the feathers lay so as to not ruffle or disturb their appearance. All feathers must be entirely wetted in the wash water. Keep the bird's head above the water. To avoid feather damage, have your hands wet before working with a wet bird and dry before handling a dry bird. A soft toothbrush may be used to clean the feet.

Wash your bird twenty-four hours before a show so your bird will be dry before transport. Then you can be sure you have dry birds to exhibit, and not damp birds that get chilled during hauling.

Drying of the birds may be aided by wrapping them in a soft dry towel. A few drops of mineral oil or a small amount of petroleum jelly on a soft cloth can be used to polish the feet and beak. Properly done, no oily or greasy appearance remains.

Some birds may not want to get in a container of water. You can purchase a spray bottle and mist the bird with a mist of warm water; this will start their grooming process. Be careful not to soak the bird, or spray its face.

Many bird owners report that running the vacuum makes their birds want to bath. Some people think the sounds of the vacuum remind the birds of rain. Other birds want to bath when they hear the sound of running water in the kitchen sink.

Whether it's in a container of water or with a spray bottle it is a lot of fun watching your bird splash and spread its wings during its bathing time.

The Well Bird

The appearance of a healthy bird.

Eyes. Its eyes should be bright and clear. There should be no exudates of any kind. No sores around the lid margins or facial skin. There should be no redness or thickening of the eyelids.

Nares. (nostrils) The nares should likewise be free of any drainage, and should not appear plugged. The feathers surrounding the nares should not appear matted or stained. If this is the case, it is likely that nasal discharge has been present in the not to distant past.

Beak. The beak should be smooth and free of any defects. It should be well formed, allowing the bird to obtain and swallow its food properly. There should be no evidence of scaliness that might indicate the presence of mites.

Feathers. The feathers should be glossy and full. At no time should the bird exhibit bald patches or areas only the undercoat of down feathers is present. Birds recently out of quarantine will often have a poorly clipped wing. Wing and tail feathers may appear ragged and broken. These things will have occurred due to overcrowding during the quarantine process and will be rectified at the next molt. It is important to note that when a bird molts, at no time does it loose more than a few feathers from any area of its body. This is a protective mechanism to allow the bird to escape from predators in the wild A partially bald bird is exhibiting signs of disease or undue psychological stress. Such a bird should be seen by a vet. If contemplating the purchase of such a bird, the advice is; **DO NOT.**

Feet. The feet should possess their full complement of toes, two pointing backward and two pointing forward on each foot. They should be smooth, with no evidence of scaliness, which indicates mite infestation. Each toe should have a toenail.

Vent. The vent should be clean, with no dried fecal matter or urates present on the surrounding feathers.

The sick bird

The appearance of a sick bird

Obvious Signs of Illness

Inactivity
 Eyes closed most of the time
 Feathers fluffed all the time
 wings
 Low, almost horizontal, posture on perch,
 Falling off perch
 Talking and other vocalization stops
 Eating stops
 Noticeable and noisy breathing
 Frequent sneezing
 Discharge from nose
 Tail bobbing with each breath
 Perching with neck extended and beak gasping.
 Vomiting or regurgitating
 Vent soiled or pasted
 Feathers are being lost and not replaced.
 Bleeding

Subtle signs of Illness

Weight loss
 Swellings on bird's torso.
 Changes in water consumption. "Droopy"
 Changes in routine and habits.
 Change in droppings
 Change in overall activity level
 Decrease in preening activity

Naturally, things such as swelling, mutilation, hemorrhage, or occupying the cage bottom may require *immediate* attention. But do not procrastinate over other signs. Any of them need to be checked - within the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

Common Dangers you should protect your bird from:

Source of Danger

Drafts from doors or windows
Exposure to direct sunlight
Open windows or doors
Stoves, heaters, and electrical appliances
Candles
Hot pots or dishes with hot food
Kitchen vapors
Traces of chemicals and cleaners
Open toilets
Knitted and crocheted items
Hard floors
Perches that are too small
Human feet

Possible Effects

Colds
Heatstroke, heart attack
Flying away
Getting burned
Getting burned
Burns, drowning
Internal disorders
Poisoning
Danger drowning
Getting claws caught
Broken legs, bruised chest
Overgrowth of claws
Getting stepped on

LEVEL I & II

TERMS:

AVIAN: Pertaining to birds

CREST: A rosette of feathers on top of the head

CROP: Where food is stored or partly digested

DIARRHEA: Looseness of the bowels and frequent watery movement

DROPPINGS: Body waste

EGG BOUND: When a hen is unable to pass her egg

FEATHER PLUCKERS: A bird that pulls out its own feathers

FLIGHT FEATHERS: The longest feathers of the wing

GROOMING: When one bird cleans the head and neck of another bird

ISOLATE: To place a bird alone

MOLT: A bird loses old feathers and replaces them with new ones

MUCUS: The fluid secreted by mucus membranes

PREEN: To clean and trim the feathers with the beak

REGURGITATE: Birds bring up food from their crops to feed their young

STERILE: Not able to reproduce

EXOTIC BIRD STUDY GUIDE LEVEL I & II

BREEDS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ID:

African Gray	Eclectus
Amazon	Finch
Cockatiel	Lovebird
Cockatoo	Macaw
Conure	Parakeet

FEEDS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ID:

Fruits	Nuts
Large bird seed	Small Bird Seed
Large Pellets	Small Pellets
Millet Spray	Sunflower seeds
Nutri-Berries	Vegetables

BIRD EQUIPMENT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ID:

Bird toy	Nesting Box
Cage	Net
Cuttle Bone	Poly Perch
Flight Suit	Scale
Hand-feeding syringe	Seed Cup
Leg Bands	Septic Powder
Manzanita Perch	Spray Bottle
Mineral Block	Travel Carrier
Nail Clippers	Water Bottle
Nest	Wing Trimmer

EXOTIC BIRD STUDY GUIDE LEVEL I & II

BIRD BODY PARTS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ID:

Back	Mandible	Thigh
Belly	Mantle	Throat
Breast	Nape	Toe
Chin	Nares	Toenail
Crown	Rump	Under tail coverts
Ear Coverts	Scapulars	Upper tail coverts
Eye	Tail	Vent
Flanks	Tarsus	

VET SKILLS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

What a bird look like when it is:

Fighting	Ready to Mate
Frightened	Sick
Grooming	Sleeping
Nest Building	Threatening
Preening	Vocalizing

SHOWMANSHIP:

Demonstrate proper technique for removing a bird from a cage.

Demonstrate proper technique for placing a bird in a cage.

Demonstrate two different ways to discipline a bird.

Demonstrate the "Step Up" command with a bird.

Demonstrate the "Step Down" command with a bird.