



## Avian Suites

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# Parrot Facts

There are 352 known species of parrots. *Parakeets (budgerigars)* are parrots, as are *cockatiels*.

Parrots range in weight from about 30 grams (1 ounce) to around 1600 grams (3 1/2 pounds).

Parrots range in size from about 3 inches to about 40 inches from head to tail.

Almost all of the species live in tropical or subtropical climates.

Parrots are found in Asia, Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, South Pacific, Mexico and Central America, South America, Puerto Rico, Bahamas,

The only parrot native to North America, the Carolina Parakeet, was hunted to extinction in the United States early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There are significant colonies of feral parrots living in California, Florida, Texas and New York.

Parrots are not domesticated animals like cats, dogs and chickens, but are only one or two generations out of the wild. ALL parrots will bite, if given the right combination of circumstances.

Parrots are known to be extremely intelligent, having an intellectual capacity approaching that of a 3-5 year old child. They typically have the emotional maturity of a 2 year old.

Almost all parrots are *capable* of human speech, but the best "talkers" are African Greys, Amazons and Eclectus. The world record for most words and phrases was held for a while by a parakeet in the UK.

Parrots come in all colors of the rainbow, and most species are sexually *monomorphic* in coloration, i.e. you can't tell the girls from the boys.

