



The American Cockatiel Society

Established 1976

*The First and Original National Club
dedicated to the advancement of the cockatiel
through education and responsible husbandry.*

www.acstiels.com



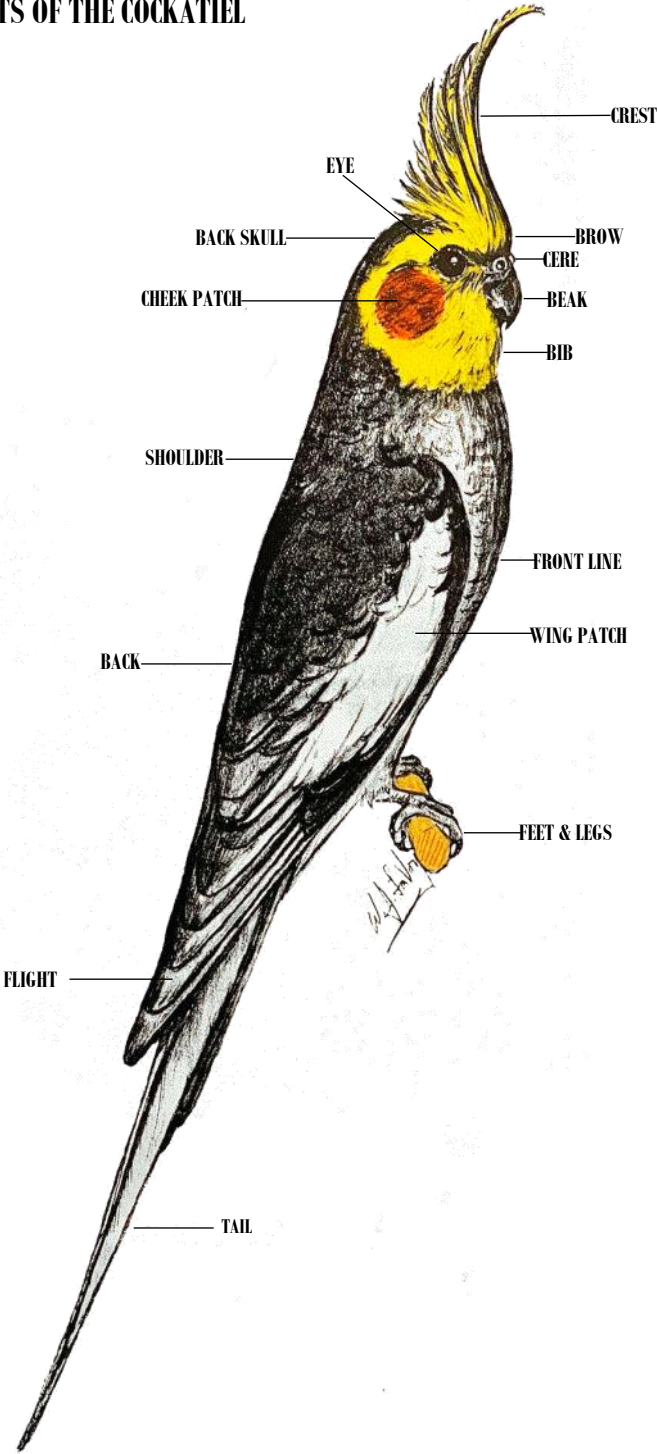
***STANDARD OF
PERFECTION
and
EXHIBITION RULES***

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MAJOR POINTS OF THE COCKATIEL



General Conformation

The cockatiel is a long bird, with graceful proportions, but of good substance (full bodied). From the top of the shoulder curve to the tip of the wing, from the top of the skull to the vent and from the vent to the tip of the tail (ideally) should measure 7". The goal being a 14" bird with a 3" crest. The total bird being 17 inches.

Crest– Should be long (goal 3"), with good density, curving from the top of the cere fanning out to give fullness.

Acceptable Crests



Left: Full, lacks length

Middle: Long but lacks fullness

Right: Lacks both



Crown Crests



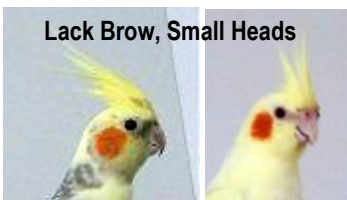
Crown Crests:
Much debate on this crest as it is full and some find it desirable. But it is **NOT** a standard crest. Some judges will fault it, others won't



Head – Should be large and well rounded with no flat spot on top or back of the skull. Baldness on the back of the head will be faulted according to the degree of severity of each bird on the show bench. Our aim is for no bald spot in lutinos, fallows and creamfaces. Adult male cockatiels will have a bright, clear, yellow head, sharply defined where the yellow meets the border of the main body feathers. A deep bib is preferred. There should be no evidence of pin feathers. The eyes should be large, bright and alert and placed at midpoint between front and back of the skull. The brow should be well pronounced. When viewed from the front, the brow should protrude enough to indicate good breadth between the eyes. The beak should be clean, of normal length and tucked in so the lower mandible is partially visible.



Nice Brows & Heads



Lack Brow, Small Heads



Flat Skull



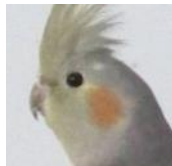
Light Yellow

Cheek patches– Should be uniformly rounded, well defined (no bleeding) and brightly colored (especially on the males). There should be no evidence of pinfeathers.

Correct size and shape



To small, shape and color not good



Neck– Have a very slight curvature above the shoulders and have a small nip above the chest area, giving the bird a graceful outline and eliminating the appearance of a “bull” neck. An exaggerated “snake” neck would be reason for fault.



Good



Long



Snake



Bull

Tail – The longest tail feathers should be the extension of an imaginary line straight through the center of the bird's body. A humped back will cause the tail to sag too low and a “swayed” back might elevate the tail higher than desired. The feathers themselves should be straight, clean and neither frayed, split, nor otherwise out of line. All tail feathers should be in evidence.



Good



Fork



Short



Hinge

Body– The body of the cockatiel when viewed strictly from the side angle can be somewhat deceptive, as only a well rounded outline of the chest will indicate whether the specimen has good substance. A frontal or back view shows more truly the great breadth through the chest (and shoulder) areas of an adult cockatiel. It is the strong muscular development that enables the cockatiel to be such a strong flier. A cockatiel should have a high, broad, full chest, a slender tapering abdomen, a streamlined back (no hump or sway) and be a large, sleek bird.



Good Substance



Lacking Substance



Low Breast Bone

Wings – Should be large, wide and long, enveloping most of the body from a side view. Should be held tightly to the body, tips close to the tail with no drooping of the shoulders or crossing of the wings. The wing patch should be wide (goal of $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the widest point), well defined and clear of darker feathers. All flight feathers should be in evidence. Covert feathers should illustrate their growth pattern clearly.



Notice how smooth and tight to the body the shoulder is



Poor shoulder placement and wing set

Legs and Feet– Should hold the bird erect at approximately 70 degrees off the horizontal. Must grasp the perch firmly (two toes forward and two back), be clean and claws not overgrown or missing.

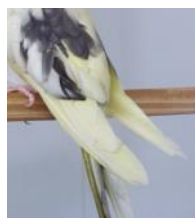
Tail – The longest tail feathers should be the extension of an imaginary line straight through the center of the bird's body. A humped back will cause the tail to sag too low and a "swayed" back might elevate the tail higher than desired. The feathers themselves should be straight, clean and neither frayed, split, nor otherwise out of line. All tail feathers should be in evidence.



Good



Not Flat on Body



Drooped



Crossed

Condition A bird in top condition has clean, tight feathers, no frayed or missing feathers, no half grown or pin feathers. The beak and claws must be of suitable length. There should be no unnatural roughness or scaling on the cere, beak, legs or feet. If a bird is in good condition, it will be almost impossible to get it wet. Water will roll off like it does off a duck.



Good Condition



Poor Condition, frayed feathers,
broken tail feathers



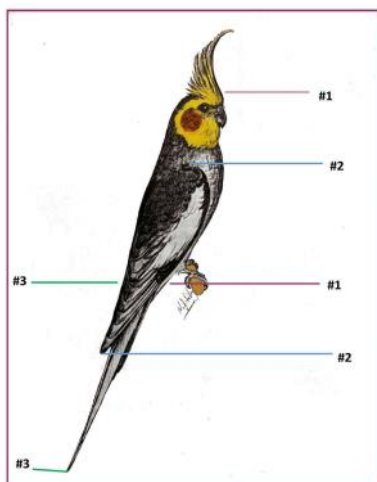
Deportment In a good show stance, a cockatiel should indicate a central line approximately 70 degrees off the horizontal. It will present and display well on the perch.



Good Deportment



To far over perch



UNDERSTANDING 7/7/7

1. Top of the skull to the vent.
2. Shoulder curve to the tip of the wing.
3. Vent to the tip of the tail.

Each should measure 7".

The goal being a 14" bird with a 3" crest.

The total bird being 17 inches.

American Cockatiel Point Standard

The ACS point standard has been formulated strictly as an aid for reference to both the judge and the exhibitor in choosing the best birds. At show time, all birds will be judged by the comparison method, using the point standard as a guide.

1. **Conformation: 65 points**

Length: 15 points,

Overall length of bird (ideally 14" not including crest)

Crest: 10 points,

Length and density of equal importance (ideally 3")

Body Substance: 10 points, Depth & breadth

Proportions: 25 points,

The ideal length from head to end of body should be 7 inches, shoulder to wing tips 7 inches and length of tail seven inches.

Head: 5 points

Large and well rounded, eyes large, bright and alert. Brow well pronounced. Beak clean, normal length and tucked in. Cheek patches uniformly rounded and brightly colored. Bib deep.

2. **Condition: 15 points**

Bird in obvious good health, tight feathered, all feathers grown and in place, clean and non-frayed.

3. **Deportment: 15 points**

Steadiness and posture, basically the result of thorough show training, including no drooping shoulders or crossed wing tips.

4. **Color and markings: 5 points**

See the ACS show standard for details under each type's classification.

Classification of Mutations

The following categories concern specific coloration aspects of the normal and mutant cockatiels. While definition is necessary for each type, it is to be remembered that coloration is not as emphasized on the show bench as it may appear to be in the written standard (See Point Standard.)

Normals – The color should be a dark grey, ideally uniform in color throughout. In adult normals the males' faces turn yellow and the females remain the same. A juvenile will look like a female. Classification abbreviation (N)

Pieds – Any bird with 25% light markings. The goal being yellow pied markings over white pied markings. Symmetry of pied markings is ideal. Classification abbreviation (Pd)

Lutinos – Ideally a rich, deep buttercup yellow throughout. Long tail feathers and primary flights will not be severely faulted for being a lighter shade of yellow than the body. Lutinos should not have a bald spot on the back of their head. Both sexes look the same. You can check the underside of the wings when they are adults. Males will lose the spots and female will retain them. Classification abbreviation (L)

Pearls – The hens will have extensive "heavy" pearl markings that are well defined, uniform and without splotching. Ideally the pearl markings will be a deep buttercup yellow. The males will look the same as the hens until they molt when they will lose most if not all of their pearl markings and get a yellow face. All babies will look like hens. Classification abbreviation (P)

Cinnamons – The color should be cinnamon, uniform in color throughout. In adult cinnamons the males' faces turn yellow and the females remain the same. A juvenile will look like a female. Classification abbreviation (Cn)

Fallows – The color should be light cinnamon with a yellow suffusion, uniform in color throughout. The eyes should be ruby or red. Classification abbreviation (F)

Recessive Silvers – The color should be dull metallic silver, uniform in color throughout. The eyes should be ruby red. Classification abbreviation (RS)

Goldcheek – A mutation of the psittacine pigment of the cheek patch which renders it a golden color. The mask is essentially unchanged as are the other psittacine pigments of the rest of the bird. Classification abbreviation (GC)

Creamface – A mutation which inhibits production of all psittacine pigments on the body of the bird. On the head a pale trace of yellow can be seen on the face and the crest. Classification abbreviation (CF)

Yellowcheek – Cheek patch appears gold with a lemon yellow face color in the male bird. Classification abbreviation (YC)

Pastelface – Cheek patch appears peach with a lemon yellow face color in the male bird. Classification abbreviation (PF)

Single Factor Dominant Silver – A black-eyed dominant melanin-reducing mutation showing a variable reduction in dark pigments. Available in all color mutations, including whiteface. Classification abbreviation (SFDS).

Double Factor Dominant Silver – The body being very light metallic silver than expressed in the silver mutation. Face has an orange cheek patch. Eyes, feet & beak are black, with the exception of Pied; this mutation having flesh colored feet & beak. A skullcap of darker pigmentation is visible on the head. Available in all color mutations, including whiteface. Classification abbreviation (DFDS). Whiteface Single Factor & Double Factor Dominant Silver – Same characteristics as silver with the exception of being a whiteface mutation. Classification abbreviation (WSFDS) & (WDFDS)

Emerald – Available in all color mutations, including whiteface. This mutation has a green wash and a light feather pattern resembling spangling on the body. Classification abbreviation (E).

Cross-Mutations – will be judged by combining the color standards for all mutations involved. Splits (/) – Markings on split birds will not be penalized, as this represents a genetic factor of birds split to pied (both males and females) and are not a matter of faulty breeding. A bird showing the split mark is split to pied; it can be split to other mutations, but will not show the split marking

Rules and Regulations for Champion and Grand Champion Points

Points will be credited to best in combined division (advanced/novice divisions excluding champion and grand champion sections) per the point schedule determined by the number of birds in the show. During best in show competition, a champion or grand champion cockatiel receives an equal number of points as the bird it defeats. If the champion or grand champion cockatiel defeats the best in combined division cockatiel, that cockatiel will also receive credit for a best in show win.

Awards

The Best in Combined will receive the best in show awards. Any “unbanded” sections will be eliminated at ACS Regional and Specialty shows. Advanced exhibitors may exhibit only birds wearing a closed, traceable band. Novice exhibitors may exhibit unbanded birds but the unbanded birds may not advance to the combined bench. The judge should indicate whether or not the unbanded bird would have placed on the combined bench had it been banded and where the bird would have placed, since the novice exhibitor needs this information. One extra point is added to each placement in Regional shows. Double points are added to each placement at the annual ACS Specialty show.

Champion Cockatiel Defined

Champion Cockatiel: Any cockatiel that has gained a total of 35 points from 3 or more open cockatiel shows and judged by 3 or more different ACS Panel Judges. Included in this must be one Best in Show win. As of 1/1/2016 the total will be 50 points from 3 or more open cockatiel shows and judged by 3 or more different ACS Panel Judges.

Grand Champion Cockatiel Defined

Grand Champion Cockatiel: Any cockatiel that has gained a total of 75 points in four or more cockatiel shows judged by four or more different ACS Panel Judges. Included in this must be two best in show placements judged by two different ACS Panel Judges.

ACS Hall of Fame and Supreme Hall of Fame

1. All ACS birds currently listed under the HOF status each year in the magazine will be "grandfathered" into Hall of Fame status.
2. In order for an ACS bird to compete to achieve Hall of Fame and/or Supreme Hall of Fame status, they must have achieved Grand Champion status first (75 points and 2 major show wins under 2 different judges). Once a bird has met the criteria of a Grand Champion, the bird will continue to compete in section 9, "All Grand Champions". As the bird accumulates points in this class, these points will go toward Hall of Fame and Supreme Hall of Fame.
3. In order for a bird to qualify for Hall of Fame, the bird must accumulate at least 75 additional points over and above the points earned prior to becoming a Grand Champion and win 1 best in show.
4. In order for a bird to qualify for Supreme Hall of Fame, the bird must accumulate at least 125 additional points over and above the points earned prior to becoming a Grand Champion and win 1 additional best in show under a different judge from the judge for the Hall of Fame.
5. Once a bird achieves Hall of Fame, the point's registrar will present the owner with a Certificate of Achievement similar to what is given for Champion and Grand Champion, at the Specialty Show or if the owner is not present, it will be mailed. The bird will be so listed in the magazine.
6. Once a bird achieves Supreme Hall of Fame, the President will present the owner/ exhibitor with an award procured by the VP of Exhibition with the following designation: ACS standard, American Cockatiel Society Supreme Hall of Fame, bird band number and exhibitor. This award will be presented at the Specialty Show or if the owner is not present mailed to the owner.

ACS Point Schedule (amended 2021)

In order for points to be awarded there must be a minimum of 20 cockatiels entered in the show and a minimum of 4 exhibitors. . For a cockatiel to be credited points, it must be closed-banded with a single coded, traceable metal band. It may not be double banded. The exception being States that require a cockatiel to be banded with a State band.

Birds/Show	BiS	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
20 to 24	5	4	3	2	1						
25 to 29	6	5	4	3	2	1					
30 to 34	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
35 to 39	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
40 to 44	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
45 to 49	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
50 to 59	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
60 to 69	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
70 to 79	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
80 to 89	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
90 to 99	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
100 to 109	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
110 to 119	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

120 + Entries

Add one additional point for every 10 additional entries

ACS Classifications: Novice Division

Cocks			Hens	
Old	Young		Old	Young
		Section 1: Normals		
1101	1102	Normal	1103	1104
		Section 2: Pieds		
1201	1202	Pied	1203	1204
1205	1206	Cinnamon Pied	1207	1208
1209	1210	Pearl Pied	1211	1212
1213	1214	Cinnamon Pearl Pied	1215	1216
		Section 3: Lutinos		
1301	1302	Lutino	1303	1304
1305	1306	Lutino Pearl	1307	1308
1309	1310	Cinnamon Lutino	1311	1312
1313	1314	Cinnamon Lutino Pearl	1315	1316
		Section 4: Pearls		
1401	1402	Pearl	1403	1404
1405	1406	Cinnamon Pearl	1407	1408
		Section 5: Cinnamons		
1501	1502	Cinnamons	1503	1504

*This Class includes birds with the tell-tale signs of splits: spots on the head, nape, etc.

** Void of all color, including the cheek patch

*** Cross mutations including fallow or silver would also be shown in A.O.V.

Old	Young	Section 6: Whiteface	Old	Young
1601	1602	Whiteface	1603	1604
1605	1606	Whiteface Pied	1607	1608
1609	1610	Whiteface Pearl Pied	1611	1612
1613	1614	Whiteface Cinnamon Pied	1615	1616
1617	1618	Whiteface Cinnamon Pearl Pied	1619	1620
1621	1622	Albine** (Whiteface Lutino)	1623	1624
1625	1626	Whiteface Cinnamon	1627	1628
1629	1630	Whiteface Pearl	1631	1632
1633	1634	Whiteface Cinnamon Pearl	1635	1636
1637	1638	A.O.V. ***	1639	1640
		Section 7: Rares		
1701	1702	Fallow	1703	1704
1705	1706	Recessive Silver	1707	1708
1709	1710	Pastelface	1711	1712
1713	1714	Dominant Yellowcheek	1715	1716
1717	1718	Sex Linked Yellowcheek	1719	1720
1721	1722	Dominant Silver	1723	1724
1725	1726	Goldcheek	1727	1728
1729	1730	Emerald	1731	1732
1733	1734	A.O.V. ***	1735	1736

*This Class includes birds with the tell-tale signs of splits: spots on the head, nape, etc.

** Void of all color, including the cheek patch

*** Cross mutations including fallow or silver would also be shown in A.O.V.

ACS Classifications: Advanced Division				
Cocks			Hens	
Old	Young		Old	Young
		Section 1: Normals		
2101	2102	Normal	2103	2104
		Section 2: Pies		
2201	2202	Pied	2203	2204
2205	2206	Cinnamon Pied	2207	2208
2209	2210	Pearl Pied	2211	2212
2213	2214	Cinnamon Pearl Pied	2215	2216
		Section 3: Lutinos		
2301	2302	Lutino	2303	2304
2305	2306	Lutino Pearl	2307	2308
2309	2310	Cinnamon Lutino	2311	2312
2313	2314	Cinnamon Lutino Pearl	2315	2316
		Section 4: Pearls		
2401	2402	Pearl	2403	2404
2405	2406	Cinnamon Pearl	2407	2408
		Section 5: Cinnamons		
2501	2502	Cinnamons	2503	2504

*This Class includes birds with the tell-tale signs of splits: spots on the head, nape, etc.

** Void of all color, including the cheek patch

*** Cross mutations including fallow or silver would also be shown in A.O.V.

		Section 6: Whiteface		
2601	2602	Whiteface	2603	2604
2605	2606	Whiteface Pied	2607	2608
2609	2610	Whiteface Pearl Pied	2611	2612
2613	2614	Whiteface Cinnamon Pied	2615	2616
2617	2618	Whiteface Cinnamon Pearl Pied	2619	2620
2621	2622	Albine** (Whiteface Lutino)	2623	2624
2625	2626	Whiteface Cinnamon	2627	2628
2629	2630	Whiteface Pearl	2631	2632
2633	2634	Whiteface Cinnamon Pearl	2635	2636
2637	2638	AOV ***	2639	2640
		Section 7: Rares		
2701	2702	Fallow	2703	2704
2705	2706	Recessive Silver	2707	2708
2709	2710	Pastelface	2711	2712
2713	2714	Dominant Yellowcheek	2715	2716
2717	2718	Sex Linked Yellowcheek	2719	2720
2721	2722	Dominant Silver	2723	2724
2725	2726	Goldcheek	2727	2728
2729	2730	Emerald	2731	2732
2733	2734	AOV ***	2735	2736
		Section 8: All Champions		
	2801	All Champions		
		Section 9: All Grand Champions		
	2901	All Grand Champions		

*This Class includes birds with the tell-tale signs of splits: spots on the head, nape, etc.

** Void of all color, including the cheek patch

*** Cross mutations including fallow or silver would also be shown in A.O.V.

Show Cage Dimensions:

- ◇ 17" high, 18" wide and 10" deep
- ◇ Front: Chrome/SS, removable roll-top perches
- ◇ **Two** ¾" dowels perpendicular to front. Height of the perch placement being 7 ½ inches from the exterior bottom of the box to the center of the dowel rod
- ◇ Paint Color: Inside: light blue semi- gloss, Sherwin Williams color 48966X-Dainty Blue or Pittsburg color P2693-Blueberry Frost.
- ◇ Outside: high gloss black
- ◇ An appropriate seed mix will cover the bottom of the cage not to exceed 1 inch in depth.
- ◇ Water containers (tubes or bottles) that can be removed without opening the cage or ACS approved inside waterers.
- ◇ Exterior waterers will be removed during judging.

Guidelines for Exhibitors Novice to Advance Status requirement:

In order for a novice exhibitor to move to the advanced division status, that novice exhibitor must have THREE different cockatiels place on the Advanced Top Bench, in at least three shows, under three different ACS Panel Judges, THREE of those birds having been bred and banded by the exhibitor.

- ◇ A novice exhibitor can move to the advanced division at any time, but can never again show in the Novice division.
- ◇ A novice exhibitor's bird must receive points in order for that bird to be credited with being on the advanced top bench.
- ◇ Once a cockatiel places on the advanced top bench three times under three different judges, thereafter that cockatiel must be exhibited as an advanced cockatiel. This does not affect the status of the novice exhibitor.
- ◇ 5. A novice exhibitor must show any purchased bird with an advanced exhibitor's band in the advanced division. This does not affect the status of the novice exhibitor.

Additional show rules:

- ◇ Any exhibitor that has shown in the advanced division in either the American Cockatiel Society or the National Cockatiel Society must always enter birds in the Advanced Division of either society.
- ◇ All exhibitors in a household must exhibit at the highest level of any member of that household – the exception being for children under the age of eighteen.
- ◇ Bird entered in the YOUNG class must be banded with the current year's band

Transfer of Points (Reinstated effective date 5/17/2015)

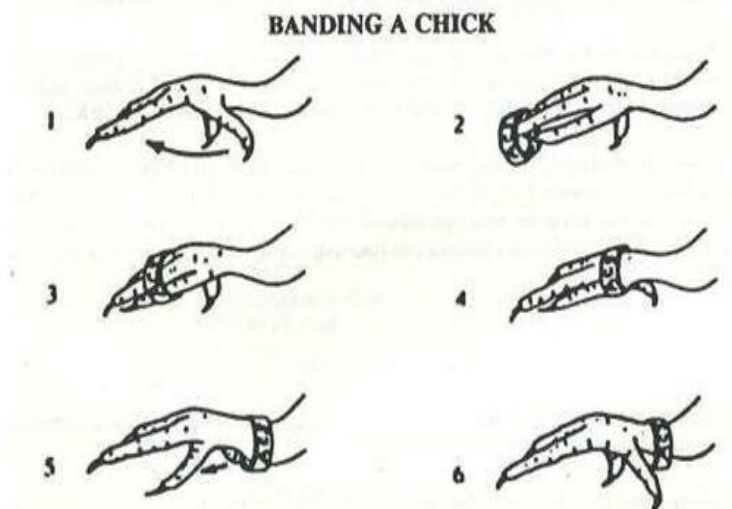
1. The bird whose points are transferred must have placed and won points in an ACS show.
2. The owner of the bird wishing to transfer points must be a member of ACS and must have joined ACS prior to the show where the bird earns ACS points qualifying it for points transfer.
3. The number of points transferable will be determined on an organization by organization basis by the BOD after reviewing the method used by that organization to award its points.
4. One best in show win in other societies per bird, whether won in an NCS major show or minor show, may be transferred to ACS but will count only as a Best in Show in a minor show. ACS will allow the bird to show as a Champion if the bird has enough qualifying points and minor show wins to qualify under ACS rules for Champion. At no time, will the minor wins count toward a Grand Champion status in ACS. In order for the bird to obtain Grand Champion status in ACS, it will be required to have at least two Best in Show wins under two different judges in two ACS shows and have accumulated a total of at least 75 points between transferred points and ACS points.
5. No "champion" or "grand champion" designations by other societies will be accepted for transfer. Points awarded to a champion or grand champion of another approved society may be transferred to ACS as outlined in item #3. BIS awarded to a champion or grand champion of another approved society, may be transferred to ACS as outlined item #4.

6. Points earned in NCS per the above rules may be transferred to ACS based on the published report of show results in the society's official publication, whether in a printed publication or on the official website so as to spare the exhibitor from being charged a fee by the other society (revised 2012). If the fee is waived, a report from the actual Points Registrar is the preferable method.

Bands

The official leg bands of the American Cockatiel Society are made of colored aluminum (color changes each year) and are precision machined. Each band bears the Society's initials, the year, the individual breeder's code and the number of the band. All characters are stamped into the band, furnishing a permanent record for the breeder. Bands are closed, seamless and must be put on the baby cockatiel's leg when about two weeks old (see diagram on banding). Double banded Cockatiels will not be permitted at ACS Regional or Specialty shows. All other shows are governed by the club having the show. Double banded birds, will be considered as untraceable with no band number recorded on the ACS Show Report consequently no champion points will be awarded. Exceptions to double banding are: (1) States that require a cockatiel to be banded with a state band will not be considered double banded providing they are banded with a traceable band. (2) The show secretary shall verify the state required band and mark the show reports such. The cage tag will be marked on the front-upper left corner "DB" to designate the cockatiel is also banded with a state band.

There is no set age for banding a chick, usually they may be ACS banded from 10 to 14 days of age. It is best to band a chick too young rather than wait too long and not be able to band it at all. If you choose to band early, check often to make sure the band has not slipped off.



Banding a Chick

(Figure #1) Hold chick in the left hand, with the thumb and first finger of the right hand gather together the three longest toes, hold them in position with the thumb and first to fingers of the left hand.

(Figure #2) With the right hand, slip band over the 3 toes as far as it will go.

(Figure #3 & #4) Grasp the band with the thumb and first finger of the left hand and pull, at the same time gently pull the three toes with the thumb and first finger of the right hand, until the band slips over the three toes.

(Figure #5) The little toe is still under the band. With a blunt pointed toothpick, gently pull the little toe from under the band in a forward motion.

(Figure #6) The chick is now banded. Gently massage the foot and toes. Make sure the band moves freely on the leg.

NOTE: Mineral oil or some other lubricant applied to the foot before banding may make it easier to band an older chick. ACS coded, colored bands are available to members only.

NOTES

Conformation: 65 points

Length: 15 points,

Crest: 10 points,

Body Substance: 10 points,

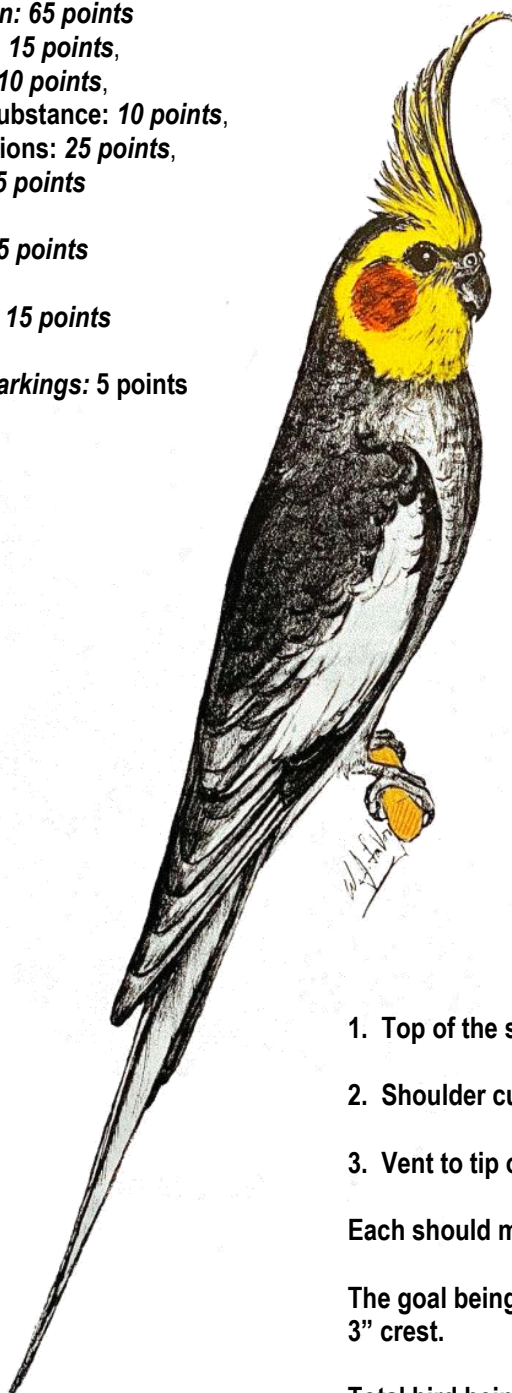
Proportions: 25 points,

Head: 5 points

Condition: 15 points

Deportment: 15 points

Color and markings: 5 points



7/7/7

- 1. Top of the skull to vent**
- 2. Shoulder curve to tip of wing**
- 3. Vent to tip of tail**

Each should measure 7"

The goal being a 14" bird with a 3" crest.

Total bird being 17"