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The Author

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

%	Percentage
cm	Centimeter
Mm	Millimeter
<i>et al.</i>	And others
e.g	Example
IOC	International Ornithologic Congress
i.e	That is

ABSTRACT

The term 'pet bird' designates birds housed and bred in cages or for generations keeping pet birds is a wonderful pastime with a long history and a universal appeal. It is an absorbing, highly satisfying and rewarding interest that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all walks of life. Cage birds have many advantages over other animals as pet and there is an enormous variety of birds to choose from with characters every bit as varied as their looks and they are mainly derived from two orders namely as Passeriformes and Psittaciformes. The Australian budgie (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) is the oldest pet bird which was brought from Australia during 1840 by John Gould first brought from Australia to the UK in 1840. Probably keeping pet bird started in Bangladesh during 1960 and became popular after the independence war in 1971 and this popularity has opened the door for many to make a substantial income, while others have engaged in keeping pet bird as a hobby. In Bangladesh this sector has a promising future which needs industrious work for getting benefitted. So a proper breeding plan with adequate research is necessary for creating market value.

Key words: Pet bird, cage, behavior, Bangladesh

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Birds are egg laying endothermic vertebrates characterized by feathers, beak without teeth, high metabolic rate and light weight with strong skeleton and typically being able to fly. Birds are considered as a symbol of fortune, peace, scavengers or the angel of heaven in this earthy place. According to International Ornithologic Congress (IOC), World Bird List (2015), there are about 10,612 extant species and 153 extinct species of birds in this world. All birds are categorized under about 239 families and the family *Pycnonotidae* is the largest family among them (*Zia et al., 2014*).

The fossil record indicates that birds are the last surviving dinosaurs having evolved from the feathered ancestors and true birds first appeared during the cretaceous period around 100 million years ago (*Brown et al., 2011*). They live worldwide and range in size from 5 cm (Hummingbird) to 2.75 m (Ostrich) (*Martin, 1980*). Birds which are with living and breeding in cages or aviaries for generations at least more than 200 years, generally are called pet bird. The term ‘pet’ designates birds housed and bred successfully and these rearing or farming is known as a popular term i.e aviculture.

There are parrot-type birds such as budgerigars (budgies, also called parakeets), lovebirds, cockatiels, cockatoos, conures, amazons and macaws, as well as non-parrot-type birds such as canaries and finches. Almost all medium sized parrots now available are captive bred, including quakers, caiques, pionus, and conures. Many of these make fun and are intelligent companion birds. Smaller birds like budgies, cockatiels, canaries and finches are the most common pet birds.

Over 3000 years before the birth of Christ man had already begun to tame certain types of wild birds, going on to breed them and to turn their virtues to his own ends. As long

ago as 2600 BC descendants of the wild Rock Dove *Columba livia* were already domesticated; indeed the pigeon was probably the first domesticated animal (Martin, 1980). In the early near East cultures the dove was regarded as sacred; to the Syrian Goddess of Desire, Aphrodite, sanctified it and later the Romans associated it with Venus. Later still the dove was protected by the Islamic Mohammedian countries; and we still regard it as the symbol of peace (Martin, 1980).

The first real cage bird that is a wild bird tamed to live and breed in a cage for aesthetic rather than utilitarian reasons, was the now familiar and much loved Canary *Serinus canaria*. This was the first bird to become entirely conditioned to a caged bird. It is a robust finch from the Canary islands (Martin, 1980). For roughly four centuries the Canary by virtue of its intrinsic beauty; sweet musical and versatile song and peaceful nature, remained the most popular cage bird until it was to some extent superseded by the Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus* which John Gould, the celebrated English naturalist, author and artist brought from Australia in 1800. He little realized the scale of craze he was about to start. In Bangladesh, most probably keeping pet bird started during 1960 and became popular after the independence war in 1971.

Today's quality cages are geared with the bird's comfort and welfare in mind, as well as ease of maintenance by the caregiver. They're bigger, as the generally accepted minimum cage sizes have increased. Fitted with solid hardware and complete with bird-safe bowls for feeding, most cages are designed to accept the addition of perches, toys, swings, boings and other accessories. Essentially conceived as an outside-in playground, today's cages can provide enrichment, activity opportunities, a healthy, clean environment, and the security and serenity a roost provides in the wild.

Birds are always beautiful sights to behold. Scenes like seagulls gliding without effort or eagles soaring majestically are inspiring to watch. Generally the offspring of ornamental birds could be sold at high for rising prices. Finally, exotic birds like greater

psittaciforms (parrots, or cockatoo), legally or illegally traded from for example Asia or South America, remain high in the ranking of popular pets and are also profusely represented in zoos and parks.

For as long as man has held a fascination with birds, he has understood the necessity for their housing while under his care as they are one of the most beautiful gift of nature. Throughout history, humans have had an intimate relationship with nature, most obviously depending on it for subsistence and production. As modern society emerged, and the human population condensed into urban areas, industrialization freed many people from reliance on direct consumptive interactions with nature. Indeed, in post-war society, people-nature interactions have fundamentally shifted from direct consumption and exploitation to more mutualistic relationships in which people actively seek out interactions with nature for recreation and enjoyment (*Fuller, 2010*).

Interacting with pet birds may therefore be important not only for survival but also for human quality of life. Indeed, there is mounting empirical evidence that interacting with pet birds delivers a range of measurable human benefits, including positive effects on physical health, psychological well-being, cognitive ability and social cohesion.

Specific objectives of the present study:

- To observe the pet bird status of the study area and identifying different species
- To learn about the husbandry, nature, habitat, behavior and the necessity of the pet birds
- To encourage people in keeping pet bird and thus conserving nature

Chapter II

MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Study area and Duration

The study was conducted in some areas in Bangladesh as per convenience. As an intern student different home of pet owners at Cox's bazar, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet area were visited to collect information and photographs during January 2015 to November 2015.

2.2 Data collection

A structured questionnaire was developed to find out the keeping status of common pet birds in Bangladesh. Data were collected by door to door visit, face to face interview, phone calls and also through emails.

2.3 Observation

Observation was also used as a tool for studying about the pet bird. This facilitates to learn and study about their body characteristics, habitats, feeds and feeding, breeding and common health issues.

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2.4 Taking Photograph

After the interview on questionnaire, photographs of pet birds were taken from study area. However some photographs were collected from the pet owners too.

Chapter III

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Common pet birds of Bangladesh

The present keeping status of pet birds in Bangladesh has been shown in Table -1. This table is written on the basis of the main pet bird classification according to IOC classification (2012).

Order	Family	Genus	Species	English name
Passeriforms	Fringillidae	<i>Serinus</i>	<i>S. canaria</i>	Canary
		<i>Carduelis</i>	<i>C. carduelis</i>	Gold finch
	Estrildidae	<i>Taeniopygia</i>	<i>T. guttata</i>	Zebra finch
		<i>Poephila</i>	<i>P. acuticauda</i>	Long-tailed finch
		<i>Erythrura</i>	<i>E. gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch
		<i>Lonchura</i>	<i>L. striata</i>	Bengalese finch
	Psittaciforms	Psittacidae	<i>Melopsittacus</i>	<i>M. undulates</i>
		<i>Carduelis</i>	<i>C. carduelis</i>	Gold finch
Estrildidae		<i>Taeniopygia</i>	<i>T. guttata</i>	Zebra finch
		<i>Poephila</i>	<i>P. acuticauda</i>	Long-tailed finch

		<i>Erythrura</i>	<i>E. gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch
		<i>Lonchura</i>	<i>L. striata</i>	Bengalese finch
Psittaciforms	Psittacidae	<i>Melopsittacus</i>	<i>M. undulates</i>	Budgerigar
		<i>Agapornis</i>	<i>A spp</i>	Lovebird
		<i>Psittacula</i>	<i>P. eupatria</i>	Alexandrine parakeet
		<i>Lorius</i>	<i>L. spp</i>	Lories
		<i>Psittacus</i>	<i>P. erithacus</i>	African grey parrot
		<i>Poicephalus</i>	<i>P. senegalus</i>	Senegal parrot
		<i>Ara</i>	<i>A spp</i>	Macaw
		<i>Aratinga</i>	<i>A spp</i>	Conure
		<i>Amazona</i>	<i>A. aestiva</i>	Amazon
	Cacatuidae	<i>Cacatua</i>	<i>C. alba</i>	Cockatoo
		<i>Nymphicus</i>	<i>N. hollandicus</i>	Cockatiel

Table-1: Pet birds found in Bangladesh

Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)

- *Origin:* Australia
- *Body length:* 19 cm
- *Mass:* 30 -40 g (Adult, in the wild)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Clutch size:* 4-6
- *Lifespan:* 5-8 years
(Adult, In captivity)
- *Feed:* seed and greens
- *Characters:* good talkers,
affectionate and energetic



Fig-1: Budgreigar

Zebra Finchs (*Taeniopygia gutta*)

- *Origin:* Australia
- *Body length:* 10 cm
- *Mass:* 12 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Clutch size:* 4-6
- *Life span:* 5-7 years (In captivity)
- *Feed:* mainly seed eater but
insectivorous when they have
babies to care for
- *Characters:* early breeder with
various color mutations



Fig-2: Zebra Finch

Java Finchs (*Lonchura oryzivora*)

- *Origin:* Indonesia
- *Another name:* paddy bird
- *Mass:* 25 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Clutch size:* 3-5
- *Lifespan:* 8-12 years
- *Feed:* Paddy (seed eater)
- *Characters:* easy to breed with attractive color mutations and this very favourite for the bigginers



Fig-3: Java Finch

Gouldian Finchs (*Erythrura gouldiae*)

- *Origin:* Austraila
- *Body length:* 10 cm
- *Mass:* 12 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Lifespan:* 5-7 years (In captivity)
- *Feed:* mainly seed eater but insectivorous when they have baies to care for
- *Characters:* early breeder with distinctive colours and a popular pet due to its smaller size



Fig-4: Gouldian Finch

Bengalese finch (*Lonchura striata*)

- *Origin:* North america
- *Other name:* Society finch
- *Mass:* 20-30 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Clutch size:* 3-5
- *Lifespan:* 8-11 years
- *Feed:* Peddy (seed eater)
- *Characters:* well adopted at captivity and very popular as the society finch



Fig-5: Bengalese Finch

Love bird (*Agapornis*)

- *Origin:* Austraila
- *Body length:* 5-7 inches
- *Mass:* 40 -60 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the year
- *Clutch size:* 4-6
- *Lifespan:* 10-15 years
- *Feed:* herbivores
- *Characters:* noisy but intelligent, although their sex identification is too tough but the most popular pet for all bird lovers

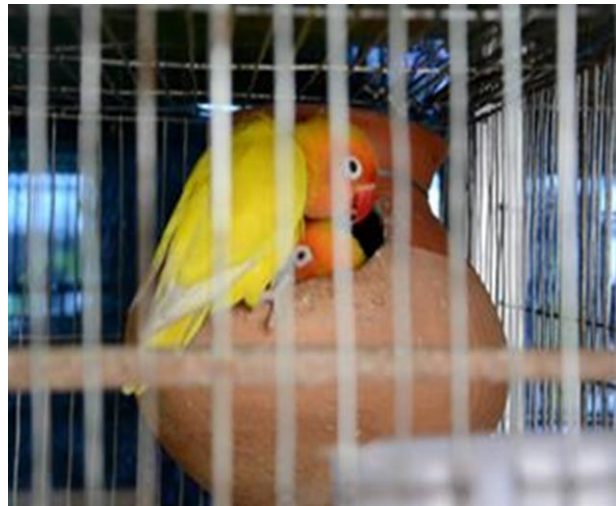


Fig-6: Love bird

Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)

- *Origin:* Australia
- *Body length:* 30 cm
- *Mass:* 90 g (Adult, In the wild)
- *Breeding time:* seasonal
- *Clutch size:* 3-6
- *Lifespan:* 15-20 years
(In captivity)
- *Feed:* seed and greens
- *Characters:* good companion parrot with very attractive and colorful mutations



Fig-7: Cockatiel

African Grey (*Psittacus erithacus*)

- *Origin:* Africa
- *Body length:* 90 cm
- *Mass:* 330 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* seasonal
- *Lifespan:* 60-90 years
- *Feed:* seed and fruits
- *Characters:* one of the best talking pet in the world if procured young, scientists assumes that it has the intelligence of a six years old boy and generally they outlive their owner due to having a long life spans of age



Fig-8: African grey

Macaw (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)

- *Origin:* South America
- *Another name:* long tailed parrot
- *Varieties:* 19
- *Mass:* 900-1500 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* seasonal
- *Clutch size:* 3-4
- *Lifespan:* 50-70 years
- *Feed:* seed and fruits
- *Characters:* having wonderful facial feather pattern and tail and the largest parrot bird in the world



Fig-9: Macaw

Conure (*Aratinga*)

- *Origin:* South america
- *Body length:* 17-20 inches
- *Mass:* 40 -60 g (Adult)
- *Breeding time:* all round the yea
- *Clutch size:* 4-6
- *Lifespan:* 10-15 years
- *Feed:* seed, fruits and vegetable
- *Characters:* noisy but intelligent, popular parrot



Fig-10: Conure

Senegal parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*)

- *Origin:* South Africa
- *Body length:* 23 cm
- *Mass:* 120-170 g
(Adult, In the wild)
- *Breeding time:* seasonal
- *Clutch size:* 3-6
- *Lifespan:* 50 years
(In captivity)
- *Feed:* seed and greens
- *Characters:* popular parrot
not so noisy



Fig-10: Senegal parrot

3.2 Prospects of keeping pet birds in Bangladesh

Once pet were thought of as a luxury item in the country. Not today! Dogs, cats & fish have always been a popular part of the household, but when television became available to everyone in the nineties, many shows popularized the pet birds. Perhaps it started out as a fad, but once people learned the character and personality of these feathered little ones, their reputation as a pet became synonymous with utmost pleasure. This popularity has opened the door for many to make a substantial income, while others have engaged in raising birds as a hobby.

Peoples with nominal investment and reasonable care can easily succeed and gain inestimable knowledge. Already the pet birds are reared in household for ornamental purpose and for passion. There are also some pet shops throughout the country particularly Reazuddin bazaar, Chittagong and Katabon, Dhaka keeping pet birds in their shops and attracts mass people attention. For that, we can assume that this is now time

for breeding those birds for commercial purposes as peoples getting attracted to such type of matters in increasing manner. Before that, they may be over bred, infertile, poor parents or one of many common reasons to sell as enough knowledge on pet bird rearing is just emerging. One voluntary organization for birds care has been organized namely Association of Avian Veterinarian, Bangladesh and they are working with Bangladesh Pet Bird's Breeder Association.

But as mostly in house they are reared up so facing much problem in management. The main important thing is to have a space in an unoccupied building for them.

The pet bird farming in Bangladesh has a promising future. But this is not a business where one should expect to get richon overnight. So a proper breeding plan with adequate research is necessary for creating market value.

Chapter IV

CONCLSION

Bird keeping and breeding and the sale, import and export of birds are all strictly governed by law. In many countries export of rare species is banned in order to conserve wild stocks and keeping of certain species prohibited. All who intend to purchase pet except from recognized dealers should be aware of the legislation in force at the time. In Bangladesh unemployed educated persons can keep pet birds as their hobby and to make an economic solveny. So i think the future of pet bird in Bangladesh is very bright and definitely this will contribute conservation of wild life not only in Bangladesh but also in the world.

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BIOGRAPHY

M. Mujibur Rahaman (11 Feb 1992), a Bangladeshi native is a person of seeing a dream in progress to the destiny. He is the third issue of his beloved parents *Rafiq Ahmad* and *Shaheda Begum*. He has completed both SSC and HSC from B. M. Char High School and Govt. City College, Chittagong in 2007 and 2009 respectively. He is working now in the professional arena of Veterinary Science, Wild life Conservation, Education, Research and Publication at different national and international level to encompass an excellent congenial working environment. He prefers the proactive challenges with opportunities as his continuous career progression along with the qualitative elevation. He is interested in overseas higher study and do work and research on the animal welfare and public health and environment.