

****Note: Birds on shoulders****

Birds are not entitled to be on shoulders. Sitting on a shoulder is a privilege that should be given and can be taken away. If a bird does not "step up" every time it is asked while sitting on a person's shoulder, they should NOT be allowed on shoulders. If a bird runs away from the person's hand, or hides behind the person's head or runs down their back, the bird has lost the privilege. A bird on a shoulder can do serious damage to a person's face. Do not put yourself or anyone else in a bad situation. If your bird cannot be trusted on your shoulder, do not allow it.

"Step down"

Just like "step up" this means the bird always steps down when asked. "Step down" can be used to move your bird onto a gym or another person's hand. When you say "step down" you are telling the bird "Its ok, this thing I am putting you on is safe. You can trust me." Never put your bird onto anything that cannot support its weight, or that will harm your bird.

Again, it is not natural for a bird to step down onto something below their feet so keep that in mind when asking a bird to "step down."



"No"

Use this command sparingly, and only when you really mean it. Birds can be very similar to toddlers and if you constantly say "no" the word will lose its value and become ignored. Positive reinforcement is always better than using "no." Use distraction and redirect bad behaviors. Never tell a bird "no" without giving them an appropriate outlet for their energy such as handing them a toy to chew, or bringing them to an appropriate place to play.

Raising a bird requires a patient and consistent care taker. By giving your bird the basic training, rules and guidelines to live by, you are not only helping yourself to have a better behaved, more enjoyable companion, but you are giving your bird the tools to live happily with you and your family.

If you have any questions about raising and training your companion bird, please call us or visit us. We would be happy to share our many years of knowledge with you.



The Crystal Parrot

15C College Highway
Southampton, MA 01073

(413) 527-2550

www.crystalparrot.com