

Orange Weaver Finch

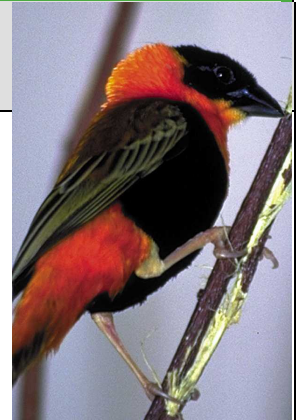
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CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Orange weaver finches, also known as red bishops, are best kept in pairs, trios or by themselves. True to their name, the males can weave and build elaborate nests when kept in large aviaries.



Is an orange weaver finch the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate location and space for these birds.
- I will provide a safe environment for these birds.
- I understand that these birds do not require handling or time outside a cage.
- The natural sounds of these birds will be acceptable to family members and neighbors.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, an orange weaver finch may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a finch and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 4 to 5 inches long

Life Span 10+ years with proper care

Diet Specialized pelleted diets are highly recommended and should consist of 60–70% of the diet; use fortified seeds in moderation as they are higher in fat and less nutritious than pellets
 Fresh greens several times a week, plus slices of raw apples and oranges
 Clean, fresh, filtered and chlorine-free water changed daily
 Do not feed birds fruit seeds, avocados, chocolate, alcohol, or caffeine as these can cause serious medical problems

Feeding If your bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually; fresh pellets or seeds and fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should always be available
 Fresh fruits and vegetables should be given daily and discarded when not eaten within 24 hours; finches appreciate quality and variety in their food

Housing Birds acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature change; cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts
 A rectangular flight cage approximately 24"W x 14"D x 18"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for up to 3 finches; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible
 Perches should be at least 3" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended
 A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with cage paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning; to avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches

Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your birds health

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Recommended Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Cage and cage cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird bath | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed | <input type="checkbox"/> Grit | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Food dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about finches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Water dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Styptic gel | |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction Males are territorial; keep a single male with one or two females in one cage; do not keep with other types of finches
Frequent, pleasant chirping
Males change to brilliant orange and black plumage for the first time in their second year; color change is seasonal

Habitat Maintenance Clean and disinfect the cage and perches regularly; replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed; replace food and water daily
Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly
Ensure that there are no cage parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead and lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird

Grooming and Hygiene Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done; as an alternative, mist the bird with water or a grooming spray
Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird

Signs of a Healthy Bird

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Dry nostrils and bright, dry eyes
- Clean, dry vent
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Beak, legs, and feet normal in appearance
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

Common Health Issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of dropping is loose, weight loss, ruffled feathers. Variety of causes from diet change to internal parasites.	Seek treatment from veterinarian.
Lice or Feather Mites	Restlessness, scratching, feather picking.	Clean cage. Seek veterinary attention
Mites (Scaly Face and Leg Disease)	White deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	Seek veterinary attention.
Pox	Lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	Isolate bird; seek veterinary attention.

Red Flags

- Beak swelling or accumulations
- Wheezing or coughing
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- Runny or discolored stools
- Red or swollen eyes
- Sitting on floor of habitat
- Favoring one foot
- Loss of appetite

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your avian veterinarian.

Sources *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* by Ritchie, Harrison, and Harrison
The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care by David L. Carroll
The Simple Guide to Bird Care and Training by Julie Rach

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.