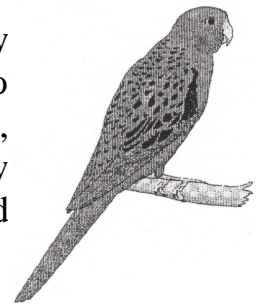


# ***TRANSPORTING YOUR BIRD.***

***BY STEVEN PRIDE.***

The time will come when you as a responsible bird owner may have to transport your bird or birds to a new location. Maybe to go to the vet, or take a newly purchased bird home to your aviary, or even have a pet bird be looked after by a friend. With a few simple steps and a bit of thought this can be done efficiently and safely.

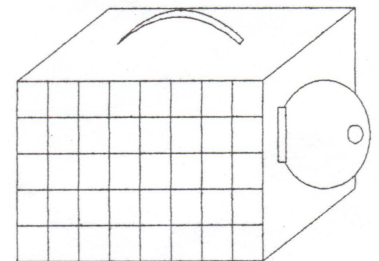


## ***Carrying cage size.***

Your carrying cage should be big enough so that your bird is not cramped and not too large so your bird can't fly around. This could cause injury to your bird.

## ***Material and construction of your carrying cage.***

The carrying cage should be of sound construction just in case it is dropped. Cardboard boxes are no good if they get wet they can fall apart, also large parrots can chew their way through them with ease. A lot of carrying cages are made of wood. These should be sealed by painting and have a door large enough to accommodate the bird and your hand, plus be lockable. A removable front is also a good idea so the cage can be easily cleaned; also it makes it easier to release your bird back into your aviary. Some small cat and dog carrying cages can be adapted to suit and are easy to clean. ***IE: DO NOT USE TREATED WOOD.***

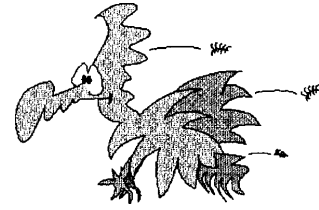


## ***The wire for your carrying cage.***

The wire should be small enough so the bird being transported will not injure itself, by putting parts of its body through the wire. Many birds have their wings broken and even hung themselves on larger wire. The border of the wire should be totally sealed so no sharp edges protrude inside or out of the carrying cage. This could cause serious injury to the bird and yourself. ***IE: WASH GALVANISE WIRE WITH VINEGAR AND WATER***

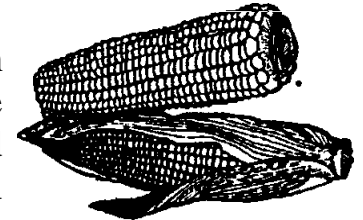
### ***Inside of carrying cage.***

A non slip surface inside the carrying cage should be supplied so that the bird can not slide around in transit. If a perch is supplied the surface should be rough enough so the bird can get a good grip. If these things are not supplied the bird can also be injured.



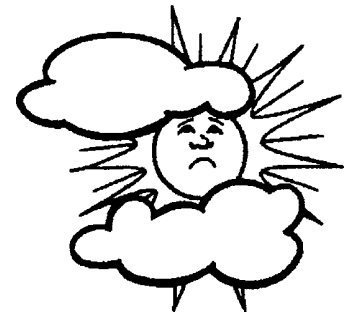
### **Feed containers.**

Water can be supplied in small containers with cotton wool in them. This is to stop the water from spilling on long trips. These containers should be secured as to stop them from sliding around or tipping over. On very short trips water is not necessary. Seed can be sprinkled onto the floor of the carrying cage. Greens and fresh fruits are a ideal source of food and moisture.



### **Daylight travel.**

In the daylight the birds carrying cage should be covered, this helps the bird to stay calm and not to stress out. The cover should allow a good circulation of air; a plastic bag is not a good choice for obvious reasons. A light table cloth or tea towel would be a good choice. Birds that are travelling in the car ***SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED.*** A rule of thumb is that if you are hot your birds are hot. On real hot days the car air conditioner can be used or a wet cover over the cage to keep your birds cool. Just be aware that when the bird is taken out of the car it could be a big climatic shock, so take care. If the bird is hot this can be confirmed by the birds actions. The bird will pant and spread its wings to expose more skin surface to keep cool. If this happens spray the bird with a light mist of water to bring the body temperature down.



### **Night travel.**

Traveling at night can be a problem, due to the on coming traffic lights. Lights can startle your bird causing it to go into night flight. This can cause serious injury or even death. Cover your bird the same way you would in the day time, and keep the cage below screen level or behind the seat of the car.



### **Transporting sick birds.**

Sick birds can not maintain body temperature. To keep the body temperature up on your bird when in transit a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel can be used, in conjunction with a cover over the cage to keep the heat in. When the journey is finished the cage should be scrubbed and sterilised to stop the spread of disease.

**Pet birds.**

Pet birds that are kept inside and out of climatic change should be treated slightly different. These birds are not use to the sudden climatic change outside the house. Try and copy the same conditions inside your house especially in a cold area, a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel can be used to keep your bird warm.

*So with a little thought your birds will arrive safe and well to there new destination.*