

# Zebra Finch



## What do we look like?

We are a smaller species of bird. On average, adults grow to be 9 cm long. The males of our species tend to be more colorful than our females. The males possess bright orange cheeks, black and white striping across the throat and breast and brown spots on either side of the body. Our size, colors, musical chirping and the ease of breeding us in captivity makes us very desirable birds to own as a pet.



## Where we live is...

We are native to the continent of Australia. We can be found in the grasslands and forests in the middle of the continent. We tend to avoid the cool, humid coastal areas in southern Australia and the humid jungle areas of northern Australia. We are nest builders, so we tend to live in bushy areas with lots of available grasses and twigs for nest materials. We have learned to use man-made structure to our advantage. We nest in the eaves of buildings and use man-made water sources like fountains and ponds.



## What do we eat?

It is common for all birds to have beaks adapted to the type of food they eat. This is true for us. Our beaks are small, sharp and strong for breaking and eating seeds. We do supplement our diets with mealworms, some fruits and vegetables, but we don't eat these treats often. Watch out! We are very messy eaters. This is actually good, for when we drop the seeds on the ground, baby plants grow from them.

## Some cool facts about us...

- We are a very vocal species of bird. Our calls are called "beeps" because they resemble the beeping of toys or telephones.
- Males tend to be louder when singing. It is said that the reason males have the loud chirping song is because it acts as a mating call to the females.
- We can lay from 3-12 eggs in one clutch. After laying her eggs both the male and the female will roost on the nest and keep the eggs warm.
- We are very social animals. In the wild we form flocks, which can be made up of hundreds of birds. Even in captivity we like having other zebra finches around us.

