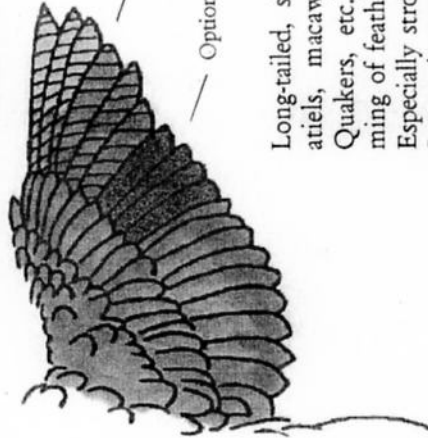
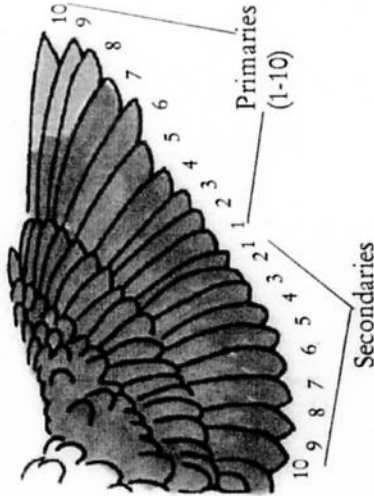


Wing Trimming Guide

ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN VETERINARIANS

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Trim for heavy-bodied birds

Optional for slim-bodied birds

Long-tailed, slim-bodied birds (cockatiels, macaws, Indian rose-ringed, Quakers, etc.) usually require trimming of feathers P10-P6 (both wings). Especially strong flyers may also need P-4,5 trimmed. More feathers can be trimmed after indoor testing. Do not trim past P-1.

Untrimmed psittacine feather pattern

- Numbers 1-10 are the primary flight feathers.
- The secondary (S-1 to S10) flight feathers are those between P-1 and the body and should not be trimmed.
- Primary coverts overlap the base of the primaries and the secondary coverts overlap the base of the secondaries.

Trimming

- The flight feathers are numbered from the inside-out, 1 through 10. There is a natural break in the direction of the feathers with the feathers of the *manus* (primaries— P-1 to P-10) angled *out*, and the feathers on the *brachium* and *antibrachium* (secondaries— S-1 to S-10) angled *in*.
- Trim so that the cut edge is hidden under the primary coverts.
- The general rule of wing-trim is that the heavier-bodied a bird is, the fewer feathers are removed.
- Secondaries should never be trimmed.
- Flying ability should be tested in the clinic prior to the bird being sent home. Flight *distance* should be limited to less than 25 feet, and *lift* to under two feet. This chart is a *beginning* point for trimming. Additional feathers can be trimmed *after a flight test* if necessary.
- The recommendation is to trim both wings evenly for balance.
- NEVER TRIM THE TAIL FEATHERS



A neatly trimmed wing

Heavy-bodied, short-tailed birds such as Amazons, African greys, or lovebirds, usually require trimming of feathers P10-P6 (on both wings). Birds should then be tested for flying ability. It is usually not necessary to trim past P4 for heavy-bodied birds.

Bird-claw scissors are ideal for trimming wing-feathers. There are more substantial types of scissors, shorter-handled and stubbier-bladed, that are better for large feather-shafts. The hooked tip enables one to catch only the feather-shaft for trimming, thus ensuring a safer procedure. Do not use wire cutters.

DO NOT TRIM

- TAIL FEATHERS OR WING FEATHERS OTHER THAN THE PRIMARIES.
- BEAK— UNLESS SERIOUSLY OVERGROWN (THE SHARP POINT IS NECESSARY FOR EATING AND GRIPPING).

