

# Wings 'n' Things

## Quick guide fact sheet

### Black headed Caique

*pionites melanocephala*

- **General info.** ....If you want a bird that is always on the go completely manic, acrobatic and totally entertaining this is the bird for you.
- Black headed Caiques are found in tropical forests near water, North of the river Amazon from Guiana to Ecuador and Peru. They are more commonly kept in Britain than their White bellied cousins. Only in recent years have people started breeding these clowns of the parrot world more frequently. They are not regarded as endangered in the wild but unfortunately some Caiques are still imported into Britain, there is no need for this. There are more than enough bred in this country to cover demand. ***Please do not buy these imported birds.*** They are wild and rarely make good companion birds.
- **Adult size.** .....23cms ( 9in).
- **Sexing.** ....The sexes are alike, although some males have slightly larger heads and beak.
- **Talking ability.** Caiques can be regarded as moderate talkers and mimics of whistles and household sounds.
- **Life span.** ....Black Headed Caiques can live for 25 to 30 years possibly more.
- **Diet.** .... Caiques require a good parrot and parakeet mix. A lot of fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh water daily. Vitamin and mineral supplements.
- **Pros for choosing a Black headed Caique.**
  - Caiques are extremely intelligent,
  - Become devoted to their keepers,
  - Small in size. Moderate talking ability,
  - Exceptionally entertaining,
  - Playful, mischievous disposition,
  - Good family pet.
  - Caiques are the Ultimate CLOWNS of the parrot world,
  - Beautifully coloured.
- **Cons for choosing a Black headed Caique.**
  - Can be messy eaters due to their large fruit intake.
  - Can be prone to 'winding up' other pet birds seemingly just for their own amusement.
- **Wings 'n' Things** Produce our own care sheet for the Black Headed Caique, please ask.

