



Birdie Bio!



Name: Tinker

Species: orange-winged amazon

Age: over 30 years old

Favorite foods: organic walnuts, fresh corn, fresh mango

Tinker's story:

Like many unfortunate wild amazons, Tinker was caught to be kept as a pet. He came to the Sanctuary after his human caregiver of over 30 years passed away. Sadly, no-one in the family knew his name, so he was lovingly christened Tinker because he and the filthy, tiny cage where he lived came with a foul odor (he was a "stinker!"). In addition to his squalid living conditions, Tinker was suffering from a lifetime of malnutrition, due to a poor diet of store-bought seed mixes. This has caused him to lose 3 of his toenails, and may lose a fourth, which was bleeding when he arrived at the Sanctuary. Tinker now enjoys a healthful diet, and gets very excited when he sees his fresh, nutritious foods headed his way! He is a fast and skillful flyer and loves the company of the Sanctuary's other amazons, Sonny and Tico.

SPECIES IN FOCUS

Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica*

Orange-winged amazons are found across much of northern and central South America. They live in lowland forests and wooded savannas, typically near rivers, or in coastal woodlands, particularly palm forest and mangroves. Here they feed on a typical parrot diet – a highly diverse selection of fruits, nuts, flowers, shoots, leaves, and occasionally grubs hiding under tree bark. Examples of food sources include cashews, palm nuts, mangos, and coral tree flowers. They travel in small flocks or as pairs, though sometimes several groups will combine to number over 200 individuals! Pairs will nest in cavities of trees, such as coconut palms. With habitat destruction and human encroachment on natural areas, orange-winged amazons have also taken to using agricultural land and even some urban areas when foraging for food.

Like many species of amazon parrots, orange-winged amazons are prized as pets, and many wild amazons are stolen from the wild to be sold internationally in the pet trade. Since 1981, when it was first listed with CITES, over 250,000 wild-caught orange-winged amazons were recorded on the international pet trade, with the United States being the largest importer of wild parrots prior to 1992. In 1992, the U.S. Wild Bird Conservation Act banned the importation of wild-caught parrots in the U.S., and it is believed this act dropped the annual number of imported parrots from over 100,000 to only hundreds. Sadly, while this act reduced the number of birds stolen from their wild homes, many wild-caught birds are still illegally smuggled into the U.S. and many more die during capture or transport. Because parrots live a very long time, many parrots kept as pets today were caught in the wild decades ago. We can help protect wild amazon parrots by not participating in the pet trade and instead supporting the rescue, rehoming, and sanctuary living of parrots already under human care.



A wild orange-winged amazon foraging on a treetop. Photo by Cristobal Alvarado Minic via Wikimedia Commons.

PARROT CARE TIP

While popular, most store-bought seed mixes are not appropriate diets for parrots and can cause serious nutrient deficiencies.

Sanctuary Happenings



Sponsor-A-Parrot

We launched our Sponsor-A-Parrot Program on April 11th this year! Currently, 7 of our special feathered residents are being sponsored by some truly wonderful and caring supporters! Sponsoring one or more of our birds is a way for you to help ensure that your sponsored bird(s), and all of our permanent and future residents have a safe loving home for the remainder of their lives! It is a wonderful way to help support and care for a bird if you're not quite ready to adopt one and deal with the responsibility and lifetime commitment yourself. For more information on sponsorship and to see the birds we currently have available to sponsor, please visit us at <http://www.icarusfoundation.org/sponsor-a-parrot.html>. Soon we will be adding more birds to the list!

Search for Land

Our search for land in Anne Arundel County, MD continues! We are moving forward as a sanctuary primarily for providing lifetime care for cockatoos. In order to build a facility and indoor/outdoor aviaries, we need an appropriate amount of land with the proper zoning. If you know of land for sale in Anne Arundel County that is NOT classified as residential zoning, or know of someone who may be interested in donating a parcel or a portion of that parcel, please contact Christi at christi@icarusfoundation.org. Not only would the kindhearted donor receive a tax deduction, but they would be a part of something really special and more importantly, critically needed!

BIRDS' WISHLIST

- 🐦 Nut gift bags from [Nuts.com](#)
(we are on their sanctuary list)
- 🐦 [Amazon Wishlist](#)

Support the birds at the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary with a tax-deductible donation!
To donate, visit [IcarusFoundation.org](#) OR
send checks payable to Icarus Foundation, Inc.
to
P.O. Box 3036
Annapolis, MD 21403

Upcoming Events

On August 18, 2018, The Parrot Heads of Annapolis will host a charity mini golf tournament at Arundel Golf Park near BWI airport. They've chosen our sanctuary to be the beneficiary of this fun event for the entire family! We'll also be there to answer questions about our sanctuary and our birds. Looking forward to meeting all of the fun folks who will be attending! For more information and to register and purchase tickets, please visit: www.anapolisparrotheadclub.com/puttputt.

Please join us for some fun at our upcoming FUNdraisers!! **Saturday, September 1, Yoga in the Yard.** Come out for a relaxing time of yoga, stretching and meditation. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. **Thursday evening, October 11th,** join us for a really fun evening of **Painting for the Parrots** at Muse Paintbar in Annapolis, MD! We will be posting more information and event details including times, locations and ticketing information on our website and our Facebook page.

Thank You!

Amy Doster and the Chesapeake District Cub Scout Day Camp located in Dundalk, MD for inviting us to their camp, June 18th, to give a presentation about parrots! Although we were unable to bring any of our birds with us, we still had fun sharing information along with pictures and feathers! We hope this awesome group of cub scouts had fun, as well, and learned a little something about parrots, too!

Enjoying Summer Outdoors with Your Bird



Here at the Sanctuary, we do not clip our birds' wings, but we also strongly believe in the value of fresh air and sunshine! We like to give our birds time outdoors, but it is important to put in place good safety precautions, to insure our birds' fun in the sun does not take a turn for the worse! Here are some safety tips for giving your bird outdoor time without limiting flying ability:

- Provide a secure outdoor enclosure, making sure that the bar-spacing is not enough for a predator, such as a racoon, neighborhood cat, or hawk to reach through and grab your bird!
 - Have a double-entry system to prevent accidental escapes.
 - Make sure the bottom of the cage is secure with wiring or concrete to prevent predators or curious burrowing animals from digging under the cage.
 - Never leave your birds unattended!
 - Consider putting up a screened tent or patio that both you and your bird can hang out in together. Again, do not leave your bird unattended!
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- A portable travel cage or small rolling cage can be used to bring your bird outside with you while gardening or sitting on your deck.
 - Don't put your bird directly in the sun! Make sure she has access to shade and plenty of fresh water to drink!
 - Remember that even birds with clipped wings may attempt to fly if startled, and feathers grow back! A clipped bird may gain the ability to fly long distances without their caregiver noticing the feathers have grown in. Even if your bird is clipped, it is important to take the same precautions outdoors as you would with a flighted bird.



Using a Harness

Some birds take well to wearing a harness, which acts as a safety line to keep the bird secure if she is taken outdoors without an enclosure. Some important things to know about using a harness:

- Putting on and wearing a harness should not be forced on a bird, but instead trained using positive reinforcement, pairing the harness with things the bird likes, such as favorite treats and attention.
- There are many different avian harnesses on the market, with many designed to go over the head, but at least one new design does not. We do not promote any particular brand of harness, and different harnesses may work better for different individual birds.
- A bird using a harness should not be taken outside unless she is comfortable traveling with you, not simply because she is tied to you. The harness acts as an emergency brake but your bird's trusting relationship with you should be what keeps her with you. Stress-related behaviors, such as repeatedly trying to fly off of you, keeping her feathers flat and eyes wide, gripping you tightly, or panting, are signs that your parrot may not be totally comfortable traveling in a harness, and more positive training and practice may be needed.
- Parrots should never be tied or held by their legs (like falconers' hawks) since their legs are not strong enough to withstand being pulled on and serious injuries can result.
- Never tie up your harnessed bird and leave her outside unattended!

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