American Budgie

**Scientific Name:** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

**Common Name(s):** Budgerigar, Parakeet

**Origin:** Australia

**Length:** 7 - 9 inches

**Wing Span:** 12 inches

**Weight:** 30 - 40 grams

**Body Color:** Parakeets come in over 100 color forms but primarily in green (typical in the wild), various shades of blue, opaline, gray, white, yellow (lutino), pied (combination in one bird), and in various shades of these colors, some rarer than others.

**Life Span:** 5 - 10 years

**Diet:**
- **Wild:** Grass seeds, weed seeds and sometimes ripening wheat. They may eat 40+ different types of seeds in the wild, most of these are much lower in fat than commercially available seed mixes.
- **Captive:** Pellets, high quality seed mixes, fresh vegetables, some fruit.

**Personality:** Parakeets make very good pets as long as they have a lot of attention and love. These birds are very social by nature. Start slowly with training. They may sometimes learn to talk.

**Bite Potential:** Minor.

**Sexing:** The male parakeet's cere is blue and the female's is tan or pinkish. The "cere" is the area located at the base of the beak, just below the forehead or crown area.

**Cage Size:** Minimum 14 x 14 x 14 inches. BarSpacing 3/8 to 1/2 inches.

**Cost:**
- **Pet Store:** $15 - $25
- **Breeder:** $15 - $20
- **Adoption:** $10

The English Budgie is similar but a little larger with a more pronounced forehead.