

## Spice Finch

Scientific Name: *Lonchura punctulata*

### Brief Description:

Finches are among the most popular caged birds. Spice finches come from India, China and Malaysia. They are undemanding, peaceful and easily adjust to a cage. They are soft singing and hardy, but need to be kept active.



**Average Size:** Approximately four inches in length

**Average Life Span:** Six-to-eight-years

### Feeding and Diet:

A well-balanced, Spice Finch diet consists of the following:

- Specialized pellets should make up sixty-to-seventy percent of diet, plus fresh vegetables, fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds.
- Always provide fresh, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do not feed your Spice Finch chocolate, fruit seeds, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Also, avoid sugar and high fat treats.
- Treats should not exceed ten percent of high-fat treats.

### Housing:

We always suggest providing the largest habitat possible for your Spice Finch. This will ensure your pet has enough flight room and remains active and happy within its enclosure. Here are a few guidelines.

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### Housing: (con't)

- Enclosure should be approximately twenty-four inches in width, by fourteen inches in diameter, by eighteen inches in height. This size should suffice for three finches.
- Perch should be three inches long and half-inch in diameter.
- Place a metal grate over droppings tray. Lining the try with substrate for easier cleaning.



### Maintenance:

Regular maintenance is key to a happy Spice Finch. Be sure to factor in all of these points regularly to maintain a long and fulfilled life for your pet.

- For bathing, provide lukewarm, filtered, chlorine-free water and remove when done.
- Alternatively, mist bird with water or grooming spray.
- Nails should be trimmed when appropriate.
- Clean and disinfect the cage and perches, regularly.
- Replace substrate or cage liner weekly.
- Replace food and water daily.
- Replaced damaged or worn toys, dishes and perches.
- Always was your hands after handling and cleaning.

### Temperatures:

The Spice Finch will acclimate well to the average household temperatures. However, be cautious of extreme temperature change. Also, cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

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**Humidity:** No special requirements.

**Lighting:** well lit rooms.

**Water & Accessories:**

- Install multiple bird-baths, food, water and a variety of perches.
- Be sure to include toys and introduce new toy items, regularly.
- Add a variety of treats and grit.



### Reproductive:

The Spice Finch is a relatively easy to breed Finch. They will breed in half open nest boxes, wicker nests hollowed out coconut husks and tall grass. To learn more regarding Finch breeding, see below.

- A nest box should measure at least three inches tall, five inches wide and five inches deep.
- Attach the nest box to the outside of the cage.
- Use a nest box with a removable top for easy inspection. (also helps with cleaning)
- You can make your own nest box, or buy a commercial unit.
- Use Sisal or Jute as a nesting material
- Use five percent sevin dust in the bottom of the new nest to keep insects out.
- Female Spice Finch will typically lay five eggs.
- Incubation period lasts about thirteen days.
- Parents will feed their chicks for three weeks, by the fourth, they will venture outside.
- Do not remove chicks until they are ready to feed by them self.

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### Notes and Comments:

The Spice Finch makes an excellent pet. They do very well in large flocks and are pleasant chirping birds. They don't like to be handled and will require room in the enclosure to fly. Spice Finch sleeps only at night, in sleeping nests and climb on reeds or tall grass during the day, they need plenty of room in their cage to fly.

