

they get acclimated in the longer trip. Dozens of Gray Parrots on steamers are often packed away like merchandise in any old box, without much regard to health or ventilation. As a result gray parrots can often be bought comparatively cheap. Young birds are worth from fifteen to twenty-five dollars, and talkers from twenty-five to seventy-five, and extra fine talkers more than that. An acclimatized tame gray parrot, although costing more, is cheaper than a raw young bird. Young gray parrots can be distinguished by their gray eyes, the eye of old birds being straw coloured. Male and female are alike and equally gifted.

CAGE OR STAND.—This parrot should have a cage fourteen or fifteen inches in diameter, or fifteen to twenty-four inches long, but larger ones can be used, or a stand of the usual style. Generally parrots do not talk as well if allowed about a room, and are apt to find something to eat which is injurious.

For food, care and diseases see the chapter on Parrots.