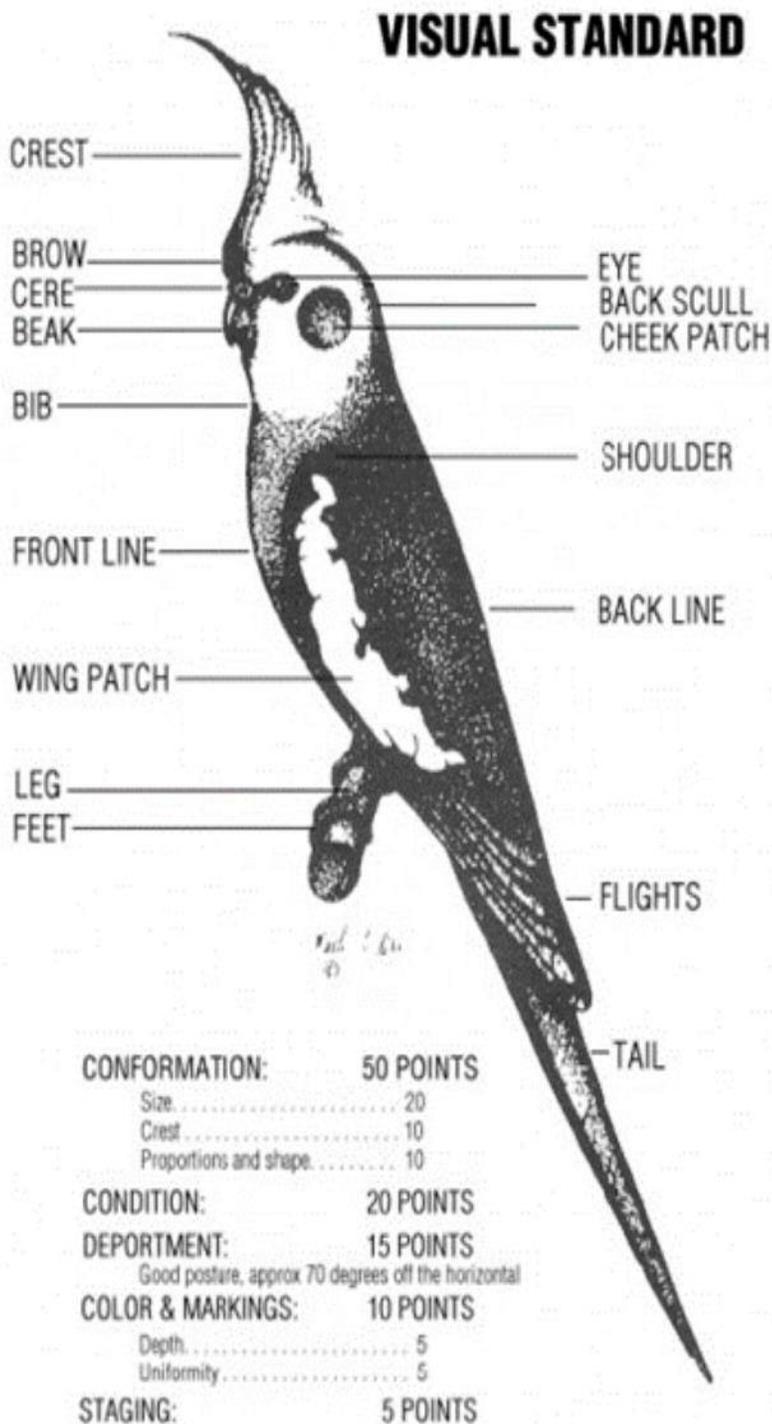


4.2 THE NCS VISUAL STANDARD

4.2.1 The General Standard



The NCS Standard envisions a long, graceful bird of good body substance and equal proportions. The cockatiel should measure 14 inches in length from the top of the crown to the tip of the tail. In addition, the crest should approach 3 inches in length. Proportionally, the bird should measure equally in length from: the top of the crown to the vent, the top of the shoulder to the tip of the wing, and from the vent to the tip of the tail.

The crest, as the cockatiel's chief physical trademark, should be full and showy, curving back gracefully, with the longer filaments graduating evenly down towards the shorter ones at the rear of the skull. The head should be large and well-rounded without evidence of a flat top either behind the crest or at the back of the skull (with good width between) and sheltered by a pronounced frontal brow line, creating a proud hawk like appearance when viewed from the front. The bright orange cheek patches should be round, well-colored, and free of bleeding extraneous orange feathers elsewhere on the face.

The beak should be clean, tucked in and of normal length. The lower mandible should be only partly visible. The yellow face of adult males should be brightly colored and without extraneous grey or orange feathers (except for young males going through the molt) and clearly contrast where it meets the main body feathers. The bib should be deep. The neck, adding grace to the form, should be neither too long nor too short, and particularly evident when the bird is in an alert stance.

The cockatiel is a sleek, stream-lined bird, yet full bodied, showing good substance. When viewed from the front (or back), a generous width across the chest and shoulders in adults (particularly hens) should be evident. The back should be straight, blending with the slender, tapering abdomen. The wings should be large and wide, held tightly, hugging the body with the tips close to the tail, without crossing or drooping. All flight feathers should be present. The wing patch should approach $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in width and be clear of extraneous dark feathers