

# Black Pine Animal Park

## Animal Facts

Breed: FINCHES

Names / Sex / Age:

Ralph	M	1	Zebra finch
Cricket	F	1	Spice finch

Previous Home: Both birds now in residence were donated by staff members in order to replace mates that had previously passed away. Because finches do not do well alone, new mates were provided for good health for the remaining birds.

Native to: Zebra finches are native to Central Australia and Indonesia. Spice finches originated in India.

Weight: (tiny!)

Life Expectancy: Can vary dramatically depending on genetic factors and more; as little as five years to as many as 15 years in captivity.

Status: Common

Diet: Primarily seeds, millet; also fruit, vegetables, egg food, live food, mealworms, small insects.

Facts:

- Called the most popular bird in aviculture
- Some species display different colorations for males and females (zebra finches – males have orange cheeks, females do not); some are identical regardless of sex (spice finches).
- Introduced into many parts of the world, including Puerto Rico, Portugal, and the U.S.
- Widely kept by genetic researchers, breeding hobbyists, and pet owners
- Nests are constructed for reproduction, as well as simply sleeping
- Some compare their vocalizations to the sounds of a cell phone or other electronic device
- Zebra finches have a “song”, spice finches sound like crickets
- Males “learn” their songs, so in captivity they may not exhibit singing as often as they would in the wild around others of their species
- They will breed and lay eggs year-round

Personal History:

Originally, Black Pine adopted a pair of finches after their owner was arrested for drugs. Their names were “Resin” and “Roach”! Since then the park has continued providing a mate of the opposite sex to replace any that have passed away resulting in one bird being left alone. A few finches have been replaced, with the current pair being Ralph and Cricket.