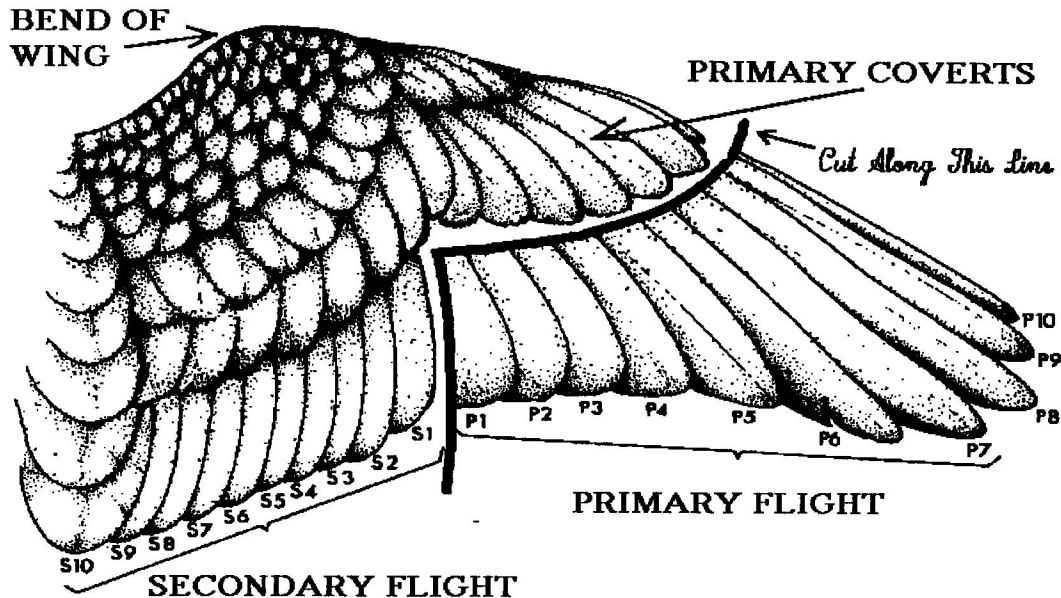


# WHALTON'S PET SHOPS

## PROPER WING TRIM

MARATHON WHALTON'S 5800 OVERSEAS HWY. MARATHON, FLORIDA 305-743-3318  
BIG PINE WHALTON'S BIG PINEN SHOPPING PLAZA BIG PINE KEY, FL. 305-872-3737



One person needs to control the bird by holding the feet in one hand, then placing the other hand around the neck so that, while no pressure is placed on the throat, the neck can then be gently stretched to prevent the bird's biting.

It is important that the bird be held right-side up so that the person cutting can cut along the tips of the **PRIMARY COVERTS** (while looking at the top side, or outside, of the wing)--see drawing.

The person doing the cutting takes hold of the wing by the **BEND OF WING** and fans it open. Then, using a sharp scissors, cut all of the **PRIMARY FLIGHT** feathers, labeled P1-P10 in drawing. Make sure the cut is made just beyond the tips of the primary coverts and that no **SECONDARY FLIGHT** feathers are cut. Never cut only one wing; not only is this unsightly, it can cause injury to the bird.

This trim will prevent any bird from flying and is the proper trim for most birds. However, it may be too much trim for some birds. The trim can be made milder by simply stopping the cut at feather P1 or P2 or P3. Some birds that need a milder trim are Congo African greys and overweight Amazons; with a full trim these birds will fall too fast and may injure themselves. A bird with a proper trim should be able to fly forward a couple of feet for every foot it falls, thus gliding to the floor.

Another bird that must be given special consideration is the cockatiel. With a full trim, this bird will usually fall straight down or even at a backward angle, landing on its tail. This will cause breakage of the tail feathers and may cause the skin to tear across the lower abdomen. Therefore, when trimming a cockatiel start by cutting only feathers P4-P10 (see drawing). If the bird is still flighted, cut one more feather and try again. This modified trim can also be used for newly weaned baby birds.