Comparative investigations on the skeletal system of coloured and posture canary birds
Wendy Rienhoff
Diss. Hannover

Institute of Animal Welfare and Behaviour
School of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Buenteweg 2
30559 Hannover

Summary

Based on the Nomina Anatomica Avium (BAUMEL et al. 1979) the skeleton of the canary bird is described in 48 birds and of different canary breeds including the ancestor form. For that purpose eight skeletons were prepared in a decomposing procedure (BARTELS u. MEYER 1991), further 13 skeletons were examined after an enzymatic clearing procedure (DINGERKUS u. UHLER 1977). In addition 27 skeletons were made available by the Museum A. König, Bonn. At 42 skeletons 41 distances were measured and noticed separately for the different breeds. From 37 living birds of different breeds X-ray pictures in laterolateral direction were taken to determine the angles at the bird's legs.

The canary bird's skeleton differs not fundamentally comparing the examined skeletons of the ancestor form and several other breeds. Only a few distances measured are different depending on the size of the breeds.

With the X-ray pictures it was shown that the different leg- and body-posture of birds of different breeds is caused by a modified posture of bones and is not dependent on altered forms of single bones or the whole skeleton.