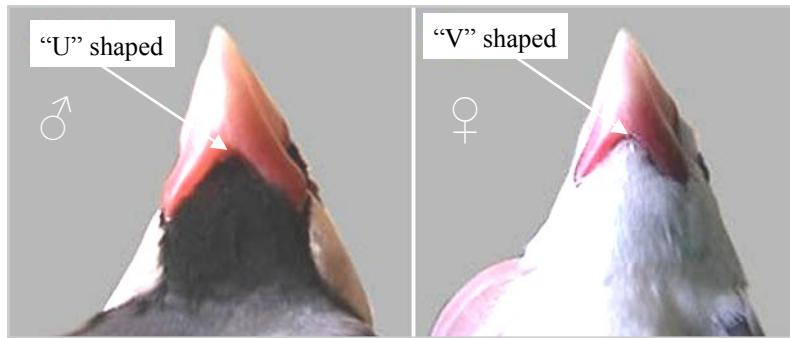


UNDER-BEAK SEXING OF FINCHES



Many finches, but unfortunately not all, can easily be sexed by the shape of the lower mandible in the area where the beak meets the feathers. Firstly, look at the hen's beak. It is narrow

and the curve at the base is "V" shaped. Now look at that of the male, it is wider and the curve at the base is more of a "U" shape.

While this method is quite reliable when a true pair is examined, comparison of two birds of the same sex can cause inexperienced aviculturists to waste much time in trying to discern a difference. Therefore, behaviour, such as male courtship display, should also be taken into account.