

Taking Care

Of Your New Bird on a Daily Basis

Feeding

- **Water.** Birds need fresh water at all times. Change the water first thing in the morning, after the bird has taken a bath in the water, and once it is soiled at anytime. We recommend using a water bottle, which is much more sanitary, but remember to offer a bowl of water for bathing at least three times a week. Be sure to wash the water bowl and water bottle in hot soapy dishwater or run through the dishwasher every day to avoid any bacterial growth.
- **Pellets.** Your bird should have a cup filled with Roudybush pellets placed high in the cage at all times. This cup needs to be checked daily to see if more pellets needs to be added. When your bird eats the Roudybush pellets some of the pellets turn into a powder form. When the cup turns to all powder, discard and replace with more Roudybush pellets.
- **Seeds.** For the birds eating pellets, feed 2 to 4 tablespoons of seed once a day, preferably in the afternoon. For birds that do not eat any pellets, give 4 to 6 tablespoons of seed first thing every morning. You may also feed seed as a treat when the bird is outside the cage or on a playpen. To give variety, offer different types or brands of seed mixes. We recommend Fanta seed.
- **Fruits and Vegetables.** Birds should be offered some form of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. Serve fresh, frozen, or freeze dried fruits and vegetables in small portions or an amount that your bird can consume in an hour's time. When feeding fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables remove any uneaten servings as soon as possible to avoid spoilage. We recommend and feed Just Veggies and Just Fruit Munchies, which are freeze dried.
- **Prepared Foods.** There are many varieties of prepared mixes that you cook before serving to your bird. One popular brand, Crazy Corn, has several flavors to choose from Polly Pasta, Rainforest Rice Pudding, Kung Foo Yum, Noodles N Nuts, and Original Bean Mix. After cooking, freeze in ziplock bags or in ice cube trays for perfect portion size. If freezing in ice cube trays transfer and store in airtight containers. Serve a thawed ice cube portion on a daily basis.
- **Treats.** It is important to give your bird treats such as popcorn, dried sugarless cereal, crackers, etc. Look for treats specifically made for birds that are popular: Lafeber's Nutriberries, Lafeber's Avi-Cakes, or the most favorite of all spray millet. Give treats in small amounts.
- **Vitamins.** Since the Roudybush Pellets is a complete diet no other vitamins need to be supplemented in food or water. You could easily over dose, which could lead to medical problems.
- **Grit.** Do not give your pet bird any form of grit at any time. Since hookbills (parrots) hull or shell their seeds before ingesting there is no reason for them to eat grit.

Taking Care

Cleaning A Daily Routine

- **Cleaning the Cage.** Keeping the cage clean is critical to your bird's health. Wash the cage bottom with a mild dishwashing detergent or Oxyfresh Cleansing Gel. Never use commercial cleaners such as 409 or Fantastic. There are several bird cage cleaners that work well in addition to Oxyfresh such as Poop Off and Pet Focus.
- **Lining the Cage Tray.** Newspaper is the best for lining the cage tray so you can monitor the bird's droppings or the amount of food eaten. Do not use corncob bedding or cedar shavings because both could result in allergic reactions or respiratory problems.
- **Washing Dishes.** Water bowls, water bottles, and treat dishes should be washed everyday. If the pellet dish or seed dish become soiled they should be washed too.
- **Disinfecting.** Dishes should be disinfected after washing by soaking them in Oxyfresh Cleansing Gel or a mild solution of Clorox bleach. When using bleach take extra care to thoroughly rinse and allow to completely air dry.
- **Perches, Toys, and Playpen.** Be sure to check perches and toys for soils. If dirty wash and disinfect.

Playtime outside the Cage

Birds should have outside of the cage playtime a minimum of five minutes to a maximum of forty-five minutes each time. Offer foods and treats when your bird is playing outside its cage. Always put your bird back in the cage one hour before you turn the lights out at night.