

Converting Your Pet Bird To A Formulated Diet

Seed diets are deficient in most major nutrients and contain excessive fat for the pet bird. Formulated Diets (extruded, pellets, crumbles etc) are designed in an attempt to provide a balanced diet to your bird

HOW TO CONVERT YOUR PET BIRD TO A FORMULATED DIET: Our target amount is 80% of the diet as fed. The key to conversion is initially limiting the seed quantity available to your bird to one-half of what the bird will eat per day. What is that amount? To find out:

- 1) Measure, in teaspoons or tablespoons quantity of seed mix you place in clean cage first thing in the morning. **IMPORTANT: ALL SEED (including millet spray and seed trees) MUST BE INCLUDED IN YOUR MEASUREMENTS!!!**
- 2) The next morning (24 hours later) measure, in teaspoons or tablespoons quantity of seed mix, which is left uneaten.
- 3) Subtract remainder from the initial quantity to determine the actual amount of seed your bird eats in 24 hours.
- 4) Start feeding **ONLY** one half of the calculated amount of seed to your bird on a daily basis. Place an equal quantity of the new formulated diet (Harrison's, Zupreem, etc.) in the same bowl.
- 5) Gradually, over a number of days, decrease the seed percentage.

Worried your bird isn't eating enough? Solution: track your pet's weight. Buy a food or postal scale (or better yet a digital scale). Mark or record the initial weight. Then weigh your bird every morning. During conversion, we can easily accept a 5% weight loss. A 10% weight loss, except with obese birds, is excessive over a short time.

Most birds on formulated diets will tend to be a little leaner, due to a lower fat diet. They will, however, continue to have a regular dropping output, containing both green feces and white urates (kidney waste).

*******Important Note-** the above conversion program is to be started **ONLY** with a bird that is not underweight and is not sick. If your bird is currently under our care with an illness- **DO NOT START** the conversion program- do ask us when to start it. You can, however, offer some of the new food as a side item.

View video clips on the importance of dietary improvement at:

<http://www.birddoctorhousecalls.com/products>