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## **HOW TO CONVERT YOUR PET BIRD TO A FORMULATED DIET 2022**

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 95+% of the diet as fed calories. 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, Roudybush, Zupreem, Lafeber 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.