






THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Faculty of Veterinary  
and Agricultural  
Sciences

# Avian Nutrition

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VETS30032/VETS90127



## Learning Outcomes

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At the end of this learning activity you should be able to:

- Describe the general nutritional requirements of common aviary bird species
- Explain the different forms of feed available for captive caged and aviary birds.
- Portray the principles of biosecurity surrounding avian nutrition.

## The basis...



Nutrition enables

- Development
- Growth
- Reproduction
- Immune function
- Tissue repair

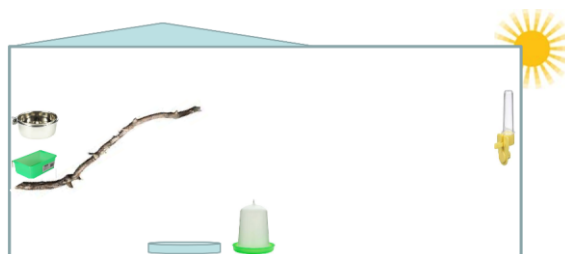
# Water



## Water



## Feeding Strategy



# of feeding  
stations



natural  
foraging?

# Feeding Strategy

## Complications

- Injury or entrapment possible?
- Toxicities?
- Rodent infestation



## Hygiene

- (Daily) cleaning with warm soapy water
- Biosecurity – where does cleaning occur? Where is food prepared?



## Challenges of feeding aviary birds

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- Estimated over 10,000 bird species world wide
- Understanding limited by this diversity
  - Exception being commercial poultry



- What is fed  $\neq$  What is consumed



## 5 Food Types



Seeds  
Supplemented seeds  
Seeds with F&V  
Table/human foods  
Manufactured  
/formulated diets

# Seeds

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# Seeds

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## Supplemented seeds



"...is a nutritionally fortified gourmet diet made of a premium blend of fruits, vegetables, seeds and grains offering maximum variety, fun and nutrition for pet birds. ....contains prebiotics and probiotics to support digestive health and is formulated with your bird species in mind."



## Seeds with Fruit and Veggies



## Seeds with Fruit and Veggies





Toxic!

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## Human diets

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## Manufacture/formulated diets



## Manufacture/formulated diets

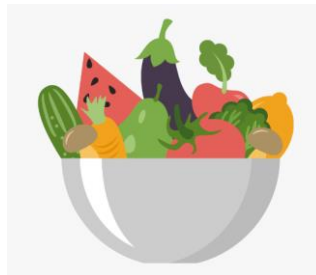
### Advantages

- Less mess
- Improved overall nutrient intake
- Avoids “picky eaters” (mostly)

### Disadvantages

- “Complete and Balanced”
- Species diversity issues
- Multi-coloured → picky eaters

**Improve by...**



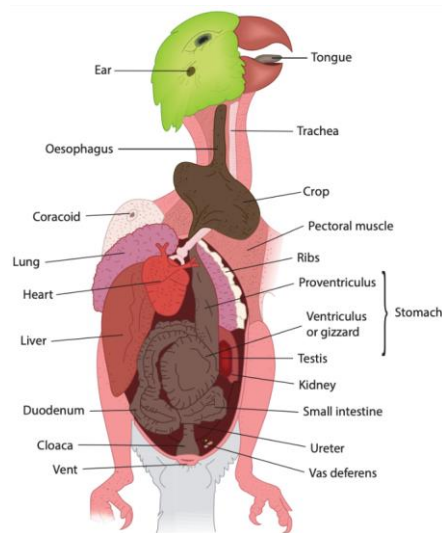
## Supplements

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**+ many more**

## How do we account for all Species groups?



# Galliformes



# Anseriformes



## Adult Maintenance Diet

6000g adult requires 260g/day (2500 kJ)

- 160g **Passwell Crumbles** (1 cup) – some proportion may be replaced with mixed grains.
- 100g Chopped greens (2½ cup) – lettuce, spinach, endive, bok choy, sprouts etc. Mix together and add sufficient water to make a moist, crumbly mix.

Ad lib aquatic weeds, grazing on grass or pasture.

## Psittiformes (Australian)



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## Psittiformes (Lory's & Lorikeets)



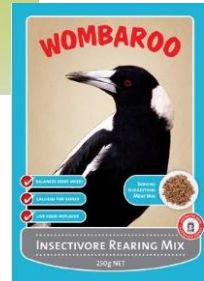
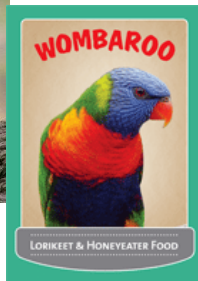
## Psittiformes (Non-native)



# Passerines



# Passerines



# Columbiformes

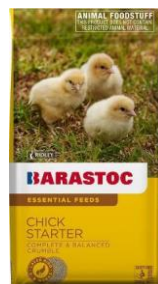
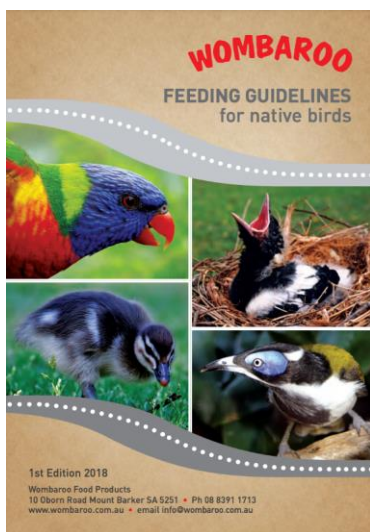


## Life Stage

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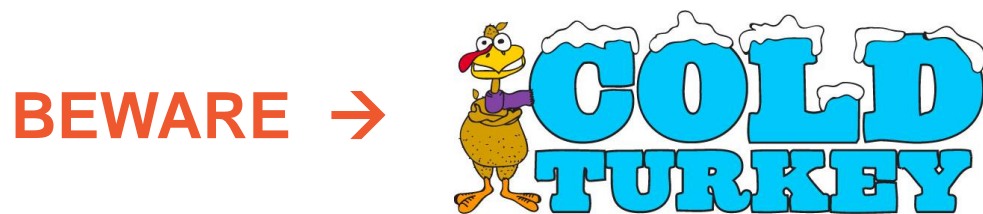


# Life Stage



## Dietary Conversion

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### Advice

Slow and steady

Daily weigh ins

Be creative



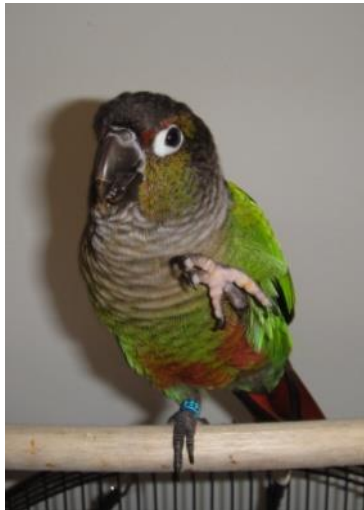
## References

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- Pictures sourced from:
  - Personal collection or from clients with permission
  - Vetafarm (<https://vetafarm.com.au/>, accessed July 2021)
  - Wombaroo (<https://www.wombaroo.com.au/>, accessed July 2021)
  - Australian Pigeon Company (<https://www.auspigeonco.com.au/>, accessed August 2021)
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    - Megapet warehouse (<https://shop.megapet.com.au/>, accessed July 2021)
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Got questions....

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