

Nutritional Requirements for Breeding Birds

Greg J. Harrison, DVM

Requirements are unknown!

- Feeding Practices are all we have.

Increased Needs

- Protein.
- Fat.
- Minerals.
 - Calcium.
 - Phosphorus.
- Trace Minerals.
 - Copper.
- Vitamins.
 - D3.
 - A.
 - E.
 - B complex.
 - Biotin.
 - K.

Breeding Stimulants

- Sweets.
 - Sweet corn.
 - Grapes.
 - Apples.
- Fats must be in the shell.
 - Nuts.
 - Sunflower seeds.

Breeding Stimulants

- Must be kept in the 10-15% range.

Typical Aviary

- No eggs.
- Infertile eggs.
- Eggs incubated.
- Eggs require assistance hatching.
- Hand feed from day one.

Typical Aviary

- Chicks with problems.
 - Beaks Bent.
 - Legs Bent.
 - Bacteria, yeast problems constant.
 - Slow growth.
 - Poor feathers.
 - Sick chicks.
 - Dead chicks.

John Mead Aviary

- 1991 150 pairs produced less than 150 babies on seeds and typical aviculture diet.
 - Constant vet care.
 - Incubation & hand feed from day one.
 - Bent beak.
- 1992 HBD.
- 1997 > 450 Babies.
 - No incubation.
 - Hand feed at 4-6 weeks of age.

John Mead Aviary

- Seldom need veterinarian.
- Losses - less than one baby per year.
- Gets more money for babies.
- Overhead cut by 80%.
- First time had profit.

John Mead Aviary

- ½ the formulated diet as other brands.
- ¼ the supplements.
- One full time and one part time replace three full time two part time. 1/3 the man hours.
- Sleep at night.
- Profit.