



BEGINNER'S

GUIDE TO BIRD CARE







Since 1982, Alcon is developing high quality food products using selected ingredients, modern packaging and high tech manufacturing process.

This differential guarantees complete and high quality nutrition to many species of birds that stand out with health, beauty and vitality.

A strong commitment with quality and the respect for the consumer are always present in the wide range of Alcon and Labcon products.

Among the principles and values that guide our company for more than 39 years we must highlight love, dedication,

respect, innovation, tradition, pioneering spirit, quality and trust.

By choosing our products, you are offering the best in nutrition, providing health and well-being to the pets that are parts of your family, whether they are fish, bird, reptile, rodent, rabbit or monkey.

The respect of our roots and our tradition of always surpassing ourselves are guiding us in a constant challenge of innovation to offer the best to our dear friends pets.

**Labcon, because our friends
deserve the best!**

- 06 BIRDS: OUR SINGING AND ENCHANTING FRIENDS
- 08 HANDLING
- 09 CHOOSING THE SPECIES
- 11 GET A SINGLE BIRD OR A COUPLE?
- 11 GET READY TO RECEIVE THE BIRD
- 12 QUARANTINE
- 12 AVIARY
- 14 CAGES
- 14 WATER
- 15 NESTS
- 16 PERCHES
- 16 HYGIENE



- 17 NUTRITION - FEEDING
- 24 FOOD FOR COMPETITION BIRDS
- 26 BALANCED FOOD X SEEDS
- 28 MOLTING
- 31 RESTING TIME
- 31 BREEDING
- 33 TAKING CARE OF BABY BIRDS
- 34 FEEDING PARENTS WHO ARE FEEDING THEIR BABIES
- 34 HAND-FEEDING
- 35 WEANING
- 37 LET'S DISCOVER SOME SPECIES
- 47 DID YOU KNOW IT?



Birds: *Our singing and enchanting friends*

Whether for its song or its infinity of colors, birds are becoming more and more parts of people's life as pets. This guide offers general notions and tips about the care we should give to our winged friends. As well as dogs and cats, birds need care and attention as they are part of the family. When you think about buying a bird, you must be sure that it will receive all care from you, so to have a healthy and happy life.





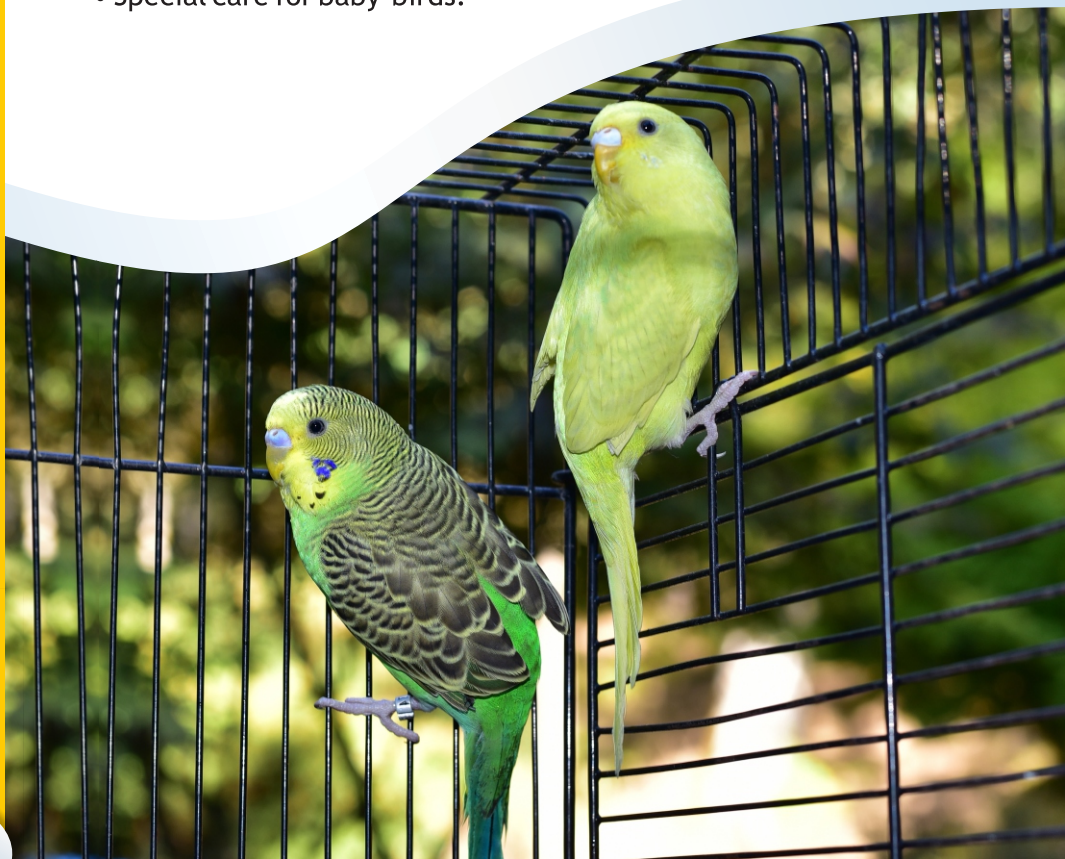
HANDLING

Handling is the use of appropriate technics for keeping and breeding birds in captivity. According to each species, there are some differences of handling

like the type of nest, the quantity of birds per square foot and the nutritional needs.

For the birds raised in captivity, handling involves:

- Place for the construction of the aviary.
- Enclosure for the cages.
- Acquisition of birds.
- Balanced food.
- Good quality water.
- Hygiene and cleaning.
- Quarantine for newly acquired birds.
- Prophylaxis (prevention of diseases).
- Special care for baby-birds.



CHOOSING THE SPECIES

What should be considered when choosing a bird as a pet?

The first concern when acquiring a bird is to know where it comes from. Try to know if the bird is coming from a suitable breeder. Ask about breeder's facilities. Observe if the store offers good hygiene conditions, as many of birds' diseases are directly related to a lack of hygiene.

Observe with attention if the bird is active. A bird that stays immobile for a long time can be sick. It is very rare to see a healthy bird sleeping during the day. Psittacids are used to take naps, but, when there are in good health, they are very active most of the day.

Feathers must be bright and flawless. They must cover the whole body of the bird. Wings and tail must be clean and feathers well-formed. In young birds and when molting, it is normal the feathers being opaque and sometimes with flaws.

The beak should be clean and without flakes (except in the molting period). The eyes should be bright and clean.

Breathing must be silent. If sneezing occurs, it is possible

the bird has some breathing problem.

A classic symptom that indicates some illness is a dirty cloaca. Note the coloration and consistency of the feces which cannot have a strong smell or color change. Feces with strong smell or different color as usual are signs of some problems.

The keel of the sternum should not be prominent as it could be a sign of some illness. Remember that prominent keel is not a disease but a symptom that is normally linked to malnutrition.



It is recommended to know about the chosen species, as they are some that sing while others just scream. There are also species that interact more with humans. Bird longevity is a factor that must be considered, as some species can live more than 50 years.

Purchase only healthy, banded birds from legal breeders accredited by Health Authorities. The breeder should be asked about its handling and type of feeding. Observe the

conditions of the facilities, feeders, drinking fountains and nests.

Birds fed with a balance diet tend to be more resistant to disease and are more active when compared to birds that receive a diet based on seeds and fruits, this is because these foods do not provide all nutrients that a bird needs.



GET A SINGLE BIRD OR A COUPLE?

Depends a lot on the species and on what you want. The Psittacids (Parrots, Macaws, Cockatiels, Love Birds, Budgies) build a couple for life while songbirds are used to stay alone most of the year forming couples only during reproduction periods.

Psittacids are the most demanded pet birds for being more intelligent, for their ability to speak and for interacting more with humans.



GET READY TO RECEIVE THE BIRD



Once the bird has been chosen, it's time to bring it to its new home. In general birds tend to suffer from stress more than other animals, so it is necessary to choose a quiet place, sheltered from wind streams, with sunlight, preferably in the morning. Until he get used to it, it is important that the new animal does not have any direct contact with other animals.

If the bird is going to live in a cage, use your common sense to buy a cage that meets the bird's needs.

Remember: there is a minimum size for a cage, but there is no maximum.

QUARANTINE

If the bird has been acquired to live in the company of other birds, it is very important to quarantine it, as it may carry some pathogens. Leave it isolated under observation for at least 21 days and do parasitological exams. The birds may not show that they are sick, but due to the stress of changing environment, they will come with a weakened immune system and can start to show symptoms of diseases.



In the case of birds who participate of singing contests, a veterinarian must monitor their reception to certify their good health.



AVIARY

Breeding in cages or in aviaries has its pros and cons. Both systems however require specific cares.

In the aviary it is more difficult to control diseases due to the greater difficulty to observe each individual. We are unable to separate the couples according to the characteristics we wish, as the birds themselves choose their pairs. Moreover, some species are unable to mate due to the large number of birds present in the local. On the other hand, birds raised in aviary tend to be stronger and more resistant, as they have

more space to fly and to develop.

We must pay special attention to the construction of the facilities. In the case of aviary one must take care with the height and the type of tiles, especially in areas where winter and summer are more rigorous. Some species, like Australian Budgies, can breed as any time of the year. We must double our attention with brutal temperature variations that can cause serious problems, particularly to the babies.

Avoid contact with wild birds like House-Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and Doves (*Columbina talpacoti*) that can transmit some diseases to your caged birds.

Different species can be introduced within the same aviary as long as they are peaceful.

The aviary must face the rising sun. The floor should preferably be made of masonry to facilitate cleaning in addition to be more hygienic.

The size of the aviary depends on each species and also on what the breeder wants. In a collective aviary, you can place: Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*), Java Sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*), Bengalese Finch (*Lonchura striata*), Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*) and other non-aggressive birds. On the other hand, we should never place more than one couple of Saffron Finches (*Sicalis flaveola*) or Green-winged Saltator (*Saltator similis*) for mating in the same aviary. They are territorial birds which are likely to fight and that can cause serious injuries.

When breeding in Aviary, one must consider species that have similar nutritional requirements, as the food will be available for all inhabitants. As an example, we can quote:

Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*), Bengalese Finch (*Lonchura striata*), Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*), Orange-cheeked Waxbill (*Estrilda melpoda*) and Cut-throat Finch (*Amadina fasciata*) that have similar nutritional needs.



The temperature must be monitored or at least the extremes be reduced. In the summer time water or bath should be provided at least twice a day or a hose can be used to bore water and cool the birds. In case of extreme cold, we can cover the aviary overnight with a plastic sheet taking care of keeping it well stretched. So the plastic won't hit the web with the wind, what would scare the birds and cause injuries and stress.

CAGES

The great advantage of the cages in relation to aviaries is that a cage allows you to select the pairs according to the desired characteristics of the young ones.

The cages should be large enough to allow small flights and provide birds with the maximum comfort. The cage must have easy access for handling the accessories and the birds. The space between the wires must be adapted to the inhabiting species so they don't get hurt or trapped.



Do prefer metal cages as they are easier to clean and as Parrots cannot gnaw on them. The hygiene of wooden cages is more difficult and cracks in the wood are an excellent place for lice and mites reproduction.

The cages must have a grid above the bottom tray, so that the birds do not have contact with their feces or food craps that may fall from the feeder.

Cages should be set up in a place protected from weather changes, such as in a room, for example, with good lighting and windows that can be opened in the hottest days. In cooler days, they will be protected, as a close environment is enough to protect birds.

WATER

Water can transmit various pathogens, that's why supply good quality water is extremely important for the health of birds. Always use filtered water. The water fountain must be cleaned and the water changed every day. Do prefer external drinking fountain as they are easier to handle.

If the use of supplements or medications is necessary, bath water should be removed, as some of these products could give a bad taste to the water, making the bird avoid the drinking fountain and drink the bath water instead.

NESTS

Nests are made of the most varied materials and in the most varied sizes to meet the specific needs of each species. The types most used in captivity are:

- The box type used by Psittaciformes and some Passeriformes.
- The cup type more used by Passeriformes.

When reproduction cycle comes to an end, nests must be removed from cages and aviaries. Those that are in condition to be reused should be washed, disinfected and stored. Those which are not in good condition should be discarded.



PERCHES

Perches must have different diameters so to allow birds to exercise their feet and avoiding joint problems in the long run. This care is worth for both cages and aviaries. The most suitable are those made of wood, as it presents a rough surface which facilitates the support of the bird. To prevent lice and mites, perches must be disinfected every two weeks.



Edilson Guarnieri / Revista Passarinheiros & Cia

The perches must be placed away from the feeder, drinking fountain and other perches so the bird won't defecate in food and water and the distance will increase space for small flights.

HYGIENE

Hygiene is essential for keeping the health of the bird. Bottom cage paper should be replaced at least twice a week and the bottom tray washed once a week.

In the case of aviaries, remove feces and food scraps, keeping the floor clean. Once a week, the floor must be washed with bleach and then dry. If anyone needs to come in the aviary, its shoes must be disinfected or changed to minimize the risk of introducing a pathogen.

Drinking fountains should be washed with a chlorine solution every day. Every two days, feeders must be washed with chlo-



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rine and dried. The ideal is to have two pairs of drinking fountains and feeders for each cage.

Birds like frequent baths, especially on the hottest days. So provide a bath of suitable size for each type of species. The bath should be removed after bathing to prevent birds from drinking this water, minimizing the chances of contamination.

Precautions:

- Avoid bathing on cold days.
- To not offer bath to sick birds.
- Keep the cage away from air drafts, especially after bathing.

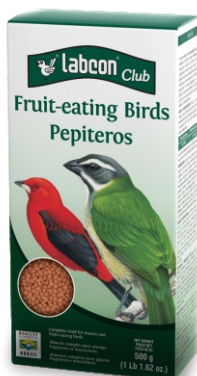
NUTRITION - FEEDING



NUTRITION - FEEDING

Birds need special care especially when it comes to food. Food provided to birds must be balanced according to the needs of each species. The idea to provide the bird with a natural food imitating what exists in the wild nature is a big mistake, because birds living in the nature have different needs than the ones which live in a cage. **Labcon Club** complete foods must be offered as a unique source of food, making up 100 % of the daily diet. When fruits, vegetables and seeds are offered with too high frequency, the diet is turning unbalanced. It is recom-

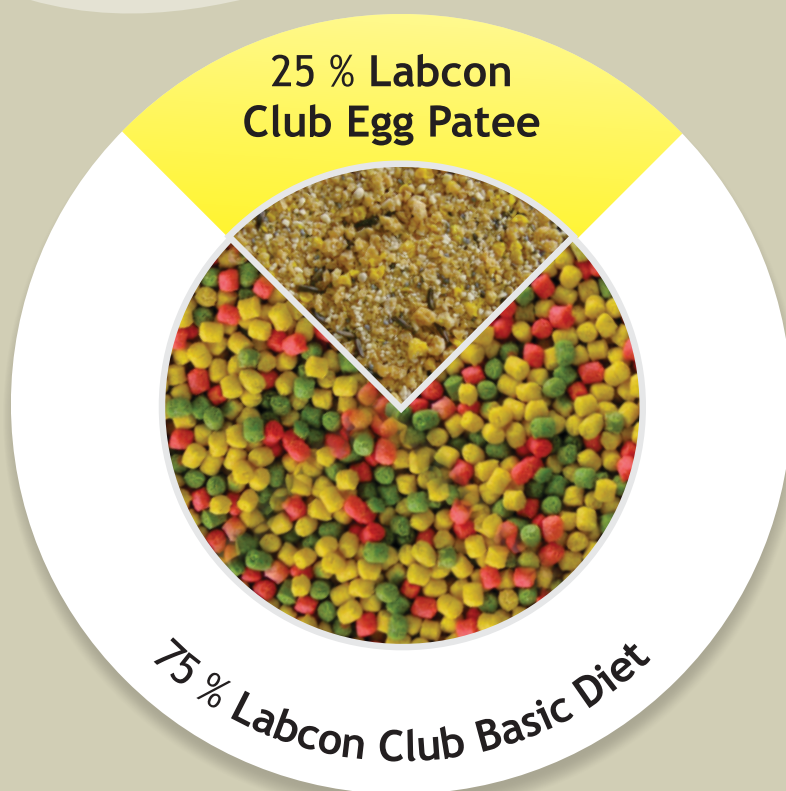
mended to give this kind of foods only as a snack or treat in maximum twice a week and in small portions. Be sure these foods have been carefully washed before serving it.



	Mating	Hatching	Feeding the Chicks	Molting	Resting	Singing Contests
Maintenance Food	75 %	75 %	75 %	75 %	100 %	75 %
Special Food		25 %	25 %	25 %		
Patee with Chili	25 %					25 %

During the periods of breeding and molting, the need in proteins and fat is increasing, mak-

ing necessary the addition of 25 % of Labcon Club Egg Patee.



The feeder must be checked every day because some species are used to defecate inside it.

Before being released into the aviary, newly acquired birds must go through a short period of adaptation. Place the cage inside the aviary so that the birds that are already living there get used to the new comer.

If the acquired birds were fed only with seeds and homemade mixes, pay close attention, as these birds can be in a malnutrition condition that could certainly be a gateway for pathogens. Use the quarantine to recover this bird offering **Labcon Club Revitalizing** during 15 consecutive days, then **Labcon**



Club Polyvitamin during 5 days, then again **Labcon Club Revitalizing** during 5 days and finally **Labcon Club Polyvitamin** during 5 days, making a total 30 days treatment.

Labcon Club Revitalizing is an energy supplement with amino-acids and vitamins.

Labcon Club Polyvitamin contains an adequate balance of vitamins for the quick recovery of birds suffering of malnutrition due to a diet based on seeds.



Use also the quarantine to switch the daily diet of the bird to the **Labcon Club** balanced food. To make this gradual tran-

sition, just mix the seeds with the balanced diet together in the same feeder, respecting the following timing:

1 st to 3 rd day	4 th to 6 th day	7 th to 9 th day	From 10 th day
			
3/4 seeds + 1/4 Labcon Club	1/2 seeds + 1/2 Labcon Club	1/4 seeds + 3/4 Labcon Club	100 % Labcon Club

Any wet food must be removed after feeding, because, due to the increase of temperature, it can degrade causing intestinal problems to the bird.

If you acquired a bird of excellent lineage but are not providing all nutrients he needs, some expected characteristics such as song and color could be at risk. The bird will also be more likely to develop diseases. The best way to avoid diseases is to provide a balanced diet. A well-fed bird greatly reduces its chance of getting sick and if it does, it will tend to recover faster.

Labcon Club foods are complete and provide all nutrients the bird needs. They have been

formulated to meet the needs of each species. They got attractive colors and flavors and contain prebiotics that help to prevent diseases.

The **Labcon Club** line is based on functional feeding, because it combines nutrition and health. Their formulation includes ingredients such as carrot, beet, watercress, Rosemary and egg. The colors of **Labcon Club** pellets come from natural ingredients

Labcon Club supplements line includes the following products:



Labcon Club Vita: A vitamin supplement with probiotic and prebiotic, recommended for birds with symptoms of intestinal dysfunction.



Labcon Club Vitil P.S.: A vitamin supplement for birds showing symptoms of dry chest and respiratory problems.



Labcon Club Polyvitamin: A vitamin supplement recommended for birds fed with seeds.



Labcon Club Revitalizing: A supplement of high energy value with amino-acids and vitamins.



Labcon Club Iron: A vitamin supplement with iron, for birds suffering of anemia.

Labcon Club Breeding: A supplement with a perfect balance of vitamin E, Selenium and Zinc. Recommended to complete the basic diet during mating periods. Improves the metabolism of the bird and the reproduction results.



	Reproduction	Molting	Resting	Championship	Stress	New food	Seeds	Anemia	Respiratory Diseases
Revitalizing									
Vitil P.S.									
Vita									
Polyvitamin									
Iron									
Breeding									

The best way to prevent diseases is to offer an adequate nutrition.



LABCON BREEDER

It offers colorless extruded pellets in a larger packaging so to meet its high consumption by breeders. Protein level is higher making possible to add a small amount of fruits and vegetables (up to 10%).

Labcon Club foods have been developed to meet the nutritional needs of birds with premium quality products. They have a high digestibility and an attractive flavor and contain high standard vitamins and minerals in addition to a prebiotic that promotes the selective growth of beneficial bacteria present in the intestines, improving the use of the nutrients. They contain natural ingredients like carrot, beet, egg, Rosemary and watercress.

FOOD FOR COMPETITION BIRDS

A champion bird does not appear by chance. Experienced breeders are working with constant dedication in the creation and management of these outstanding little ones.

The genetic factor is undoubtedly fundamental, as the chicks of a bird that stands out in song contests tend to reproduce its parents good performance. Even so, only the genetic factor does not guarantee the good development and expressive performance of the bird. Other factors that involve handling and feeding are also very important.

Hygiene, for example, is crucial to prevent infestations and diseases. Drinking fountains, perches and cages bottoms need to be cleaned frequently. The bathing routing is very healthy for birds, as it promotes hygiene, keeps feathers and skin clean and helps eliminate parasites.

Even though a bird has great genetic potential and receive all management care, it will not achieve good singing performances if it is not properly fed. During the singing contests season the energy expenditure of the bird is higher and this should be an additional concern. The additional use of a specific food with higher energy level will

enhance performances during the championships.

“Labcon Club Premium Winner” food has been especially designed for singing competition birds. Its high energy level prepares the bird for the contest. It should be served throughout the championships season, including during competition, mixed with the maintaining food.



Feeding Champions



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BALANCED FOOD X SEEDS



Seeds mixtures have a number of disadvantages compared with balanced diets:

- Nutritional imbalance: seeds contain too much fat while are deficient in vitamins, minerals and amino-acids. To make matters worse, the few minerals present are not always able to be absorbed and are eliminated. **Labcon Club** foods get the correct amount of all nutrients that birds need (proteins, fat, vitamins and minerals).

- Toxins: seeds can contain pesticides and aflatoxin that cause lung diseases, sterilization of birds and, depending on

the concentration, may even lead to their death. **Labcon Club** balanced diets are safe foods, free of toxins and pathogens.

- Selection of seeds by the bird: even when one tries to make a good composition by mixing different types of seeds, the bird can always choose the type of seed that attracts him the most, thus compromising the idea to offer a balanced mixture. In **Labcon Club** balanced foods, the composition of all pellets is the same whatever the color, providing a balanced diet to the bird.

- Hard handling. Seeds shells need to be blown. **Labcon Club** balanced food in pellets are user friendly as they can be kept in the feeder for up to 5 days in a non-humid environment without losing their nutrients or being degraded.

- The manufacturing process of **Labcon Club** diet foods allows the full control over color, texture and aroma so to meet the specific taste of each species. The process of extrusion increases the nutrients digestibility and, thanks to the action of high temperatures and pres-

sure, eliminates any potential pathogen. In addition to these benefits, **Labcon Club** diet foods ensure the adequate supply of both macronutrients (proteins, fat, fibers) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals).

More than offering products, **Labcon Club** provides all caging birds with health and well-being. The health of the bird, the good functioning of its organism, the metabolic and immune system optimization are directly related to a good nutrition.

V LABCON CLUB BALANCED FOOD

- Complete balanced food with the adequate quantity of proteins, fat, fiber, vitamins and minerals.
- Toxins-free.
- Same nutrients in all extrudes granules whatever the color.
- User-friendly. Handy handling. Can be kept in the feeder for 5 days.

X SEEDS

- Unbalanced food with excess of fat, low content of proteins, contains no vitamins and the minerals are not absorbed.
- May contain pesticides and aflatoxins that, according with its concentration, can kill the bird.
- Birds can choose the most attractive seeds, that means the ones with more fat.
- Hard handling. It is necessary to blow the shells every day. In addition to the dirt generated, this practice can contaminate the food.



MOLTING



Molting is the natural feathers renewal process during which the organism of the bird comes to rest. For this substitution to happen normally, the bird must be in a perfect nutritional balance. This is a condition for a good replenishment of the plumage. Molting is related to biological and climatic factors.

This phase is more complex than it seems because, in addition to replacing the feathers, it involves imperceptible process such as the reorganization of the reproductive system. During molting females don't produce eggs and males temporarily lose their fertility. It is common for a male to start molting, mating a female and not fertilize the eggs.

During the molting, birds cool down, stop singing and, most of the time, slow down their movements in the cage. In nature, territorial disputes stop and males and female gather in flocks.

Birds can start molting out of the season in an abnormal process for a series of reasons:

- External parasites.
- Worms and protozoa.
- Hormonal disorders.
- Malnutrition.
- Respiratory infection.
- Liver diseases.
- Stress.
- Presence of other birds singing or mixing of males and females at different stages of molting.



When feathers are malformed, showing a poor growth or when some areas of the body remain without feathers, the cause of the problem shall be investigated. Under no circumstances use any type of medication trying to boost the molting process. Medicines should only be prescribed by veterinarians because, in addition to affect the molting, they can bring other problems to the bird.

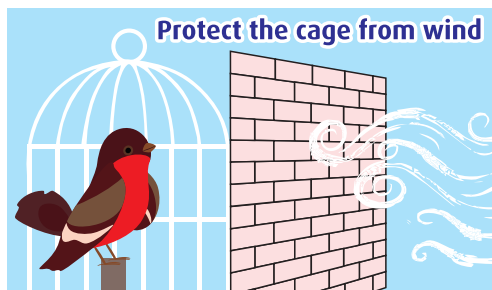
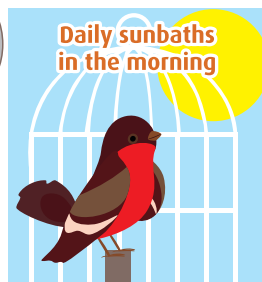
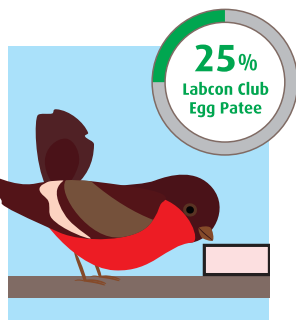
In captive birds, molting period lasts an average 4 to 8 weeks. In the nature, this cycle can reach up to 4 months. The reason for this longer period is the need to fly to escape from predators or to look for food.

The molting season varies a little from one region to the other, being influenced by temperature, relative humidity, handling and feeding.

Molting should not be treated as a disease despite the fact that birds are weakened and susceptible to illnesses during this period. There is a need for greater care, such as supplementing the maintenance diet with 25 % **Labcon Club Egg Patee**, providing daily sunbathing in the morning, keeping the cage protected from wind and the room always clean.

A balanced diet is the key for a successful molting.





Chicks are born without feathers, being only covered by a fine plumage. Feathers will grow little by little and when the birds will leave the nest, they will already be fully feathered. Around the third month of life, will occur the first molting, which is not complete, since only the feathers of the head and of the chest are replaced. In adults, the wings and tail feathers are the first to be replaced, the feathers of both wings being replaced at the same time. The next feathers to be renewed will be the ones of the body and finally of the head.

Bathing is recommended during molting, always taking care

to avoid the coldest hours of the day.

Daily sunbathing in the morning is necessary to dry feathers, keep it looking good, and help in assimilation of calcium and production of vitamin D.



When molting is finished, it's time to cut the nails and start preparing the breeding and singing championship season.

RESTING TIME

During the resting time, birds shall be fed exclusively with the balance food **Labcon Club**. Especific Egg Patee, fruits and vegetables will be offered only as a treat.



BREEDING

Couples must be selected according to the characteristics that are wished.

Breeding cages should have a split in the middle so to facilitate handling. They must have enough space for the parents and their chicks. The nest should have an external access to facilitate the handling of the babies.

Nests should be placed in the aviary or in the cage only during the breeding period. Nests left in the aviary out of this period could be used as a gateway by lice and other pathogens since, after weaning, the nests will contain feces and food scraps left by the chicks. Nests that are not in good condition after weaning must be discarded. Normally, the Psittacids destroy much of their nest during the breeding period. Those that remain in good condition must be washed,

disinfected and left in the sun to dry, so they can be used again during the next breeding time.

When the breeding period is beginning, the ideal is to “warm-up” the birds so the mating will be successful. To do this, it is recommended to supplement the maintenance diet adding $\frac{1}{4}$ of **Labcon Club Egg Patee with Chili**.





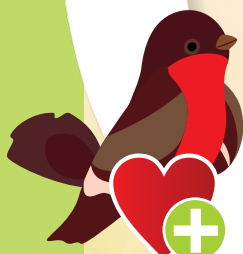
“Warms-up” the bird



Speed up the metabolism



Rich in vitamins and minerals



A functional Food



Recommended for mating period and before singing contests



Contains the adequate quantity of chili pepper



FEEDING PARENTS WHO ARE FEEDING THEIR BABIES

After the birth of the babies, it is necessary to continue supplementing the parents diet with $\frac{1}{4}$ of **Labcon Club Egg Patee** until the weaning. To help the parents, it is possible to feed the chicks with **Labcon Club Hand-Feeding Formula** at most 3 times a day.



HAND-FEEDING

For direct feeding of the chicks, prepare the mixture respecting the right proportions powder / water according to the age of the baby-bird. The following table is suggested. Feed the bird using a syringe directly to his beak. Always use filtered or previously boiled water. Prepare the mixture using lukewarm water (38 °C), mix-up and serve. Prepare only the amount to be offered at a time, as the mixture must always be offered fresh. It is not recommended to save leftovers and then heat them to be reused. This procedure can inactivate the digestive enzymes and probiotics, components that helps the digestion and increase the immunity of the baby-birds. Remove food scraps from the baby's

beak and cautiously clean the utensils, the bird's beak as well as syringes and feeder.

To measure the food / water ratio use any measuring container such as bottle cap, cup or glass. We suggest to use a cup of coffee, according to the volume needed to feed the baby-birds.



Suggested feeding-guide fixing the ratio food / water according to the age of the baby-bird:

Age (days)	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 & 6	7 up
Ratio Food / Water	1:5	1:4	1:3	1:2

How much and how often should the formula be offered?

There are not ready-made recipes for feeding chicks. The birds must be observed carefully and individually. The amount of mixture to be provided at each meal must be sufficient to fill the crop, but this can't be too turgid. Before each feeding, it is important the bird being able to digest all the content present in its crop, so to prevent the food from becoming stagnant and sour.

The time it takes the bird to digest the food usually identifies

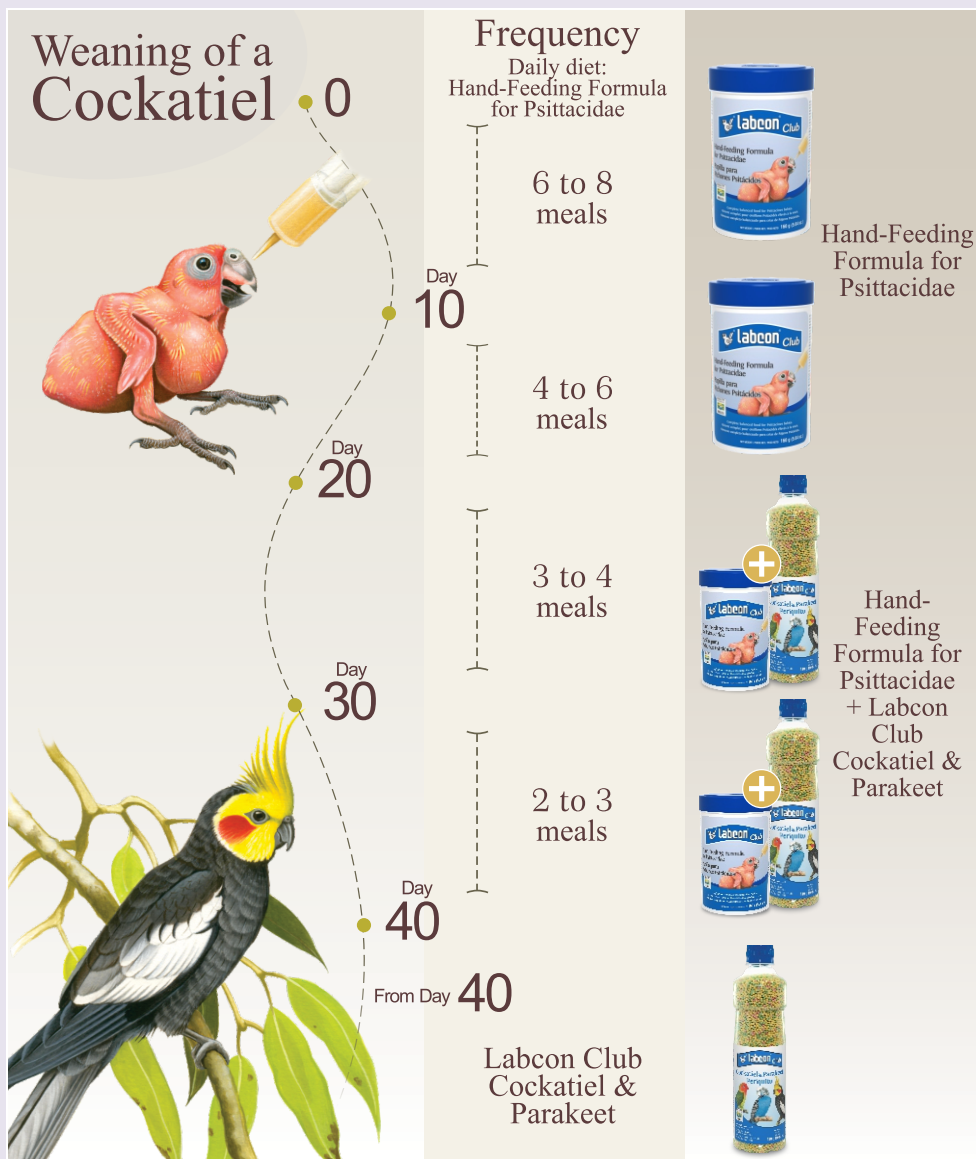
the time the next meal can be offered. In general, one could initially think of 6 to 8 meals a day and gradually decrease the frequency of feeding. The best thing however is to observe each individual and offer food according to the needs of each one. The formula should be offered until 30 to 40 days of life for canaries and finches, 60 days for small Psittacids and 90 days for medium and large Psittacids. This time may vary according to the species and to each bird.

WEANING

When starts the "weaning" (switch from the baby-formula to the balanced food), offer both foods together, gradually

decreasing the amount of formula and increasing the amount of balanced food until this complete 100 % of the daily diet.

The time the bird takes to adapt to the new food is individual, but it should not exceed 30 days.



LET'S DISCOVER SOME SPECIES

PSITTACINES



Common name: Love Bird	
Scientific name: <i>Agapornis sp.</i>	
Origin: Africa	Distribution: Tropical Africa and Madagascar
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Cockatiel & Parakeet	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 15 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 35 to 55 g (1.23 to 1.94 oz.)	Size: 15 cm (6 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 4 to 7 eggs
Hatching time: 21 to 23 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Blue and Yellow Macaw	
Scientific name: <i>Ara ararauna</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Central & South America	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Parrot & Macaw	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 60 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 1.2 kg (2 Lb 10 oz.)	Size: between 75 and 86 cm (30'' to 34'')
Sexual maturity: 3 years	Laying: 2 eggs
Hatching time: 28 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 2 x 2 x 2 m (6'8'' x 6'8'' x 6'8'')	



Common name: Cockatiel	
Scientific name: <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Australia	
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Cockatiel & Parakeet	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 20 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 120 g (4.2 oz.)	Size: 28 cm (11 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 4 to 7 eggs
Hatching time: 25 to 30 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')	



Common name: Eclectus	
Scientific name: <i>Eclectus roratus</i>	
Origin: New Guinea, Kalimantan	
Distribution: New Guinea, Australia, Solomon Islands	
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Conure & Medium Psittacine	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 30 years	
Sexual dimorphism: The male is green with an orange beak while the female is red with a black beak.	
Weight: 200 g (7 oz.)	Size: 35 cm (14 inches)
Sexual maturity: 2 years	Laying: 1 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 25 to 30 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 1 x 1 x 1 m (39'' x 39'' x 39'')	



Common name: Sun Parakeet	
Scientific name: <i>Aratinga solstitialis</i>	
Origin: Brazil	Distribution: Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Conure & Medium Psittacine	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 30 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 130 g (4.6 oz.)	Size: 30 cm (12 inches)
Sexual maturity: 2 years	Laying: 2 to 4 eggs
Hatching time: 24 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')	



Common name: Scaly-headed Parrot	
Scientific name: <i>Pionus maximiliani</i>	
Origin: Brazil	Distribution: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Conure & Medium Psittacine	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 30 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 250 g (8.9 oz.)	Size: 25 cm (10 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 3 to 5 eggs
Hatching time: 24 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')	



Common name: Blue-fronted Amazon	
Scientific name: <i>Amazona aestiva</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay	
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Parrot & Macaw	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 50 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 400 to 500 g (14 to 18 oz.)	Size: 35 cm (13'' 8)
Sexual maturity: 3 years	Laying: 2 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 28 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 100 x 100 cm (39'' x 39'' x 39'')	



Common name: Budgerigar, Budgie, Parakeet	
Scientific name: <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Australia	
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Cockatiel & Parakeet	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 12 years	
Sexual dimorphism: Males have a blue noise while females have a brown one.	
Weight: 25 to 40 g (0.9 oz. to 1.4 oz.)	Size: 17 cm (7 inches)
Sexual maturity: 10 months	Laying: 4 to 6 eggs
Hatching time: 13 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Rose-ringed Parakeet, Ring Neck	
Scientific name: <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Equatorial Africa, India	
Maintenance food: Labcon Club Conure & Medium Psittacine	
Food for specific time (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Psittacines	
Longevity: 30 years	
Sexual dimorphism: As they reach the sexual maturity around 2 years old, males show a black and pink necklace	
Weight: 100 to 250 g (3.5 oz. to 8.9 oz.)	Size: 40 cm (16 inches)
Sexual maturity: 2 years	Laying: 2 to 6 eggs
Hatching time: 21 to 24 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 1 x 1 x 1 m (39'' x 39'' x 39'')	

Passeriformes (“Perching birds” or “Song birds”)



Common name: Ultramarine Grosbeak	
Scientific name: <i>Cyanoloxia brisonii</i>	
Origin: Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay	
Distribution: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela.	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Curió & Seed-Finches	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 20 years	
Sexual dimorphism: The male has a blue coloration while the female is brown	
Weight: 30 to 35 g (1 to 1.2 oz.)	Size: 15 cm (6 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 13 to 15 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Great-billed Seed-Finch	
Scientific name: <i>Sporophila maximiliani</i>	
Origin: Brazil	Distribution: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guiana, Venezuela
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Curió & Seed-Finches	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 30 years	
Sexual dimorphism: The male is black with some white feathers on the wings and the female is brown.	
Weight: 35 to 45 g (1.2 to 1.6 oz.)	Size: 18 cm (7 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 eggs
Hatching time: 13 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Java Sparrow	
Scientific name: <i>Lonchura oryzivora</i>	
Origin: Indonesia	Distribution: Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, China
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Exotic Finch	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 10 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 25 g (0.9 oz.)	Size: 14 cm (5.5 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 4 to 6 eggs
Hatching time: 15 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Saffron Finch	
Scientific name: <i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	
Origin and Distribution: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Canary	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 12 years	
Sexual dimorphism: After 18 months, males get a yellow plumage and the top of the head becomes orange. The female is brown, turning yellow with stripes	
Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz.)	Size: 13 cm (5.2 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 3 to 4 eggs
Hatching time: 13 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Canary	
Scientific name: <i>Serinus canaria</i>	
Origin: Canary Islands	
Distribution: Canary Islands, Azores Islands, Madeira, Portugal	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Canary	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 12 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 15 to 20 g (0.6 to 0.7 oz.)	Size: 14 cm (5.5 inches)
Sexual maturity: 10 months	Laying: 2 to 4 eggs
Hatching time: 14 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Red-crested Cardinal	
Scientific name: <i>Paroaria coronata</i>	
Origin: Brazil	
Distribution: Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Hawaii, Puerto Rico	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Canary	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life	
Longevity: 15 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 35 g (1.2 oz.)	Size: 17 cm (6.7 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 to 4 eggs
Hatching time: 15 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')	



Common name: Double-collared Seedeater	
Scientific name: <i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>	
Origin: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay	
Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Coleiro & Seedeaters	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds	
Longevity: 12 years	
Sexual dimorphism: The male has a black necklace while the female is all brown, darker in the back	
Weight: 13 g (0.5 oz.)	Size: 11 cm (4.3 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 eggs
Hatching time: 13 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 30 x 25 cm (18'' x 12'' x 10'')	



Common name: Campo Troupial	
Scientific name: <i>Icterus jamacaii</i>	
Origin: Brazil	
Distribution: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Thrush & Blackbird	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life	
Longevity: 20 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 45 to 50 g (1.6 oz. to 1.8 oz.)	Size: 23 cm (9 inches)
Sexual maturity: 18 months	Laying: 2 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 14 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 70 x 30 x 40 cm (28'' x 12'' x 16'')	



Common name: Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch

Scientific name: *Sporophila angolensis*

Origin: Brazil

Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guiana, French Guiana, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, South of Mexico

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Curió & Seed-Finches

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Top Life

Longevity: 30 years

Sexual dimorphism: The male is predominantly black all over the back. The female is smaller and has a black-brown color, the same one as the young babies

Weight: 30 to 40 g (1 oz. to 1.4 oz.) **Size:** 13 cm (5 inches)

Sexual maturity: 12 months **Laying:** 2 eggs

Hatching time: 13 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')



Common name: Gouldian Finch

Scientific name: *Erythrura gouldiae*

Origin and Distribution: Australia

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Exotic Finch

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life

Longevity: 10 years

Sexual dimorphism: The male has brighter colors than the female

Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz.) **Size:** 10 cm (4 inches)

Sexual maturity: 10 months **Laying:** 1 to 5 eggs

Hatching time: 13 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 30 x 25 cm (18'' x 12'' x 10'')



Common name: Red-cowled Cardinal

Scientific name: *Paroaria dominicana*

Origin and Distribution: Brazil

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Canary

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life

Longevity: 15 years

Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female

Weight: 35 g (1.2 oz.) **Size:** 17 cm (6.7 inches)

Sexual maturity: 10 months **Laying:** 3 to 4 eggs

Hatching time: 15 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 60 x 40 x 30 cm (24'' x 16'' x 12'')



Common name: Zebra Finch

Scientific name: *Taeniopygia guttata*

Origin and Distribution: Australia, Indonesia.

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Exotic Finch

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life.

Longevity: 8 years

Sexual dimorphism: The male has orange cheeks and its beak is red. The female has a dark beak and only one black stripe under its eyes.

Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz.)

Size: 10 cm (4 inches)

Sexual maturity: 9 months

Laying: 3 to 6 eggs

Hatching time: 13 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 30 x 25 cm (18'' x 12'' x 10'')



Common name: Bengalese Finch, Society Finch

Scientific name: *Lonchura striata*

Origin: Japan **Distribution:** China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Exotic Finch

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life.

Longevity: 8 years

Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female

Weight: 15 to 20 g (0.5 oz. to 0.7 oz.) **Size:** 10 cm (4 inches)

Sexual maturity: 8 months

Laying: 5 to 7 eggs

Hatching time: 13 to 18 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 30 x 25 cm (18'' x 12'' x 10'')



Common name: Chopi Blackbird

Scientific name: *Gnorimopsar chopi*

Origin and Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Thrush & Blackbird

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life

Longevity: 20 years

Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female

Weight: 75 to 84 g (2.6 oz. to 3 oz.) **Size:** 23 cm (9 inches)

Sexual maturity: 18 months

Laying: 2 to 4 eggs

Hatching time: 14 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')



Common name: Hooded Siskin

Scientific name: *Sporagra magellanica*

Origin: Brazil **Distribution:** Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Canary

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Canaries, Labcon Club Top Life.

Longevity: 10 years

Sexual dimorphism: The male has a bright yellow color and a black head, while the female's head and belly have an olive color

Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz.) **Size:** 11 cm (4.3 inches)

Sexual maturity: 10 months **Laying:** 3 to 5 eggs

Hatching time: 13 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 25 x 30 cm (18'' x 10'' x 12'')



Common name: Blue-black Grassquit

Scientific name: *Volatinia jacarina*

Origin and Distribution: Southern Mexico, Central and South America as far as northern Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Trinidad & Tobago

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Coleiro & Seed eaters

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Top Life

Longevity: 12 years

Sexual dimorphism: The male is black with metallic blue shine and with a small white spot on the underside of the wings. The female is olive brown at the top with the chest and sides with dark streaks

Weight: 12 g (0.42 oz.) **Size:** 11 cm (4.3 inches)

Sexual maturity: 12 months **Laying:** 1 to 4 eggs

Hatching time: 12 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 45 x 25 x 30 cm (18'' x 10'' x 12'')



Common name: Rufous-bellied Thrush

Scientific name: *Turdus rufiventris*

Origin and Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Thrush & Blackbird

Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life

Longevity: 25 years

Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female

Weight: 75 g (2.6 oz.) **Size:** 25 cm (10 inches)

Sexual maturity: 12 months **Laying:** 2 to 4 eggs

Hatching time: 14 days

Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')



Common name: Green-winged Saltator	
Scientific name: <i>Saltator similis</i>	
Origin: Brazil	
Distribution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Fruit-eating Birds	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life	
Longevity: 12 years	
Sexual dimorphism: No difference between male and female	
Weight: 42 to 53 g (1.5 oz. to 1.9 oz.)	Size: 21 cm (8 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 15 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 100 x 50 x 40 cm (39'' x 20'' x 16'')	



Common name: Brazilian Tanager	
Scientific name: <i>Ramphocelus bresilius</i>	
Origin: Brazil	Distribution: Argentina, Brazil
Food of maintenance: Labcon Club Fruit-eating Birds	
Food for specific times (molting & breeding): Labcon Club Egg Patee for Fruit & Insect-Eating Birds, Labcon Club Super Top Life	
Longevity: 20 years	
Sexual dimorphism: The male is blood-red while the female is brown	
Weight: 25 to 30 g (0.9 oz. to 1.1 oz.)	Size: 17 to 19 cm (6.7 to 7.5 inches)
Sexual maturity: 12 months	Laying: 2 to 3 eggs
Hatching time: 13 days	
Minimum size of the cage for 1 bird: 80 x 40 x 40 cm (32'' x 16'' x 16'')	



DID YOU KNOW IT?

- There are more than 9.500 species of birds in the world.
- Birds can see much better than humans. Their colors spectrum is very wide and can reach ultraviolet colors. Birds have developed throughout generations the capacity to see shades of colors that human being can't imagine. Unlike humans, birds have from three to four receptors of colors in their eyes that allow them to distinguish the colors.
- It is estimated that the energy that a Macaw is expending in the nature is at least 2.14 times higher than the one it is expending in captivity, as it needs to eat at least twice more food for reaching its energetic balance.
- The vocabulary of the Parrots will hardly exceed 20 words.
- The Hummingbird flaps its wings up to 80 times per second, four times faster than a dragonfly. It is also able to fly backwards and upside down.
- Some species of Hummingbirds can fly up to 150 km/h (93 mph).
- In some cultures the stork represents fertility while in others it is a sign of good luck.
- Macaws can live more than 60 years.
- The more common species of birds in the world are the dove, the swallow and the sparrow.
- Artificial night light, even with low intensity, disturbs the sleep of birds and can carry serious health risks.
- Hummingbirds can see ultraviolet colors and this helps them see the nectar inside the flowers.
- A fighting jet can fly 150 times its length in one second, while the Hummingbird can fly 383 times its length in one second.





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