



# The **AVIAN** Caregiver

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## Organic Seeds for Backyard Birds

Most of the seeds that are sold for feeding backyard birds are harvested from agricultural areas. A serious consequence of contemporary farming activity is the increased use of pesticides and herbicides. These products have a potential to adversely affect wildlife and the environment. Insects and crustaceans, which make up a major portion of the diet of free-ranging birds, are extremely sensitive to the chemicals used in modern farming. The use of these dangerous chemicals plays a key role in the decline of many of the same species for which we are providing food.

The only way to ensure healthful, chemical-free foods is to specify that they be grown under strict organic conditions. Wild Wings, a new division of

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## Making a Difference in Avian Health

Lovebirds can make entertaining companions for families. They are mischievous birds that like to hide (under cage paper, in shirt pockets, in long hair), and can easily learn tricks. The species most commonly seen in captivity are peach-faced, masked and Fischer. The peach-faced is often regarded as the smartest of the three, but the other two have more gentle, pleasant personalities. Lovebirds are generally poor talkers.

Single lovebirds in the home may be affectionate, relatively quiet, and easily amused with simple toys. But they are very social and enjoy the company of another lovebird. They can

spend hours preening each other and chattering. In a colony situation, however, lovebirds are territorial and may

kill new additions or weak birds that behave erratically (including youngsters).

Although color mutations are highly valued by some aviculturists, the inbreeding required to produce unusual colors has actually

resulted in some negative genetic disorders, including decreased disease resistance, reduced longevity and hatching defects.

Males and females of most lovebird species look very similar; therefore, surgical or laboratory methods are required for sex confirmation. Lovebirds are prolific breeders in captivi-



### About Your Lovebird

ty and the offspring are easy to hand-raise. Many collections of lovebirds are infected with the virus for psittacine beak and feather disease, yet they do not show the classic clinical signs.

Many common disease conditions in lovebirds may be the result of malnutrition. Visiting your avian veterinarian for routine health checks will help prevent disease and support you in having a long, satisfying relationship with your lovebird.

### Vital Statistics

Body length . . . . . 5-7 in  
Body weight . . . . . 38-56 g  
Age of sexual maturity . . 8-12 mo  
Life span . . . . . 12 yr

### Converting Lovebirds to a Healthy Diet

Someone gave me a pair of lovebirds that had eaten only seeds their entire life. I was able to convert them to a healthy diet in less than five days with very little effort.

**1** First I bought some spray millet (just about every kind of small bird likes spray millet).

**2** Then I got some Harrison's Mash, which is a healthy food that looks and tastes a little like the millet itself.

**3** I put 4-5 clumps of millet spray seeds in the food cup



## New Packaging!

The new packaging and labels speak for themselves:

- bright, colorful graphics
- color-coordinated with familiar product
- oxygen-impenetrable
- resealable zip top for storage
- extended shelf life
- no refrigeration needed
- still NO preservatives

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HBD International, is providing seed mixes for backyard birds that are certified organic by the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA). Wild Wings foods contain NO chemical insecticides, NO herbicides or fungicides, and NO preservatives.

Backyard bird enthusiasts now have a choice and can take into consideration the role they play in the well-being of the birds they feed, and the impact they can have on the environment. For further information on feeding organic seed mixes, contact Wild Wings at 800-745-7329 or email at [wildwingsorganic@aol.com](mailto:wildwingsorganic@aol.com).

**Wild Wings Web Site**  
<[www.wildwingsorganic.com](http://www.wildwingsorganic.com)>

with HBD Mash and mixed it together well.

**4** Over five days, I gradually reduced the amount of the millet.

**5** When the millet was totally eliminated, the birds did search through the Mash for awhile looking for the millet. But I watched their droppings, and they were totally converted in five days.

Adult Lifetime Mash can be fed as a maintenance food or used to switch the birds to Adult Maintenance Fine Grind (easier than from seeds directly to Fine Grind).

*Tanya Harrison Coffinberry*

## Home Delivery of Harrison's

Ask your avian veterinarian about having Harrison's Bird Foods delivered directly to your door.



## Happy Kakarikis

Thank you for making such an excellent product. I have two kakarikis that took a liking to your food immediately — within days they seemed happier and more playful than they have been in a long time.

*Frank De Nys*

## High Potency for Older Birds

My parakeet, Larry, is a little old lady of 11 years now. She was on the Adult Lifetime Mash for some time, but one day I got

a bag of the High Potency formula. Larry perked up, played more, had more energy and was MUCH more affectionate than before. The "hi-octane" high protein formula really made a difference in her behavior, mood and overall well being.

*Terri Messner*

## Distributors on the Web

I love your web page, and I especially like being able to look up distributors by zip code! I recently needed to find another distributor for your "Adult Lifetime" for my African grey. I was delighted to find so many vets here in Orlando that carry your products.

*Elaine Curran*

## New Web Site

<[www.harrisonsbirdfoods.com](http://www.harrisonsbirdfoods.com)>

