



Quick Tips

For Converting Healthy, Adult, Small to Medium Birds to HOPP (Harrison's Organic Premium Pellets)

Some birds will readily eat Harrison's, while others may require a little help. If your bird exhibits resistance to eating the Harrison's pellets, try the following quick tips:

Bake the Change

1

Harrison's Bird Bread mix can be used as an extremely effective conversion tool. The food your bird currently eats can be added to the mix and baked into the bread.



Fly the Coop

2

Change the bird's environment. Try moving your bird to a new enclosure, such as a box, aquarium or even a new cage. Remove all the toys, perches and bowls and offer HOPP on a white piece of paper, on the bottom of the enclosure.



Mirror Mirror on the Floor:

3

Sprinkling food over a mirror or sheet of white paper, placed on the bottom of the enclosure works especially well for budgies and cockatiels. A bird old enough to be socialized, may eat to compete with the "rival" bird in the mirror. A white paper background may draw attention to the food particles.



Gradual Weaning from Seeds

4

Slowly “wean” your bird from seeds. In the evening, offer seeds in the food bowl for only 1 hour. Then, remove the seeds and replace with HOPP.

The next day, give your bird seeds for only 30 minutes in the morning and evening. The third day, reduce the time to only 15 minutes, twice a day. And finally, offer only HOPP on the fourth day. Watch the bird’s droppings and weight. This restriction of seeds is not recommended for budgies, finches or birds under 50 grams.



Mind Over Mealtime Feeding

5

Feed your bird at your mealtime. Place the food on a plate, move it around with your finger or a spoon, and pretend to eat it in front of your bird.



Use an Avian Influencer

6

Use a converted bird as a role model. House your bird near another that’s already eating HOPP, or use a “trainer bird” as a role model for eating.



Veterinary Supervision

7

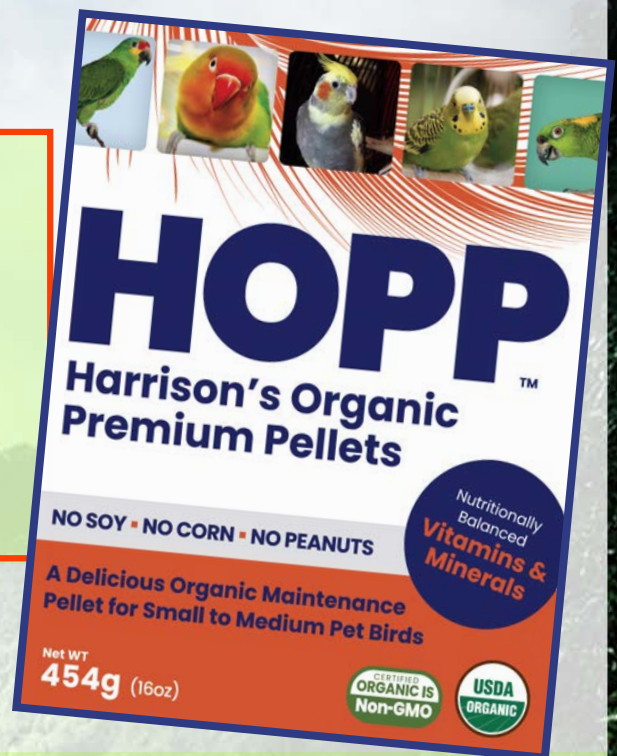
Schedule a supervised diet change with your veterinarian. Some birds may not recognize HOPP as food, and placing your bird in a clinic where it can be monitored will help insure a healthy diet conversion process.



Try, Try Again

8

When it comes to improving your bird's diet, the biggest disservice you can do is to give up after encountering resistance to conversion. If the initial conversion steps don't work, you can offer familiar food for a short time before trying again. The effort is worthwhile for your bird's long term health.



Watch Your Bird Closely

If you notice any changes in behavior, droppings or weightloss, or if you are unsure about your bird's health, call your avian veterinarian and postpone the diet conversion.

BEHAVIOR: If the bird appears cold, listless, fluffed up or reluctant to to play or talk, reintroduce its previous diet and call your avian veterinarian.

DROPPINGS: (See page 5) If the bird's droppings become very loose, contain significantly less feces, or the amount of urine/urates increases, or the feces change color to yellow or dark green, consult your avian veterinarian. However, a color change to brown or light green is normal when converting to a formulated diet.

WEIGHT: Monitor your bird's progress by weighing it daily with a gram scale. If your bird loses more than 10% body weight (e.g. 3g for a budgie or 10g for a cockatiel), resume feeding the previous diet and call your veterinarian.



Diet Conversion for Healthy, Adult, Small to Medium Birds

Some birds are hesitant to switch to a healthier diet. You can jumpstart the process by replacing your bird's previous seeds with JUMPSTART Grey Millet for 3 - 5 weeks. Organic foods help the bird detox and encourage interest in trying new foods.

- Bird Bread can be baked in various shapes including muffins, mini-muffins or loaves (loaves can be cut into pieces).

You can add your bird's favorite seeds to the Bird Bread Mix, up to 20% for conversion. Instead of baking seeds into the Bird Bread you can bake the Bird Bread as is, then push the seed, (and subsequently HOPP) into the already baked pieces with your finger.

- Bird Bread contains no preservatives. To keep it fresh, store baked Bird Bread pieces in the freezer, and thaw or warm a day's ration prior to feeding.
- You can mix things up by adding up to 20% organic, dark green, orange and yellow vegetables into the bread mix prior to baking.

Confirm the bird is truly eating the food by weighing them daily and observing frequency, volume and color of their droppings. Droppings should never be hard, dark, watery or infrequent.

When your bird has started eating HOPP, increase gradually until it makes up 75-80% of the total daily diet by weight (with 15-20% organic vegetables and 5% JUMPSTART Omega, or other omega-rich foods).

This method is best for birds where eating habits that can be individually observed. If necessary, separate birds into different enclosures during this period.

- Try NUGGIES! Birds cannot resist this delicious artisan-baked treat made using Harrison's High Potency Formulas and other tasty ingredients. In addition to being an effective conversion tool, Nuggies is a nutritious enrichment tool and can be continued after the diet conversion is completed.



Harrison's Bird Foods
trainer birds



How to Evaluate Your Bird's Droppings

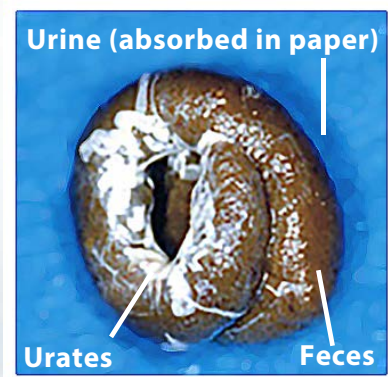
Place clean white paper or another smooth surface in the bird's enclosure to collect droppings for monitoring. When eating a formulated diet, normal feces are typically soft and brown (see photo). In contrast, a seed-based diet may result in abnormally dry, yellow, or green droppings. Black droppings are a cause for concern—consult your avian veterinarian if observed.

The bird's normally clear urine may increase in volume due to excessive fruit and vegetable consumption. Normal urates, which are creamy white waste from the kidneys, are often suspended in the liquid urine or wrapped around the feces. Any color change in the urates is abnormal.

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A sick bird may exhibit changes in the volume, color, consistency, or frequency of droppings.

Additionally, feces from egg-laying females, baby birds on hand-feeding formulas, and the first void of the morning may be larger than normal. Urine output may also increase if the bird is nervous or unwell.



General Daily Feeding Recommendations

To maximize the effectiveness of HOPP formulas, the pellets should makeup 75 - 80% of the consumed daily diet (by weight), 15-20% organic vegetables and low sugar fruits, and 5% omega-rich sources.

- Feed fresh daily, do not top off.
- Select dark yellow meaty or dark green leafy items, such as sweet potatoes, carrots, pumpkin, winter squash, broccoli, parsley, spinach, mango or papaya (no more than 20%).
- Include up to 5% omega rich foods, like organic JUMPSTART OMEGA, flax seeds, pumpkin seeds.
- To help reduce waste, feed as distinct meals.



Feeding Other Foods

Limit all other foods to no more than 20% of the overall diet.

To ensure HOPP is fully effective, carefully follow feeding guidelines, as overfeeding other foods may dilute essential nutrients.

Supplementing with vitamins, minerals, or other bird or animal products is not recommended, as it may lead to over-supplementation.

Do not use HOPP alongside another commercial bird food unless it is a Harrison's Bird Foods formula.

