Bird Breeding Tips and Considerations

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Bird Breeding BASICS

Breeding and raising birds is a challenging responsibility. You must be willing to invest significant time, finances, and space into proper care of breeding and baby birds.

Primary considerations

First, consult an avian veterinarian, who will advise you on breeding your species and direct you to additional reputable resources (such as experienced local breeders). Then:

- Determine whether your state and city regulate exotic bird breeding.
- Obtain permission from your homeowner's association if necessary.
- Make sure neighbors accept the possibility of new noise.
- Determine your birds' location and whether you need to make space within your home (or outdoors if your climate allows).
- Take precautions to deter predators and theft if you'll keep your birds outdoors.
- Plan for the costs of quality ongoing care for your birds.
- Find a disease-free mate that is not related to your bird, and at least one year old.

If you're thinking of breeding your bird, be sure to involve your avian veterinarian. He or she can enlighten you about the requirements of breeding and help you strategize for this complex and rewarding undertaking.

Next, obtain your supplies:

- Nutritionally complete breeding food - Roudybush High-Energy Breeder formula gives breeding birds optimal nutrition. If you choose to feed another diet, ask your veterinarian about supplements.
- Baby food and feeding tools - Embrace® Hand-feeding Formulas ensure great beginning nutrition. A weaning food, such as Kaytee Exact Conversion & Weaning Diet is crucial for older chicks. Also keep syringes, spoons, mixing bowls, and a thermometer on hand.
- Additional specialized cages for weaning, temporary housing, transport, and quarantine. The Paradise Perch and Go! Travel Cage is ideal.
- Health and safety supplies - A bird First-Aid Kit is vital. Also stock a pair of nail clippers and a bird-safe disinfectant.

Breeding essentials

Your birds will need private, quiet breeding space. Locate a breeding cage in a room separate from your primary living quarters. The movable Breeding Cage offers a comfy breeding spot. Ask your veterinarian for breeding cage size guidelines. You'll also need to create a nursery. Make sure this space is not so secluded that babies become afraid of noise and people. Designate an isolated quarantine and hospital area; an unused bathroom is ideal. Also, ask your veterinarian for information on incubators, brooders, bird scales, and specialized lighting.

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