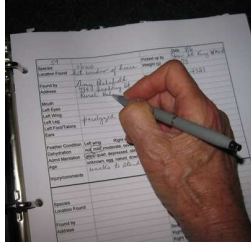


Intake



- Get detailed history!
- Where was it found?
 - Food, water, or medicine administered?
 - How long since capture?
 - Get finder's name, address, and phone #

7

Identification

Natural history is very important.

- Insectivore or seed eater?
- Ground feeder or drop forager?
- Habitat
- Nest type
- Nocturnal?
- Migratory?

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Handling

- Easier to catch if room is dark
- Use a lightweight blanket or sheet to throw over bird
- Don't move bird from one hand to the other
- Don't restrict breathing (chest must be able to move up and down)
- Handle only in a small, contained area



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Songbird Stages

- Hatchling – pink, naked and blind
- Nestling – downy or pin feathers, short stubby tail



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Handling

- Bander's grip



9

Nestling Types

Altricial



Naked, blind, helpless wholly, dependent on parents

Precocial



Down covered, active soon after hatching, able to leave nest

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Nestling Types

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gape flanges 2. Tongue 3. Tongue-spurs 4. Palate 5. Down filaments 6. Wing quills 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Thigh 8. Tarsus 9. Belly 10. Breast 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moustache streak 2. Forehead 3. Lores 4. Forecrown 5. Eyestripe 6. Hindcrown 7. Ear covers 8. Nape 9. Mantle 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Back 11. Flank 12. Rump 13. Tarsus 14. Thigh 15. Belly 16. Wing 17. Upper breast
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Housing - Nestlings

- Incubator
- Margarine tub (finches, wrens, sparrows)
- Cool Whip bowl (robins, mockingbirds, blue jays)
- Line plastic bowls with white, unscented tissue
- Place plastic bowl inside Kritter Keeper or aquarium

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Songbird Stages

- Fledgling – mostly feathered, longer tail, beginning to self-feed

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Housing - Adults

- Never use wire cages
- Cardboard box with insect screen
- Kritter Keeper or aquarium
- Screened rabbit cage
- Outdoor flight cage

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Songbird Stages

- Fledgling – mostly feathered, longer tail, beginning to self-feed

"teenager"

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Environmental Enrichment

- Minimize visual contact by placing natural color contact paper or pictures of flowers and trees on outside of cage
- Offer different sized perches at various heights
- Offer natural foods
- Use natural substrate such as dirt or grass
- Natural setting with places to hide

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Grocery List

- High protein, high quality kitten kibble (40% protein)
- Mealworms
- Wax worms
- Seed mixes
- Fruit (strawberries, blueberries, grapes)
- Greens (kale, romaine lettuce, Dri Greens®)



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Feeding Doves

- Baby doves do not gape
- Doves < 40 grams must be syringe fed crop milk or baby cereal mix
- Doves > 40 grams can be fed with a homemade seed feeder (designed by Lessie Davis)



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Feeding - Babies

- Hatchlings need to be fed every 15-30 minutes from 7:00am – 9:00pm
- Nestlings every 30-45 minutes
- Fledglings every 45-60 minutes
- Weigh, weigh, weigh!
- Soak high quality (protein) kitten chow until softened
- Alternate feedings of kitten chow and insects
- Don't give hatchlings water
- Offer live mealworms and fruit/seed in cage for fledglings
- Take a worm count to determine if bird is beginning to self-feed

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Feeding - Adults



- Provide natural diet if possible
- Offer as much of a variety as possible including fruits, berries, and greens
- Provide water for drinking

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HATCHLING



21

Gavage

- Method of feeding if bird is unwilling or unable to self-feed
- Use warm slurry or fluids
- Insert past glottis and into crop
- Gut capacity is approximately 10% of body weight
- Do not overfill or bird can choke or aspirate

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Most Common Injuries

- Window strike
- Hit by car
- Cat or dog attack
- Orphaned
- Kidnapped



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Release Criteria

- Weather
- Normal body weight
- Ability to fly strongly
- Waterproof and fully feathered
- Same species nearby
- Territory available
- Not hunting season
- Acclimated to outside temperature
- Recognize natural foods
- Recognize predators
- Recovered completely from injury/illness
- If migratory, check migration schedule

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Treat or Euthanize

- Traumatic injury to the patagium
- Open or compound fractures
- Fractures involving or near a joint
- Leg or wing amputation
- House Finch Eye Disease
- Emaciation
- Any fracture in a migratory bird
- Non-native species

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Essential Supplies

- Heat lamp (red), lava pack, heating pad
- Cardboard boxes, Kritter Keepers, berry baskets
- Kitten kibble
- .5cc, 1cc and 3cc syringes
- Distilled water, Pedialyte®, Normosol®
- Bird seed mixes (black oil sunflower, millet, safflower)
- Insects (mealworms, waxworms and crickets)
- Tissue paper, paper towels
- Nutristart® or high protein baby cereal
- Forceps

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House Finch Eye Disease



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Reference Materials

- Sibley Guide to Bird Behavior
- Sibley Guide to Birds
- Stokes Guides Vol. I – III
- Songbird Diet Index
- Body Weights of 686 Species of North American Birds

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Suppliers

Mealworms, Wax worms, Crickets:

- Nature's Way www.thenaturesway.com
- Grubco www.grubco.com

Supplies:

- Valley Vet Supply www.valleyvet.com
- Doctors Foster and Smith
www.drsfostersmith.com

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- The end

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