

GOT FINCH?

BY: Linda Brown

High Protein Dry Mix for Canaries & Finches

Feeding *soft food* (hard boiled eggs) to breeding birds remains a standard practice for successful canary and finch breeders and there are as many recipes out there as there are breeders. If your recipe and program has been successful, stay with it. The *dry mix* as described below can still be utilized to **enhance your feeding program year round.**

There are situations where feeding *soft food* several times a day can't happen. For many, it's due to work schedules that keep them away from home and their birds. For others like us, it's due to the large size of our aviary. Over the years as we increased in size, we found that the time required made it impossible to maintain a *soft food* practice. For these reasons, feeding birds several times a day with **perishable soft food becomes impossible to manage safely**. As a result we came up with a *Plan B*.

Our solution was to develop a dry mix that could replace the *soft food*. The mix can also serve as **backup** to *soft food* throughout the breeding season. During the molt it provides a high protein source which will be of benefit as often the molting chicks are no longer fed the *soft food*. The dry mix offers more than just protein, **servicing much like a daily vitamin and mineral supplement throughout the year.**

Every cage and flight in our aviary has a treat cup of our dry mix available to them at all times. We serve a quantity that can be consumed in a week's time and change it out once a week. Time and observation will determine the quantity you will need to feed. Do not be discouraged if your birds initially seem uninterested, as it takes time for them to adjust to new foods. As your flock adapts to the dry mix, **you will find that the birds will instinctively choose what part of the mix that they need at any given time.** If you are currently providing dry egg food, the *dry mix* would be its replacement as the recipe incorporates dry egg food and so much more.

The following lists the products we use at *Jeepers Peepers Aviary*. Any combination of listed ingredients would benefit your birds. If you have a favorite brand, use it.

Petamine Breeding Formula	(@ <i>Bird Hut</i> , 503/ 254-3390)
Game Bird Starter (<i>un-medicated</i>)	(@ local feed stores)
Blatner's Conditioning Treat Seed	(@ <i>Wings</i> , 215/ 536-1599)
Dry Egg Food (good quality)	(Orlux Golden Pate @ <i>Wings</i> , 215/ 536-1599)
Insectivorous Food (good quality)	(Orlux Insect Pate @ <i>Wings</i> , 215/ 536-1599)
Sunflower Seed (<i>chips</i>)	(@ local feed stores)
Exact Hand Feeding Formula	(@ <i>Bird Hut</i> , 503/ 254-3390)
Pellet Food (<i>parakeet size</i>)	(Zupreem Avian Mtnce. @ <i>Bird Hut</i> , 503/ 254-3390)
Egg Shells	(cooked, dried & crushed)

We mix equal parts of the above ingredients. To maintain freshness, store all ingredients and unused mix in airtight containers and, or in the freezer.

I hope that you find this information helpful and I know that your birds will greatly benefit from a diet including a *High Protein Dry Mix*. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 503/ 266-7606.

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