



PARAKEETS really love to eat and they spend quite a lot of their time at that pleasant occupation. G. Buell Culver, executive director of French's Pet Bird Institute at Rochester, New York, tells of eating habits of your pet bird.

PARAKEETS

Anyone who really "eats like a bird," like a parakeet, at least, would consume about eight tons of food a year.

At French's Pet Bird Institute, G. Buell Culver's continuing study of the habits of cage birds has brought forth the discovery that a parakeet consumes nearly 100 times his own weight in food annually. If a man were to do this, he would have to eat 45 pounds of groceries a day, or 16,000 pounds annually. Actually, the average American man consumes less than one-tenth of that amount, or about 3½ pounds of food per day.

Parakeets eat so much more proportionately because they have a high body temperature and high rate of metabolism and therefore burn up their food much more rapidly than a human. This probably accounts for their boundless energy.

These facts were turned up in the experimentation and research by which the Pet Bird Institute developed a natural feeding diet for cage birds.

After several years of study, it was found that there are five basic ingredients necessary to the nutrition of healthy birds. These are parakeet seed and biscuit, treat, conditioning food, cuttle bone, and gravel. If you supply your parakeet with these five ingredients and water, he will have all the essential food elements found in the diet that he would search out for himself if he were living on his own in nature.

This natural feeding diet was developed through extensive self-selection diet studies. The laboratory parakeets were offered a wide selection of ingredients cafeteria style in separate cups. Records were kept of how much of each ingredient was consumed by the average bird over a period of many months. These studies show that canary and millet seeds represent the "meat and potatoes" of the parakeet's diet, but that smaller amounts of other seeds and food materials are needed and wanted by the birds to lend variety, just as we need variety in our own diets.

These important extras, plus vitamins, minerals and other essential diet supplements, were put into the parakeet biscuit conditioning food and treat. When these elements are added to your bird's regular diet of seed, treat, gravel and cuttlebone, no other foods are necessary to keep him healthy and active.

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