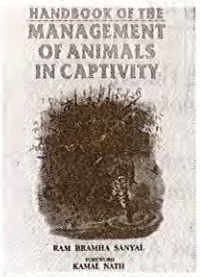
R. B. Sanyal's Diets -- for Birds

Compiled from R.B. Sanyal, 1892, A Handbook of the Management of Wild Animals in Captivity in Lower Bengal, Bengal Secretariat Press, Reprinted by Central Zoo Authority in 1995



Animal	Foods Given	Quantity	Timing
Black-Headed Myna *(Temenuchus pagodarum)*	Grains, fruits and insects, it also thrives on satoo		
Common Myna *(Acridotheres tristis)*	no particular directions are necessary. They thrive as well in an aviary as in a small cage.		
Jungle Myna *(AEthiopsar juscus)*	"		
Common Weaver Bird *(Ploceus baya)*	Consists principally of various kinds of seeds, but they learn to eat other things also.		
Indian Red Munia *(Sporaeginthus amah dava)*	Various kinds of seeds, especially kangri (Panicum italicum), but they learn to eat fruits and bread and milk also in captivity.		
Great Pied Hornbill or Homrai *(Dichoceros bicomis)*	They thrive on mixed diet consisting of boiled rice, minced meat and fruits. These should be made into pellets. Small birds and insects are occasionally given as a change to sharpen their appetite. Berries and figs whenever available should be given. When these (Berries and figs) are not available we can substitute with small pieces of plantains.		
Grey Hornbill *(Ocyceros birostris)*	A/a		
The Rose-ringed Parrakeet *(Palaeomis torquatus)*	Thrive on grain, seeds and vegetables. They are usually fed upon gram soaked or raw, paddy, Indian-corn, chillies and vegetables. Fruits, biscuits, boiled potatoes are also given occasionally. They are particularly fond of ripe papaya *(Carica papya)*		
Indian White-backed Vulture *(Gyps bengalensis)*	They are carnivorous and are fed upon beef, frogs, fish and sometimes rats. Meat should be given along with bones. A small bird is bonne bouche to them and should be occasionally given. A quantity of shingles a stones should be strewn on the floor, they swallow these after feasting upon a bird, and after sometime ejec. them with feathers of bird sticking around.		
Spoon bill *(Platalea leucorodia)*	Feeds on aquatic insects, small crustacea and molluscs, frogs and fish.		
Pelican Ibis *(Tantalus leucocephalus)*	It finds a great deal of its own food by frequently stirring up by its right foot the mud at the bottom of the water near the edge of a tank and seizing and devouring crabs, frogs or fish that it may chance to find; but in addition to this small quantity of meat and fish may be daily supplied to them.		
Flamingo *(Phaenicopterus antiquorum)*	On bran and barley (Bajrah) mixed with water, some of them even thrive on boiled rice and they also search for food by stirring up the mud at the edge of the tank.		
Purple Heron *(Ardea purpurea)*	Live on fish and meat		
Common Heron *(Ardea cinerea)*	Thrive on fish and meat		
Large white Erget *(Herodias alba)*	--		

Animal	Foods Given	Quantity	Timing
Pond Heron *(Ardeola glarfi)*	Thrive on fish and meat		
Adjutant *(Leptoptilus argala)*	Chiefly feed on meat but fishes are also given		
Lesser Adjutant *(Leptoptilus javanicus)*	A/a		
Black-necked Stork *(Xenorhynchus asiaticus)*	Chiefly fed upon meat or sometimes fish and it is destructive to snakes.		
White-necked Stork *(Dissura episcopus)*	Chiefly fed upon meat or sometimes fish and it is destructive to snakes and this has been particularly noticed to kill devour common grass snakes (*Tripidonotus stolatùs*) on many occasions and once a young cobra.		
White Stork *(Ciconia alba)*	Chiefly fed upon meat or sometimes fish and it is destructive to snakes.		
Saras Crane (Grus antigone)	Cranes are usually fed on grains of various kinds soaked or raw and also vegetables. They also find a great deal of their own food, consisting of frogs, lizards, small reptiles, freshwater shells, earth-worms.		
Common Crane *(Grus communis)*	A/a		
Demoiselle Crane *(Grus Virgo)*	A/a		
The Indian Houbara Bustard *(Houbara macquceni)*	They generally fed on fruits, berries, shoots of grass, picking up grasshoppers and beetles. They also can be habituated to feed on bread and milk. If the run is large, patches of paddy, wheat, Indian-corn, mustard and lemon grass may be planted in proper season, while the unripe ears of corn and tender shoots of grass will supply them with good deal of natural food, the plants will afford them cover and amusement.		
The Bengal Florican *(Syphostes bengalensis)*	Feed upon seeds, grass and insects.		
The Cheer Pheasant *(Phasiarus wallichii)* Amhersts Pheasant *(Thaumalea amberstix)* Swinhoe's Pheasant *(Euplocamus swinhoii)* Silver Pheasant *(Euplocamus lineatus)*	They are omnivorous in appetite feeding on grains, seeds, fruits, tender shoots of plants, vegetables, insects, worms, slugs and even small lizards. An early meal, consisting of Indian corn, barley, wheat or other gram 1 pounded together with a small quantity of egg shell, green food later on and grains and seeds and a few grasshoppers or meal worms the last thing in the evening is a good diet for them. Boiled onions, potatoes and hard boiled eggs along with shell may be occasionally added. During winter and rain this should be given at least twice a week; fresh green food and also a few fruits and berries should be daily supplied. If the grass runs be tolerably spurious, a small plot in each may be planted with spinach, salads, lemon grass and some succulent vegetables. They should be always fed in one place. Lime in some form or the other is most necessary and for this purpose plasters of an old building appear to be the best source.		
Red Jungle Fowl *(Gallus ferrugincus)*	--		
Common Peafowl *(Pavo cristatras)*	Domesticated in India		
Peacock Pheasant *(Polyplection chinques)*	As pheasant, they are fond of fruits than any other food.		