



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	407	Field Station Songbird Health Check	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	6/9/25		Supersedes:	0

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PROCEDURE

All work instructions must be demonstrated by the trainer and performed by the trainee.

1. Collect the necessary supplies:
 - a. Species specific bird seed
 - b. High calcium grit
 - c. Broom and dustpan
2. **Safety:**
 - a. Upon entering and exiting the aviary, close the door behind you to prevent any animal escape.
 - b. Be aware of other people, objects, and animals in the room at all times.
 - c. Prior to stepping, walking and/or moving items in the room, ensure there are no birds on the floor near the moving items and/or walking path.

Health Check:

1. Observe animals within each aviary and assess animal health.
 - a. Check behind the heating pad and health check any birds (if present).
2. Label health concerns with a pink health Post-it® placed on the cage card (located on the door of the observation window).

- a. Write the date, initials, cage card number, and condition on the pink health check Post-it®.
 - b. Emergency health concerns will follow the same procedure as above and in addition, notify the veterinary staff immediately via the “health-non-usda” slack group.
 - c. Enter the health concern into approved OLAC reporting software.
3. Remove any dead animal(s) from the aviary and place it in a bag.
 - a. Label the bag with PI name, cage barcode number, room number, and date.
 - b. Enter this information into approved OLAC reporting software.
 - c. Place the bagged and labeled carcass into the designated carcass storage area.
 4. Remove eggs found outside of the nest box and place them into a bag.
 - a. Place the bag in the designated carcass freezer.

This list is non-inclusive and other health concerns may arise. If unsure, always contact vet staff.

<p><u>Non-Emergency Health Concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fluffed ● Dropped wing ● Thin appearance ● Wounds (ie, around the eyes, at the tail base, around the neck, around the leg bands, on the bottom of the feet) ● Lameness ● Feather loss ● Overgrown or uneven beaks ● Overgrown nails ● Diarrhea ● Regurgitation (observed as dry, crusted seed on beak) 	<p><u>Emergency Health Concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open mouth breathing ● Increased respiratory rate or effort ● Prolapse (cloacal) ● Weakness ● Masses or swellings: Anywhere on body with open wounds ● Severe wounds: large or deep open wounds ● Lethargy or torpor ● Wide stance, abdominal straining, sitting low on the limbs
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Aviary Cleaning:

1. Discard the used seed from the floor feeder into the trash can.
2. Remove the hanging platforms and discard all contents into the trash can.
 - Re-hang the food platforms.
3. Empty the bird baths by dumping the water down the floor drain or into the anteroom sink.
 - Remove substrate (if present) from the drain to prevent clogs.
4. Move the supplies located on the floor (e.g. floor feeders, water containers, bird baths, etc.) to the hallway.
5. Sweep all debris from the floor of the housing room, then dispose of the contents into the trash can staged in the hallway.

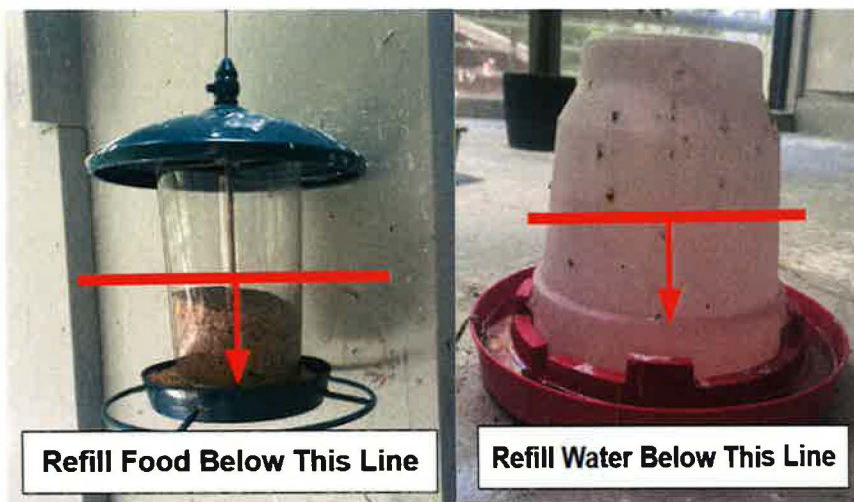
6. Return the floor feeders, water containers and water baths to the housing room floor.

Food:

1. Provide food and high calcium grit ad libitum
2. Add one (1) scoop of bird seed to each hanging platform.
3. Refill feeders (hanging feeders and floor feeders) that are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
 - a. One floor feeder
 - b. One to two (1-2) Hanging platform feeders
 - c. Three to four (3-4) hanging feeders
4. Refill grit containers that are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ full
5. Observe the feeders and grit containers for signs of heavy soiling, mold, and/or pests. If any are present, replace the feeder, grit, and/or feed.

Water:

1. Provide water ad libitum
2. Replace waterers that are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
 - a. One to two (1-2) floor waterer per aviary
 - b. One to two (1-2) floor water baths per aviary
3. Refill water baths with water from the storage room sink or hose from the housing room.
4. Check waterer(s) for flow and immediately replace leaky and/or malfunctioning waterers.

**Enrichment:**

1. Place enrichment into each room according to the “Songbird Enrichment” schedule posted in the housing room.
 - a. Enrichment offerings include lettuce, egg supplements, nesting material (for active breeding), cuttle bones, and bird baths.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

REVISION HISTORY			
REVISION NUMBER	AUTHOR(S)	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION(S)