

Hand-rearing Passerines



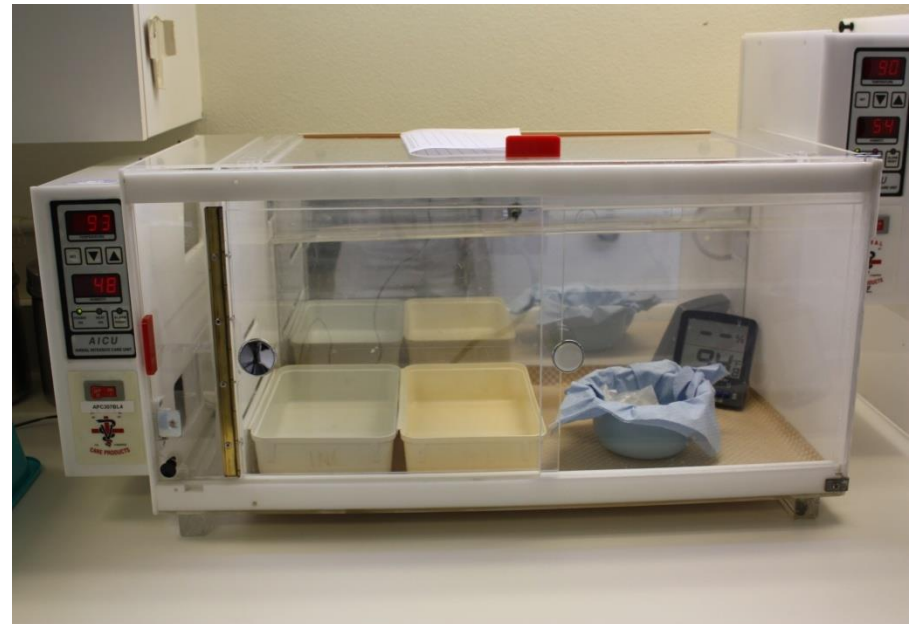
Christopher Leon
San Diego Zoo
Avian Propagation Center

Hatching



Brooders

- ▶ Usually start around 95 Degrees F
 - Decrease about one degree per day
 - Check for signs of chick being too hot or cold
- ▶ Water pans for humidity
- ▶ Sick chicks should be in brooders



Nest tub options



Food, Feeding Techniques and Frequencies



Food: Gruel

- ▶ Most passerines are fed a blended mixture of
 - Carnivore meat
 - Pinkies
 - Crickets
 - Waxworms
 - Calcium
 - Water



Food: Bugs

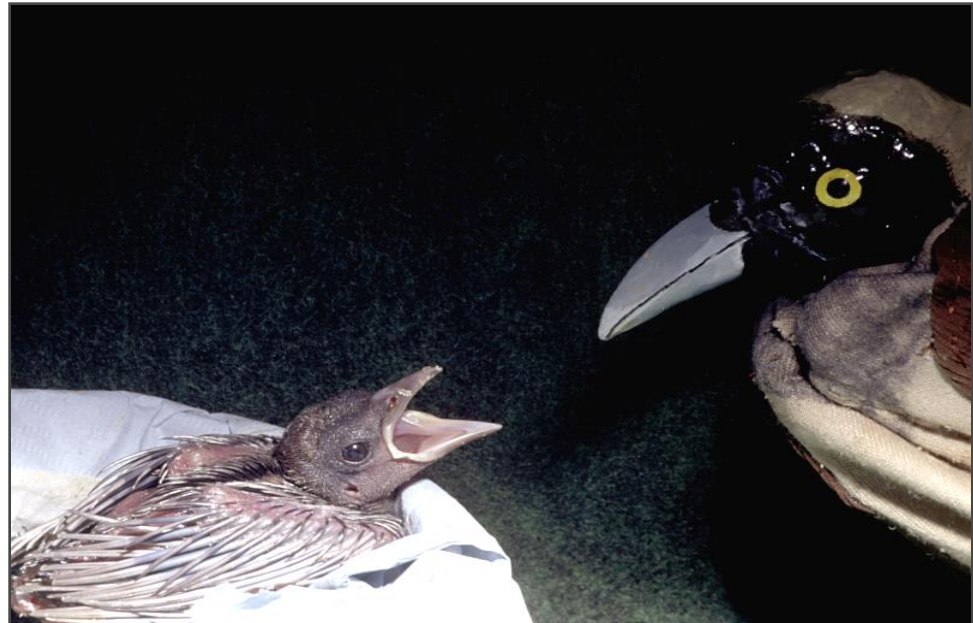
- ▶ Bugs are not nutritionally complete, so any bird being offered bugs should be supplemented with soaked kibble, formula or soaked pellet for birds



Feed Techniques: Syringe and forceps

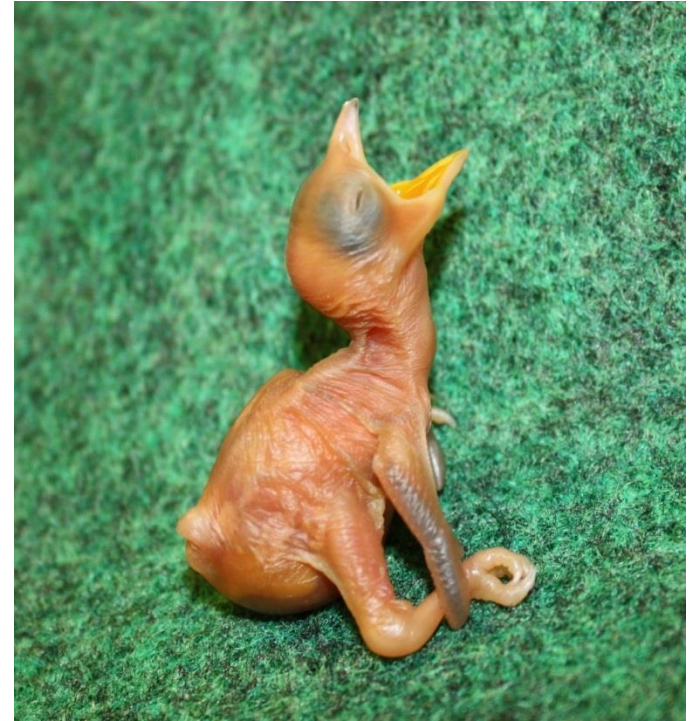


Reduce Imprinting



Frequencies

- ▶ Start out every 60–90 minutes
 - This is due to chicks only being able to take in small amounts of food at each feed
- ▶ Because sizes & ages of nestlings vary, the times between feedings & amounts of each feeding vary as well

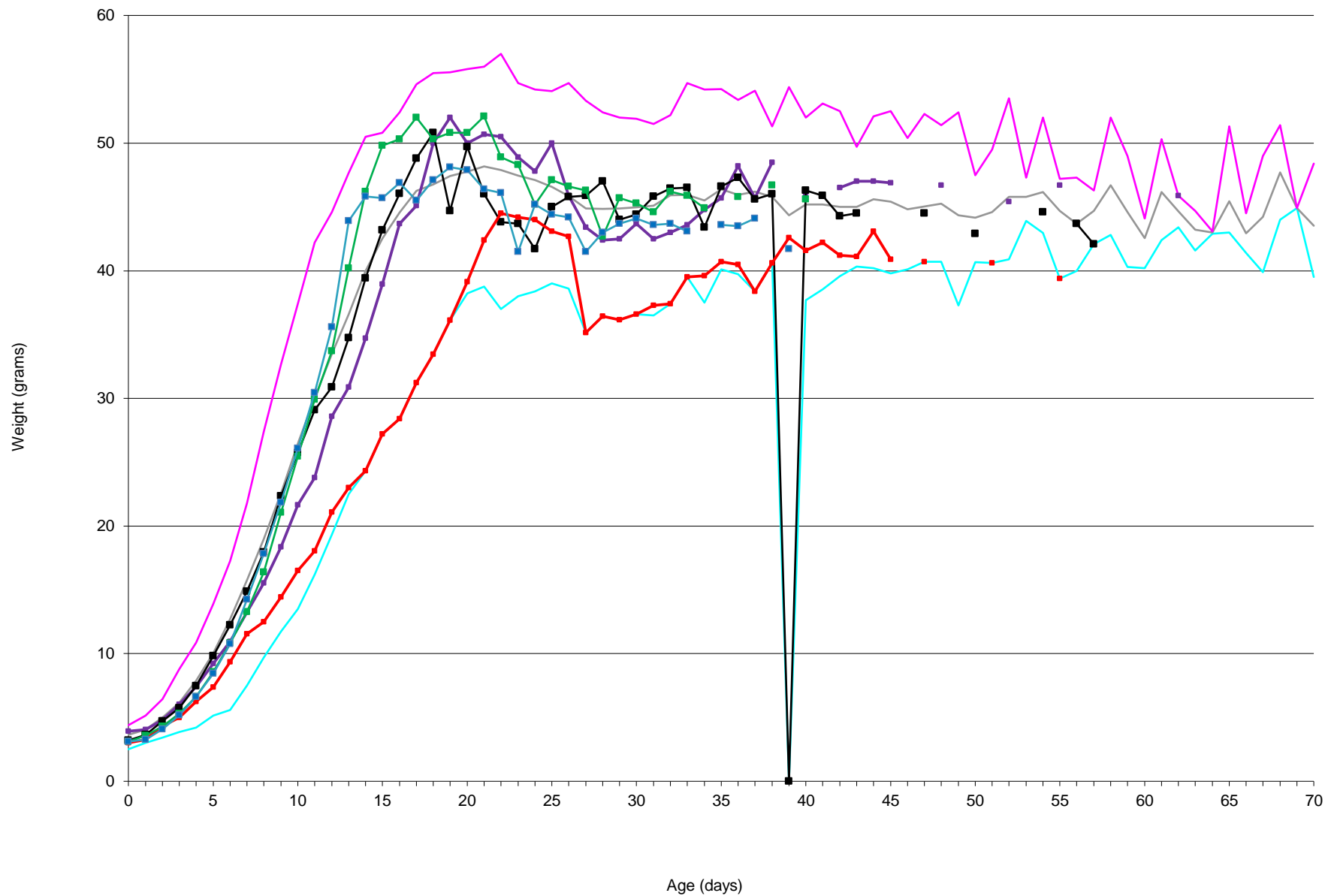


DAY	TEMP P (EF)	BROODER	FREQ.	DIET (By weight)	INTAKE	MISC.
0	95	Nest cup w/ tissue AICU water pan for humidity 94.0E-96.0EF 80.0E-82.0EF wet bulb	Every 1 1/2hr (9x)	Bottled drinking water 1st 2 feeds. Feed as mix: 60% Pinkie 40% small Crickets (3 week old) Use bottled drinking water to moisten food	30%	Supplement w/CaCO & Vitamin B-complex, GHOST when eyes open Move to brooder room ~4-6 hours post hatch
1	94				40%	
2	94	Add Nomad matting to nestcup			50%	Start sunning chick for 15 min./day
3	93				55%	
4	93	Puppet rear Raggiana	Every 2 hrs (7x)	55% Pinkie 35% small Crickets (3 week old) Add 10% chopped papaya	minus 10% as transition to 7x	Skin pigment turns dark in Raggiana
5					55%	
6	92					
7	92			Change from pinkies to fuzzies 50% Fuzzie 30% small Crickets (3 week old) 20% chopped papaya		Change from CaCO to DiCal
8	91					
9	91		Every 3 hrs (5x)			
10	90			Add 5% soaked Mazuri Zulife Soft-bill Diet (low iron pellets) 45% Fuzzie 30% small Crickets (3 week old) 20% chopped papaya		Delete Vitamin B-complex

Weight Gains

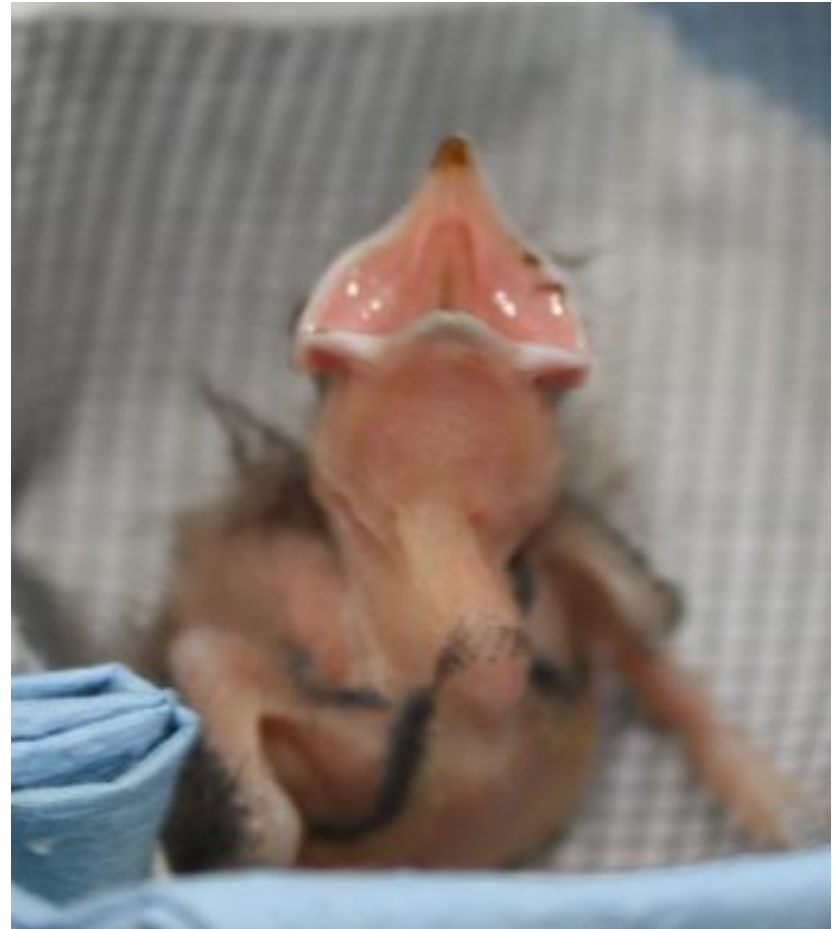
- ▶ Most passerines gain 20–25% in bodyweight daily for the first 2 weeks of life
 - Poor weight gains or losses may indicate calories are being used to fight an illness
- ▶ Most chicks eat 60–75% body weight per day

Grosbeak Starling
Chick Growth Curves Hi-Avg-Lo (70)

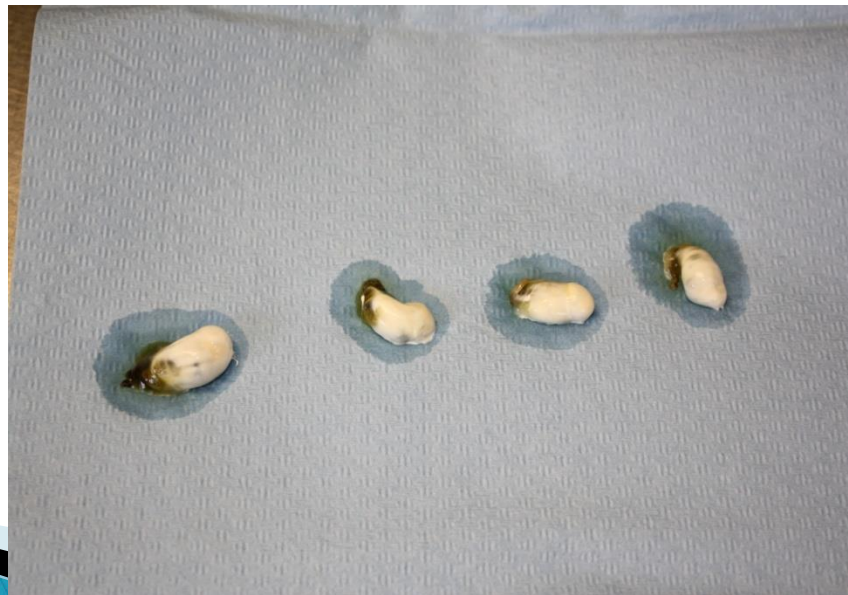


Signs of Problems

- ▶ Weight loss
- ▶ No feeding response
- ▶ Distended abdomen
- ▶ Squinty, swollen, crusty eyes
- ▶ Runny or dry feces
- ▶ Abnormal behavior
- ▶ Pasty vent
- ▶ Pale mouth



Hydration: Well hydrated



Dehydrated



Nutrition



Fed improper diet and overly handled
Poor plumage
Pale gape
Dull eyes



Fed a good diet and overly handled
Bright vibrant plumage
Bright yellow gape
Glistening alert eyes

Natural Daylight and UV light

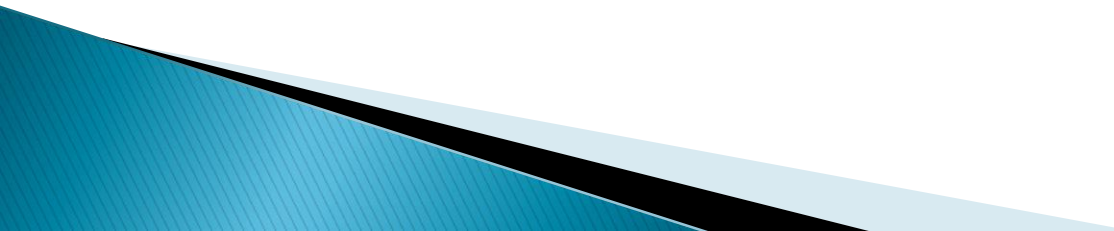
- ▶ Most birds need a minimum of 15 minutes of UV light daily to produce vitamin D in order to absorb Calcium
 - Do not leave chicks unattended if they are unable to move themselves to cooler areas
 - Full spectrum lights also help, birds must be very close to light



Fledging



Weaning

- ▶ Once fledged, chicks receive a food pan TID and a water pan
 - ▶ Offer pans with live insects to attract chicks to movement
 - ▶ Place chick in food pan and offer food from the food pan
 - ▶ Dripping water into water bowl
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Once self feeding

- ▶ Chicks will continue to beg if you feed them
- ▶ Continue to weigh daily
- ▶ Reduce amount of food pans
- ▶ Move after 10 days of self feeding



Questions?

