

Baby Timneh's Feeding Schedule

By Anita M. Golden

The following is a guideline only and is what I try to do.

The books say a typical adult Timneh should weigh between 300 and 360 grams. More important is how much meat they have on their bones – you should be able to feel the keel bone but there should be some meat on either side of it. If there is a very noticeable concave area on either side of the keel bone then the bird is a bit thin and would benefit from being encouraged to eat more. The baby should be at a decent weight when you get him, so try to keep his weight at least that high. Normally once the bird matures and is eating even more, he will put some additional weight on.

Ok, so this is what they've been used to...

At night I empty and refill their food dish with their seed mix. I have a mixture of dried fruit and nuts in a separate bag, so I add a sprinkling of that over the top of the seed. This way they start the next day with a full dish of seed mix and dried fruit.

Mid-morning, I heat up my rice/beans/veggies mix so it's nice and warm and each baby gets a little crock of that. I usually feed them 6 or 7 pieces by hand (they love black beans!) then put the crock into the cage for them to eat on their own.

Around noon or early afternoon, I might soak some of the weaning pellets in really warm water, and then let it sit for a couple minutes. I give them both Scenic and Pretty Bird brands, and their preference will often change from day to day. I then hand them a few of the pellets then put some of the mix into a new clean crock (I remove the one with the veggies whether or not they're all gone).

Mid afternoon I often give them another tablespoon or so of the warmed rice/beans/veggies and make sure they still have plenty of seed mix in their dish.

At supper, I give them a bit of the veggies we are having - often broccoli. I like to make sure they have plenty of food available, and it seems like giving them something different every few hours really encourages them to eat. They normally have a seed stick and a few millet sprays in their cage as well. Millet contains not only complex carbohydrates but protein as well, so they make for quick energy and will help a new bird transition to his new home.

Do you have a gram scale so you can weigh the bird every day? It's a great idea to keep track of the weight, that way if you see it dropping you can take steps to encourage him to eat a bit more.