



Summertime Safety:

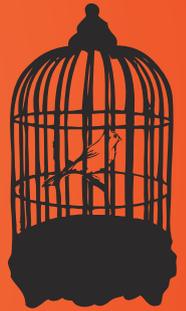


Heatwave Hammers CAGED BIRDS

A common problem that can be treated without spending a lot of money.

Heat stress and Dehydration are both very real killers in Australian aviaries, particularly when the mercury begins to edge the mid 30 mark. What many keepers don't know (or choose to ignore) is high temperatures put massive strain on birds.

Mostly we have the ability to change our environment to suit our needs, this gives us a huge advantage over our feathered friends in our aviaries. **Your birds rely on you for relief from heat stress and dehydration.** On a 40 degree day, most aviary birds are faced with two options – sit in the blistering direct sunlight or toil through a sweltering 60-degree heat under the cover of the aviary, that's a tough choice.



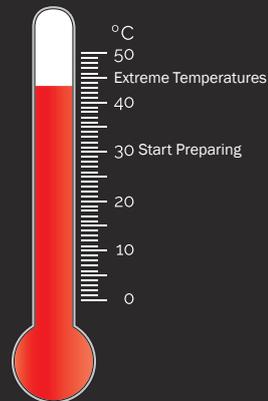
Helpful tips to reduce heat and prevent stress:

Start taking precautions and preparing before hand, don't wait until extreme temperatures occur to act.

A **misting system** can be a great help and on average will reduce the temperature by about 10 degrees. However these systems are not the total solution. Even when a misting system is used, heat and the loss of body salts from the bird's system are still issues and will need to be addressed.

Obviously your birds need copious quantities of **clean water**. The water in deeper bowls stays cooler than wide shallow bowls. Automatic systems should come on at least 3 times a day to flush cooler water in to the bowls. If you water manually, a mid afternoon change may be all you can manage.

Shade cloth is a great invention – if your cages are iron roofed, shade cloth suspended about 250 mm above the iron will help – even more so if the sprinklers are set to dampen the shade cloth.



If your birds are heat stressed they are heading for dehydration, electrolyte imbalances and poor health.

During times of heat stress when birds have their wings out, are mouth breathing and are down on the ground – they are undergoing changes in their body chemistry. Their blood pH is altering, their sodium and potassium levels are out of kilter and their fluid balance is incorrect. While we struggle to control the temperature we must also help the birds return to normal as soon as possible – this is why we use electrolytes!

When we talk about electrolytes, balance is the key, not only do all body cells require electrolytes to function correctly, they require certain amounts of each type of electrolyte. Along with the supplementation of electrolytes, **SPARK** also includes vital carbohydrates and will greatly improve recovery from stress, travelling, illness and of course heat.

If you have any queries about the use and value of electrolytes during periods of heat stress contact the team!



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