



# The United Bird Societies of South Australia Inc.

The South Australian affiliate of The Avicultural Federation of Australia Inc.

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Patron: His Excellency, Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, Governor of South Australia.

## Fact Sheet No. 6: FEEDING ZEBRA FINCHES

Zebra Finches require a simple diet of mixed seed containing Panicum Millet, White Millet, Japanese Millet and Canary Seed. These seeds can be bought already mixed from seed merchants and is called *Finch Mix*.

Feeding stations in the aviary should be checked every day and have old husks removed from the seed and top up the stations with new seed.

Zebra Finches also need greenfood for good health. Suitable foods include Silverbeet, Cabbage, Dandelion leaves and Chickweed. You can offer the birds grated Carrots, Turnips and Swedes. They will take a little time before they will accept some of these foods but with a bit of patience they will begin to eat them.

Grit is very important for all seed eating birds as it is used by the birds to grind the seed in their gizzards so they must have grit to digest their food.

Cuttlefish should be placed in the aviary at all times for the essential minerals needed for breeding birds.

Water should be replenished everyday, as the birds will bathe in the water dishes. Bathing is important for Zebra Finches to help keep feathers clean and in good condition but this habit causes drinking stations to become dirty and empty very quickly.

Following these few basic steps should help for happy Zebra Finch keeping.

This information was kindly provided by the Zebra Finch Society ( Australia ) Inc. whose meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Western Youth Hall, corner of Hanson Road and Hamilton Road Woodville North 5012. Meetings start at 8-00 pm. Ph ( 08 ) 8382 9313 for more information.

