

Aviculture
Q&A
By: **Don Bruning & Mike Lubbock**

Q: *During hot weather how often does one need to change water or food pans for pheasants?*

A: Generally water pans should be cleaned and refilled at least once a day, however in very hot or dry weather they should be checked at least two or three times a day to be sure the birds have fresh clean water at all times. Feed pans should also be cleaned each day especially if it has rained or the feed has in any way gotten wet. Wet food can become a real danger to the birds in just a few hours in hot weather, bacteria can grow rapidly. Any food that has gotten wet or even damp from early morning dew should be discarded immediately, the pan cleaned and dried and fresh food put out for the birds. Most of the time it is wise to be sure that the birds have just enough food so that it is consumed by them and does not sit for hours in the sun. Whenever possible place food and water pans in shaded or sheltered areas. These few simple things can prevent a lot of problems for your birds. Remember that all birds need some shelter and cover year round but especially in very hot weather.

Don Bruning



Questions on. . . hatching, feeding or raising birds?

Send waterfowl questions to:

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Watch APWS Magazine's "Questions & Answers" Column for their replies

Q: *One of my ducks was attacked by another. It seemed to be okay, but it was missing feathers on its back, which appeared to be a little raw. It had no real signs of open wounds, so I left the bird alone, thinking it would be better on its own. A day later the bird appeared lethargic, so I caught the bird up and found it to be eaten alive by maggots. I had the bird euthanized because it was suffering terribly. What should I have done to prevent this?*

A: Now that we are into summer, flies are abundant and will lay their eggs in any wound and become maggots within 8 to 10 hours. This problem does not occur in the winter when it is colder, as the flies are not reproducing. As soon as you find a bird injured, you need to catch the bird up and move it inside to inspect the injury. If it is not a serious wound, such as superficial scratches, small abrasions or cuts, it should be cleaned with hydrogen peroxide (available in any drug store or supermarket). Once the wound is cleaned, the affected area should be dressed with iodine or a similar product, followed by "SWAT" fly repellent, a product made for keeping flies off horses, which works well for birds too. It is a pink cream-like paste and should be smeared all around the wound. The SWAT should be refreshed daily until the wound dries up and no longer attracts flies.

Mike Lubbock



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