

How to Kill Your Birds Without Trying

Many products available on the market have been known to cause illness and/or death to many pet birds. Manufacturers quite often deny any knowledge of these incidents. The products listed on this page are listed to give you "heads up" in the event the accusations are true. The information printed is given as we received it and is not intended to boycott or otherwise prevent the sale of these products. This information is to serve as warning to use care with products around your pet birds. You may also keep in mind that many items have been determined "safe around pets," but appear to be directed more to dogs and cats. Those same items may be perfectly safe around dogs and cats, but not around birds. For this purpose, when using or purchasing any questionable product, THINK BIRD.

Aerosol Cans - Never use aerosol cans near birds.

Candles, room fresheners, and carpet fresheners all have fragrances. These items are extremely toxic to birds. Chemicals that ordinarily only irritate humans can be toxic to birds. Renuzit has been added to this list of items toxic to birds.

Reynolds Cooking Bags - Beware of the Reynolds aluminum and plastic.

Smoke - Cigarette smoke is an airborne irritant like cooking smoke, vacuuming dust, carpet powders, and hair sprays. Chronic sinusitis and liver pathologies have been confirmed in homes where a smoker resides.

Teflon and Non-stick Cookware - Overheated Teflon can cause almost instant death of your bird. Your bird should never be anywhere near Teflon or other non-stick cookware when it is being used.

Metals - Tin found in aluminum foil, gum wrappers, and cans is toxic to birds. Some old copper toys and old pennies are toxic, as is zinc, which can be found in chipped galvanized metals and pennies. Respiratory-sensitive birds have very sensitive respiratory systems and the same precautions should be taken for your birds as are taken for a person suffering from asthma.

Unsafe Plants

Harmful Plants (first source)

Amaryllis - bulbs
American Yew
Avocado
Azalea - leaves
Balsam Pear - seeds, outer rind of fruit
Baneberry - berries, root
Bird of Paradise - seeds
Black Locust - bark, sprouts, foliage
Blue-green Algae - some forms toxic
Boxwood - leaves, stems
Buckthorn - fruit, bark
Buttercup - sap, bulbs
Caladium - leaves
Calla Lily - leaves
Castor Bean - also castor oil, leaves
Chalice Vine/Trumpet vine
Christmas Candle - sap
Clematis/Virginia Bower
Coral Plant - seeds
Cowslip/Marsh Marigold
Daffodil - bulbs
Daphne - berries
Datura - berries
Deadly Amanita
Death Camas
Delphinium
Deffenbachia/Dumb Cane - leaves
Eggplant - fruit okay
Elephants Ear/Taro - leaves, stem
English Ivy berries, leaves
English Yew
False Henbane
Fly Agaric Mushroom - Deadly Amanita
Foxglove - leaves, seeds
Golden Chain/Laburnum
Hemlock - also water the plant is in

Henbane - seeds
Holly - berries
Horse Chestnut/Buckeye - nuts, twigs
Hyacinth - bulbs
Hydrangea - flower bud
Unsafe Plants
Indian Turnip/Jack-in-Pulpit
Iris/Blue Flag - bulbs
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Japanese Yew - needles, seeds
Java Bean - lima bean - uncooked
Juniper - needles, stems, berries
Lantana - immature berries
Larkspur
Laurel
Lily of the Valley - also water the plant is in
Lobelia
Locoweed
Lords and Ladies/Cuckoopint
Marijuana/Hemp - leaves
Mayapple - fruit is safe
Mescal Beans - seeds
Mistletoe - berries
Mock Orange - fruit
Monkshood/Aconite - leaves, root
Morning Glory
Narcissus - bulbs
Nightshade - all varieties
Oleander - leaves, branches, nectar
Philodendron - leaves and stem
Pointsetta - leaves, roots, immature
Poison Ivy - sap
Poison Oak - sap
Pokeweed/Inkberry - leaf, root, young berries
Potato - eyes, new shoots
Privet
Rhododendron

Rhubarb - leaves
Rosary Peas/Indian Licorice - seeds
Skunk Cabbage
Snowdrop Snow on the Mountain/Ghostweed
Sweet Pea - seeds, fruit
Tobacco - leaves
Virginia Creeper - sap
Water Hemlock
Western Yew
Wisteria
Yam bean - roots, immature roots

Harmful Plants (other sources)

Alacia
Apricot
Autumn Crocus/Meadow Saffron
Beans - all types if uncooked
Birch
Bittersweet Nightshade
Bleeding Heart/Dutchman's Breeches
Bloodroot
Bracken Fern
Broomcorn Grass
Candelabra Tree
Cardinal Flower
Cherry Tree - bark, twigs, leaves, pits
Chinaberry Tree
Crown of Thorns
Croton
Elderberry
Euonymus/Spindle Tree
False Hellebore
Ficus (weeping)
Firethorn/Pyracantha
Four O'Clock
Glory Bean

Ground Cherry
Honey Locust
Honeysuckle
Horsetail
Indian Licorice Bean
Ivy
Jasmine
Jimsonweed/Thornapple
Jerusalem Cherry - berries
Johnson Grass
Kentucky Coffee Tree
Lupines/Bluebonnet
Mandrake
Mango Tree - wood,leaves,rind-fruit safe
Moonseed

Mountain Laurel
Mushrooms - several varieties
Nectarine
Nettles
Nutmeg
Oak - acorns, foliage
Peach
Peanuts - raw
Pencil Tree
Periwinkle
Pigweed
Pikeweed
Pine needles - berries
Plum
Pothos

Prune
Rain Tree
Ranunculus/Buttercup
Red Maple
Sandbox Tree
Scarlet Runner Beans
Snowflake
Sorghum Grass
Sorrel
Sudan Grass
Tansy Ragwort
Vetch
Yello Jasmine
Yew (Amer,Engl,Japan) - needles, thistles

Safe House and Outdoor Plants

Acacia Aloe
African Violet
Baby's Tears
Bamboo
Begonia
Bougainvillea
Chickweed
Christmas Cactus
Cissus/Kangaroo Vine
Coffee
Coleus
Corn Plant
Crabapple
Dandelion
Dogwood

Donkey Tail
Dracena Varieties
Ferns
(asparagus,birdnest,boston,maidenhair)
Figs (creeping, rubber, fiddle leaf)
Figs (laurel leaf)
Gardenia
Grape Ivy
Hen's and Chickens
Herbs (eg oregano, rosemary, thyme)
Jade Plant
Kalanchoe
Marigold
Monkey Plant
Mother-in-Law's Tongue

Nasturtium
Natal Plum
Peperomia
Petunia
Pittosporum
Prayer Plant
Purple Passion/Velvet Nettle
Schefflera (Umbrella)
Sensitive Plant
Spider Plant
Swedish Ivy
Thistle
Wandering Jew
White Clover
Zebra Plant

Trees and Bushes (Source: Gillian Willis)

Apple
Arbutus
Ash
Aspen
Beech
Birch
Citrus (any)
Cottonwood
Crabapple
Dogwood

Elm
Eucalyptus
Fir
Guava
Hawthorn
Larch
Madrona
Magnolia
Manzanita
Norfolk Island Pine

Nuts (except chestnut and oak)
Palms (areca, date, fan, lady, parlour)
Palms (howeia, kentia, phoenix, sago)
Pear
Pine
Poplar
Sequoia (Redwood)
Willow

Foods and Beverages to Avoid Feeding to Your Birds

Alcoholic beverages
Anything not fresh or may have mold on/in it.
Anything with too much sugar or salt
Apple seeds (remove seeds from apples before feeding)
Avocado

Cat food
Cherries or peaches with pits
Chocolate
Dairy products. Birds cannot digest them; very small amounts of cheese is ok.
Raw onion or raw potato

Raw or uncooked meat, poultry, fish
Raw or undercooked eggs
Excessive fats used in long periods of time become toxins

Caffeine found in coffee, tea, soda, chocolate, and cocoa can affect heart muscles, causing muscle tremors, vomiting, hyperactivity, and cyanosis. There is a possibility of death from cardiac or respiratory collapse.

Sugars found in sweet rolls, candy, glazed products, and by eating too many sweet fruits can be toxic. Death can be caused by a build-up of toxins already in the system.

Cookware

Be careful with new cookware. Most types are coated with a non-stick surface which is toxic when heated. It is best to remove your bird (s) from cooking areas when introducing or using utensils with non-stick surfaces -- especially when new. New utensils give off more toxins and at lower temperatures than those that have been used.

Dangerous Heavy Metals

Arsenic compounds
Cadmium
Batteries
Paints
Lead - (symptoms: seizures, falling from perches)
 Batteries
 Floor tile
 Galvanized wire
 Hardware cloth

Mercury
Thermometers
Levels
Zinc - (symptoms: falling from perches)
Brass
Chrome
 Insulation (of equipment)
 Lead weights (toys, drapes, fishing equip)
 Linoleum
 Mirrors (silvering in back)

Paints and paint removers (even if lead free)
Galvanized wire (often used for aviaries)
Nuts, bolts and nails

Paints and paint removers
Stained glass
Wires and cables (electrical)
Wrapping foil (bottles, packages)

Compounds

Ammonia
Antifreeze
Ant Paste
Asbestos
Auto products
Bathroom cleaners
Bleach
Boric acid
Camphophenique
Carbon Monoxide
Charcoal Fluids
Corn & wart removers
Deodorants
Detergents
Diazinon
Disinfectants
Drain Cleaners
Felt tip markers
Flea Products
Floor Polish
Formaldehyde
Gasoline
Glues (epoxy, models, super)
Gun Cleaners
Hair dyes & sprays
Herbicides
Insecticides
Iodine
Kerosene
Lighter Fluid
Lye
Matches
Metal cleaners & polishes
Moth Balls
Muriatic acid
Nail polish & remover
Oven cleaner
Paint, thinners, removers
Permanents & hair dyes
Pesticides
Photography solutions
Polishes (floor, furniture, shoe)
Shaving Lotion
Shellac & varnishes
Solvents & spot removers
Spray starch
Suntan oils & lotions
Teflon fumes
Wax
Window cleaners
Wood preservatives