

COMMON FOODS DANGEROUS TO YOUR BIRD

By Anita Golden

CHOCOLATE

Can be harmful or fatal to your bird. It first affects the digestive system, causing vomiting and diarrhea. As the condition progresses, it will affect the central nervous system, first causing seizures and eventually death.

APPLE SEEDS

Apples, as well as other members of the rose family including cherries, peaches, apricots and pears, contain trace amounts of cyanide in their seeds. So clean fruit that is offered and be sure there are no seeds or pits.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol depresses the organ systems of birds and can be fatal. Be sure not to leave alcoholic drinks unattended when your bird is loose.

SALT

Too much salt can lead to problems, including kidney dysfunction and even death. Best not to offer your bird salty treats at all.

AVOCADOS

The skin and pit have been known to cause heart problems, including death. Keep avocado and foods containing avocado away from your bird.

MUSHROOMS

It has been reported that mushrooms sometimes cause digestive upset and even liver failure, though some say they have seen no ill effects. Better safe than sorry, however.

TOMATO LEAVES

The fruit is ok in moderation, however the stems, vines, and leaves are highly toxic. There are better veggies to feed your bird.

CAFFEINE

Caffeinated beverages can cause cardiac malfunction in birds, including heart failure. Again, better be safe than sorry and avoid altogether.

ONIONS

Another one where opinion differs, with some saying small amounts cause no harm. Prolonged exposure is said to cause a blood condition called hemolytic anemia, which is followed by respiratory distress and eventually death.

DRIED BEANS

Cooked beans are a great treat, but dry beans contain a poison called hemagglutinin which is very toxic to birds. Be sure any beans offered your bird are completely cooked.