

## Average Bird Weaning Age Ranges

**A listing of average weaning age ranges of bird species kept as pets.**

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Most aviculturists classify birds as “babies” from the time they are hatched up until when they are weaned and only eating adult food. Weaning is a critical stage in a bird’s development. This is when a bird learns to eat on its own, develops important social skills for coexisting in the flock, and transitions over from being a “baby” bird to an “adolescent” bird. There are many factors that contribute to when a baby bird will begin to wean.

In general, smaller bird species wean at an earlier age than larger birds, and softbills wean sooner than most psittacines. Some average weaning age ranges for bird species kept as pets are:

African grey parrots – 12 to 14 weeks

Amazon parrots – 12 to 16 weeks

Budgies (Parakeets) – 5 to 6 weeks

Caiques –10 to 12 weeks

Canaries and finches – 2 to 4 weeks

Cockatiels – 6 to 8 weeks

Small cockatoos – 13 to 15 weeks

Large cockatoos – 16 to 18 weeks

Conures – 7 to 11 weeks

Eclectus – 12 to 17 weeks

Lories – 6 to 10 weeks

Lovebirds – 6 to 8 weeks

Large macaws (other than a Hyacinth macaw) – 15 to 24 weeks

Hyacinth macaw – 30 to 35 weeks

Small macaws – 11 to 15 weeks

Parrotlets – 6 to 8 weeks

Pionus parrots – 11 to 13 weeks

Senegal parrots –10 to 11 weeks

Toucans –7 to 9 weeks

Exactly what age a bird weans at varies, depending on a number of factors. Parent-reared chicks usually wean more slowly than hand-fed babies, and birds in the wild typically take longer to wean than birds bred in captivity. Sometimes aviculturists allow their baby birds to wean at their own pace (rather than “force” the birds to wean by certain dates), and this too can lengthen the weaning process.