

## Creative Foraging Systems

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**Creative Foraging Systems** are a <u>cost effective</u>, user-friendly system for feeding companion birds by requiring the birds to work for their food, just as they would in the wild. More time engaging in healthy, time consuming activity means less time available for other potentially harmful activities or undesirable behaviour such as feather picking, excessive screeching, etc.

To maximize the benefits of this system, try using multiple feeding stations in various locations. Encourage environmental exploration and promote search instinct by regularly changing the location of the feeding stations.

**Foraging is the instinctive behaviour of searching for and obtaining food.** In their natural environment, birds spend 50 to 70 percent of the daylight hours foraging; this may include travelling to & from preferred patch locations, defining resources, climbing and accessing a resource, and, manipulating and preparing the resource for consumption.

The demands of food acquisition impose significant challenges to both the physiology and behaviour of birds.

Efficient foraging is a result of decisions regarding patch choice, patch exploitation strategy, selection of resources, and size of foraging flock (parrots are extremely social and generally live and travel in large groups or flocks). These interactions within the environment are not only mentally stimulating, but also provide a much needed amount of vigorous physical exercise. Creative Foraging Systems help to unlock your birds wild side by keeping them mentally and physically active while they feed, play and explore.

