

“The day in the life of a bird carer” by Cherie

Waking at 5am, my two baby Superb Fairy Wrens are already awake and awaiting a feed. They are only as big as an adult male’s thumb, so feeding involves one tiny piece of their pre-made food – mince with insectivore mix. A serving is about the size of a match head and they need feeding every 7-10 minutes and therefore can’t be left alone for too long. I can finally have a cup of tea in peace.



Can’t sit down for long though as it’s time to find tiny insects to feed them throughout the day, bearing in mind I also have 8 other insect eating birds in care on this day.

Having to go to Toowoomba today, I have to consider packing their food, water, heating and/or cooling requirements, how to keep their food cold and how much to take so it doesn't go rotten. I also have to think through where I will park so the car doesn't get too hot.

Whilst enroute, I have to stop frequently to feed them otherwise they lose considerable body weight and dehydrate from crying. This setback to their health would take several days, even a week, to rectify. Keeping in mind, I have to feed these guys every 7-10 minutes...

After finally arriving home around 4pm, there’s the other birds in care that need feeding, watering and cage cleaning - 3 fledgling magpies, 1 injured corella which needs wound cleaning everyday, 4 baby swallows which had to come to Toowoomba as well, 1 yellow-faced honey eater and 3 baby ducks. Now I need to make dinner for my human family.