

ARE YOUR FINCHES WASTING SEED?

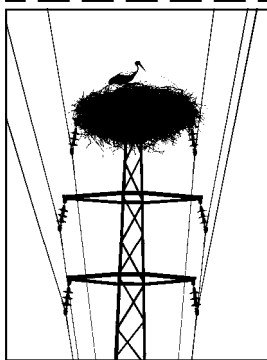
Tired of throwing away up to a third of the seed you feed?

Most Finch Mixes contain Panorama Seed, and finches just don't eat it! Panorama is substituted for Pannicum Seed, and is virtually indistinguishable from Pannicum with the naked eye. This is the seed always left in the dish. Seed you are paying for, but not getting any return on.

To overcome this problem the Society has developed its own Finch Mix. A mix with no Panorama, just seeds that will be readily taken. This mix will be available from the next Seed Order, and will be known as "ASSA Special Finch Mix".

The cost will be a little higher than normal Finch Mix, but will be cheaper in the long run, as the wastage factor will be virtually eliminated.

A sample will be on display at the next General Meeting for you to inspect.



STORKS NEST IN HIGH PLACES, SUCH AS THIS POWER LINE IN SPAIN
Photo: "Sandstein"

STORKS

Order *Ciconiiformes*

Storks occur in most of the warmer regions of the world where they tend to live in drier habitats than the very similar herons, spoonbills, and ibises; they also lack the feather powder-down that these groups use to clean fish slime from their feathers. Storks have no call as they lack a syrinx (the vocal organ of birds). Bill-clattering is an important mode of stork communication at the nest. Many Stork species are migratory. Most eat frogs, fish, insects, earthworms, small birds and mammals.

They tend to use thermal currents to attain a soaring, gliding flight, which conserves energy. It was Ottomar Anschütz's famous 1884 album of Stork photographs that inspired Otto Lilienthal's experimental hang glider designs of the late 19th century. Storks are heavy birds, with wide wingspans. In fact, the Marabou Stork, *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*, with a wingspan of 3.2m (10.5'), shares with the Andean Condor, (*Vultur gryphus*), the largest wingspan of all living land birds.

Their nests are often very large and may be used for many years. Some have been known to grow to over 2m (6') in diameter and about 3m (10') in depth. Storks were once thought to be monogamous, but this is only partially true. They may change mates after migrations, and may migrate without a mate. But they tend to be attached to nests as much as to partners.

The Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, often incorrectly called "Jabiru", is the only Australian member of the family.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia