**Goals**
1) Provide recommendations to Willow Park Zoo on how to stimulate nesting building in Village Weavers.
2) Provide information for zoo educator use in presentations.

**Background**
- Gregarious
- Males are Polygamists
- Endemic to the sub-Saharan region of Africa
- Colonial Nesters
  - True Weavers
  - Brood parasitism by Didric Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*)
  - Sexual Dimorphism
    - Males exhibit nest dependence and guarding; perform nest advertisement displays
    - Agricultural pest

**Nest Construction**
- The male weaves the nest, thatches the ceiling and adds an opening entrance after a female selects the nest and copulation has occurred.
- The female lines the nest if she accepts.
- If the female rejects a nest, the male tears it down and rebuilds.
- Each step in nest building provides its own stimuli of termination and initiation for the next step.
- Experienced vs. inexperienced weavers
  - Males aggressively guard territory.

**Diet (WPZ)**
- 2 birds – fed 1x/day
- 2 beetles
- 4 mealworms
- 2 Tsp Soft-bill diet
- 2 Tsp ground dog food
- 2 Tsp millet
- 1/2 chopped fruits and vegetables

**Breeding**
- Rainy season
- 1 male mates with ~ 5 females
- Avg. clutch size is 2-3 eggs

**Significant Factors:**
- Colony Size
- Age of Birds
- Sex Ratio
- Availability of water and building material

**Environment:**
- Increasing the humidity (ex. Misting)

**References**
Collias, Nicholas E.
and Elsie C. Collias.
'An Experimental Study of the Mechanisms of Nest Building in a Weaverbird',
Print.

Collias, Nicholas E.
and Elsie C. Collias.
'Nest Building and Bird Behavior'.
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**Suggestions to encourage Village Weavers to construct nests:**
- Materials: green, flexible, 25-35 cm long, (~300 strands/nest)
- Diet: (3.9 kcal per nest/male); increase insects consumption
- Sex Ratio: playing calls of a female in morning
- Breeding Rainy season
  - 1 male mates with ~ 5 females
  - Avg. clutch size is 2-3 eggs
- Significant Factors:
  - Colony Size
  - Age of Birds
  - Sex Ratio
  - Availability of water and building material
- Environment: Increasing the humidity (ex. Misting),