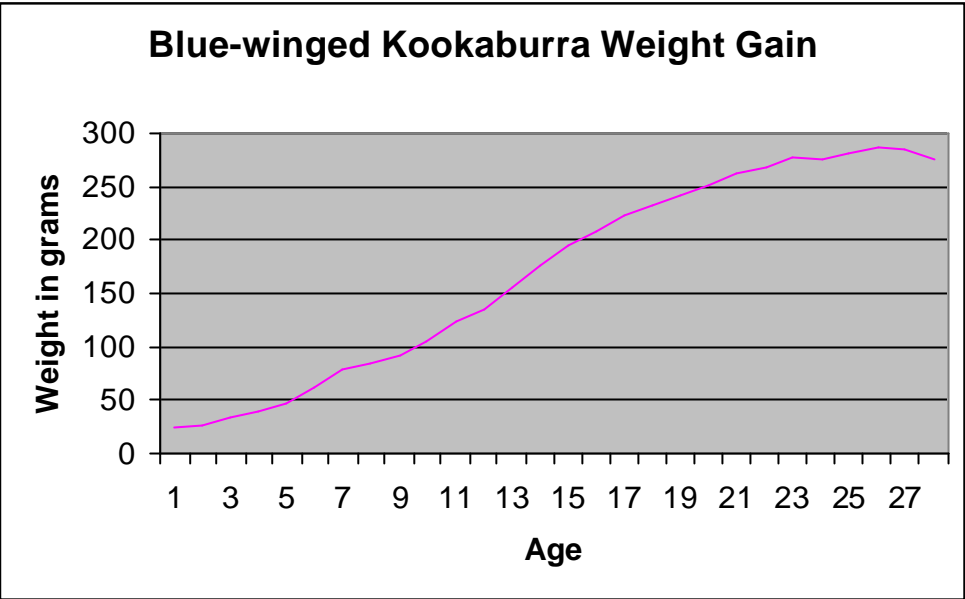




## Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii* Hand-rearing protocol

**Incubation** Incubated by parents – chick removed on day of hatch @ 4pm and moved to brooder set at 36.37°C. One chick hatched 07/05/10  
Hatch weight 22.8 grams

Age	Diet & comments	Growth Stage	Average intake per feed.	Growth rate %
0	Commenced feeding every 3 hours (6 times daily – between 7am–10pm) approx 10 to 12 hours after hatch. Chick placed in small basket with tissue substrate. Brooder temp 36°C. Keep humidity high. Diet: Liver & hearts of day old chickens. ACE HIGH supplement given 2 x daily. Fed using tweezers. Umbilical area cleaned with Tamodine.	Hatched naked & blind	1.6g	
1	Very messy bird – nest substrate replaced after each feed. Underside and feet of specimen cleaned frequently to prevent faeces burns/damage to skin. Brooder temp 35.5°C.		2.4g	12.71
3	<b>Diet change</b> - Liver & hearts, some chopped meat with feathers of day old chickens with ACE High supplement 2 x daily. Feed every 3 hours (6 times daily – between 7am–10pm) Brooder temp 35°C		2.95g	20.18
5	First pellet cast. Brooder temp 33.5°C Skin dry – humidity in brooder increased.		5.1g	30.49
6	<b>Diet change</b> – Chopped pieces of day old chickens and pinkie mice with ACE High supplement 2 x daily. Feed every 3 hours (6 times daily – between 7am–10pm) Brooder temp 32.5°C		3.43g	26.47
7	Fed 5 times daily between 7am–10pm Brooder temp 31.5°C		5.58g	8.52
10	Moved to larger container. Brooder temp 31°C	Eyes starting to open. Pin feathers coming through on wings & head.	10.6g	17.08
13	Brooder temp 30.5°C. Twisted tissue paper in nest to exercise feet.	More pin feathers breaking through on abdomen and back. Eyes half open.	14.4g	12.82
20	Brooder temp 29°C. Feeding larger items of food.		14.8g	3.96
24	Fed 4 times daily between 7am–8pm Brooder temp 26°C	Blue feathers on wings starting to open	20.5g	2.18
29	Fed 3 times daily between 7am–5pm – reduced feeds until specimen self feeding. Moved to larger enclosure – adult diet & water provided. Now at room temperature.	Fully feathered.		
45	Self feeding			



**Chick descriptive notes**



**Day 0**

Naked & blind – skin quite loose fitting.



**Day 3**

Skin becoming tighter.  
 Top mandible darkening.  
 Pin feathers visible under skin on wings.



**Day 7**

Both top & lower mandible turning black.  
Pin feathers starting to emerge from skin on wings.



**Day 11**

Beak lengthened and darker.  
Pin feathers emerging from breast, head & back.  
Eyes starting to open.



**Day 13**

Eyes half open.  
Pin feathers continue to emerge all over body.



**Day 35**

Fully feather



**Day 50**

Specimen fully feathered and feeding independently.

Rearer allowed to go on holiday!