Abstract

Birds’ reactions towards novelty are demonstrated by two significant processes - neophobia and neophilia. These reactions often vary according to specific type of novel stimulus. Differences in levels of neophobia and neophilia enable birds to deal with potential costs and benefits arising from encountering a novel stimulus. Reactions towards novelty in birds may vary between different species as well as within them. In between species variability in levels of neophobia/neophilia may be related to dietary strategy and lifestyle. Differences in neophobia/neophilia of an individual bird may be related to sex, age, and personality.

Long-term avoidance of novel food - dietary conservatism may follow the initial food neophobia. Again it varies a lot between species as well as within them.

Key words: neophobia, neophilia, dietary conservatism, novel stimulus, novel object, novel food