

Near our large-mammal house a Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina*) has established territorial rights and greets me as I walk along the path that leads to the animal house. This little fellow is very friendly and follows me until I drop a few grains of canary seed (*Phalaris canariensis*) upon which it feeds. One afternoon this little bird came up to me and by its behavior I knew it to be in distress. A large seed had become lodged in its beak. The bird had attempted to eat it but, due to its size, was unable to swallow it. As well as I could see, the attempted meal appeared to be a small coffee bean.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Parrots and vitamin B.—Last winter I fell heir to five cacique parrots—three black-headed and two yellow-headed. The yellow-heads and one black-head were compatible and had been kept in a common cage at the Hershey Zoological Garden. One of the yellow-heads on arrival was found to be pretty well denuded of feathers and this one, having practically finished the picking job, extended these services to the other two birds, producing an unsightly mess. Change of diet and other treatment produced no relief.

In the meantime a large yellow-headed Amazon, a family pet for more than a quarter of a century, became droopy, listless, and 'dopey,' and it occurred to me to apply some of the much-vaunted and advertised vitamin-B complex. All of our birds are very fond of toast soaked in coffee. Administration of the drug, therefore, was a simple matter. A large drop of syrupy stuff was placed in a deep saucer, coffee was poured on it and mixed, and the toast was soaked in this. The birds apparently were unaware of the dose. Result: the Amazon picked up promptly and, still more surprising, the three smaller birds are again (June 16, 1943) almost in full feather, and picking and denuding appears forgotten or at least interrupted.

I am mindful of being told by a keeper of birds at the zoological garden that there was practically no remedy for this 'bad habit.' It is for this reason that I wish to bring our experience to the attention of people suffering from similar misfortune.—PAUL BARTSCH, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Kingbird behavior.—The note in 'The Auk' for January, 1943, on Kingbirds' disposition of excrement leads me to write of an exactly similar case to which my attention was called two years ago in North Berwick, Maine. A pair of Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), nesting near my sister's house, brought all the excrement of the nestlings to her bird bath and dropped it in the water. Although frequently washed out, the amount was so profuse that she finally covered over the bath.

Some years ago an interesting nesting of the Kingbird occurred in the eaves-gutter of this house, which is very high—three tall stories. A pair of Kingbirds built in the gutter. For fear that the nest and young would be washed out in the first rain, attempts were made to frighten them away. However, there was a bad drought and just before the first rain, four little Kingbirds sat in a row on the ridge-pole! I believe a similar case was reported in Bird-Lore.—DR. ANNE E. PERKINS, *Berwick, Maine.*

Nesting of the Laughing Falcon.—Over most of Tropical America, the Laughing Falcon [*Herpetotheres cachinnans* (Linn.)] is not uncommon, although much better known through voice and reputation than by sight to the average human inhabitant of its territory. It figures prominently in native folklore and superstition and is regarded as a bird of many accomplishments, the most universally known