Pheasant chases Fox.—Errington (Of Predation and Life, Iowa State University Press, 1967:222) proposed the theory that prospective prey displaying alertness towards predatory dangers yet conducting itself in a recognizably confident manner may discourage predators from attacking. The following incident seems to be an example of this phenomenon.

On 5 June 1969, about 18:30, on Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pa., I noticed a red fox (*Vulpes fulva*) walking through a grassy roadside ditch. A hen Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ran out of the ditch about 10 feet in front of the fox and onto the road. She stopped when about 20 feet from the fox and they looked at each other. A cock pheasant was standing in the grass about 15 feet on the other side of and about 1 foot above the fox. When the hen ran onto the road the cock stretched his neck and looked at the hen and fox. Then he walked straight towards the fox while extending himself to full height, half-flapping his wings, and making "clucking" sounds. The fox turned its head suddenly towards the cock and moved several steps away from him. They stared at each other for a few seconds and then the pheasant repeated the performance, this time coming within about 1 m of the fox. The fox then trotted off away from both pheasants, without a backward glance.

Errington also stated that predatory vertebrates can surmise when an attempt is not worth the effort. In this instance the pheasant posed no danger to the fox, but its aggressive behavior seemed to cause the fox to leave the scene, although the distance between the two appeared to be small enough for the fox to attack if it had been so disposed.

I doubt that my presence scared the fox, as I was inside a truck about 100 yards away and had been parked 15 minutes before the fox appeared. I observed the happenings with 7 × 35 binoculars.

Humphries and Driver (Science, 156:1767–1768, 1967) stated that protean behavior, unsystematic escape behavior, serves to confuse predators and allow prey to escape. It seems that confident and/or aggressive behavior on the part of the prey may also be an important factor in prey survival, as Errington stated, although the result may depend more on the relative sizes of predator and prey.—JOHN LUDWIG, *Cooperative Wildlife Research, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 2 March 1970.*

Predation on a netted bird by Smooth-billed Anis.—On 21 February 1970 while netting seedeaters and doves at the edge of a field on the llanos of eastern Colombia 85 km east of Villavicencio, we were surprised to observe a group of Smooth-billed Anis (*Crotophaga ani*) attacking and eating an immature male Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) that was caught in the net. The anis were not present near the net prior to our "drive" and must have come towards us from the adjacent plaintain patch while we were walking towards the net. At least eight anis were perched in the vegetation opposite the seedeater and several were observed to fly at it. Two anis became loosely trapped in the net near the seedeater but flew off as we came close. The rest of the anis also left, easily avoiding the net. In the few brief minutes before we reached them, the anis had decapitated the seedeater and devoured most of its skull. That the attack on the seedeater was intentional rather than the fortuitous action of frightened and entrapped anis is indicated by the coming of the anis to the net from the opposite direction, the flights at the seedeater before being flushed by our

approach, and the fact that the anis in the net were not close enough to the seedeater to bite it.

Anis are primarily insectivorous (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176:22, 1940; Davis, Auk, 57:179–218, 1940; Rand, Auk, 70:26–30, 1953; Skutch, Auk, 76:284–286, 1959) though occasionally they take small lizards and in times of food shortage vegetable matter. They may also rob nests (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176:22, 1940; Haverschmidt, Auk, 72:325–331, 1955) but observations to this effect are rarely included in descriptions of their feeding habits. To our knowledge there are no reports of predatory acts comparable to what we observed. It would be interesting to know how often natural analogs of such behavior occur during the dry season or other times of food shortage.

We are grateful to W. B. Dixon Stroud for making this trip possible and to Alexander M. and Mary Ross Fisher for their generous hospitality in Colombia.—FRANK B. GILL AND C. C. STOKES, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, 2 April 1970.*

Chipmunk predation on Bank Swallows.—On the afternoon of 22 June, 1969 I was observing nesting activities at a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) located in the town of Sunderland, Franklin Co., Massachusetts. As I watched an eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) appeared at the top of the bank in which the colony was located, moved down the bank, and began entering burrows. It spent some five to ten minutes in each of two burrows, then entered a third burrow from which it emerged dragging a dead Bank Swallow. At this point it was mobbed by eight to 10 other Bank Swallows, (it had previously been unmolested) upon which it took refuge in a fourth burrow. The dead bird proved to be a recently killed adult female that had been bitten at the base of the skull.

This may be the first recorded instance of chipmunk predation on Bank Swallows. Other examples of chipmunk predation on birds have, however, been noted. Crandall (J. Mammal., 17:287, 1936) relates an instance of predation on immature sparrows. Smiley (J. Mammal., 23:91–92, 1942) relates several instances involving adult birds caught in bird traps.—MICHAEL E. GINEVAN, *Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, 16 August 1969.*

Seaside Sparrow hits a TV tower near Raleigh, North Carolina.—On 5 November 1968 Robert Searcy found a dead Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima*) at the WRAL television tower (1175 feet high; 190 feet above sea level), 9 miles southeast of Raleigh, North Carolina. The bird, a female, was identified by R. C. Laybourne as *A. m. maritima*. The specimen is in the North Carolina State Museum (NCSM 2904).

This record is unusual in that no instances of a Seaside Sparrow hitting an obstruction at night are known to us, and therefore this is the first direct evidence that the Seaside Sparrow is a nocturnal migrant. It is generally believed that the Seaside Sparrow stays close to the coast during migration, and this belief is supported by the lack of Gulf Coast winter records for any of the Atlantic coast subspecies (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957). In addition, Stoddard and Norris (Tall Timbers Research Sta., Bull. No. 8, 1967) did not find any Seaside Sparrows among the 29,400 birds picked up at a TV tower in northern Florida.