

Wilson Bull., 101(4), 1989, pp. 656–657

Peach-fronted Parakeet feeding on winged termites.—Insectivorous habits in parrots are reported for the Australasian genus *Calyptrorhynchus*, which seem to feed habitually on larvae of wood-boring insects in addition to seeds and fruits (Forshaw 1981). Among Neotropical psittacids insectivory is poorly known, although Forshaw (1981) believes that these birds are far more insectivorous than is generally supposed. The White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*) is said to take adult and larval insects (Forshaw 1981), and the crop and stomach of one specimen of the Peach-fronted Parakeet (*A. aurea*) contained crushed seeds, a geometrid larva, a beetle pupa, and many fly larvae, the latter possibly due to ingestion of infested fruit (Schubart et al. 1965). Here I report on a flock of Peach-fronted Parakeets feeding on alate termites (Isoptera) in southeastern Brazil. Termites are a protein-rich, but unpredictable and ephemeral food source, opportunistically taken by a number of birds and other vertebrates (Thiollay 1970, Dial and Vaughan 1987).

On 27 October 1973 (at the onset of the rainy season), ca 16:00 h, I observed about 10–12 Peach-fronted Parakeets in “cerrado” (savanna-like) vegetation near Vacarias, Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil (ca 19°25'S, 43°40'W). The parakeets were on the ground pecking at something, and from time to time perched on branches nearby. The birds were picking up winged termites which were swarming on a nuptial flight. Termites were crawling abundantly on the ground near the earthmounds and also flying slowly on the wing. One bird occasionally made short, clumsy flights as if to take the insects in mid-air, but most termites were sought on the ground. The stomach and crop of a voucher specimen (ZUEC 046, Museu de História Natural, Universidade Estadual de Campinas) were full of alate termites along with masticated palm nuts.

Feeding habits of most *Aratinga* species are not known in detail, but their diet includes seeds, fruits, berries, nuts, flowers, and other vegetable matter generally procured in the treetops or amongst the outer branches of bushes (Forshaw 1981). However, the White-eyed Parakeet is known to forage both in the treetops and on the ground (Forshaw 1981), and the Peach-fronted Parakeet may also forage on the ground taking seeds from low-growing plants (Sick 1984). I suggest that feeding on termites by the Peach-fronted Parakeet might be related both to its ground-foraging and, perhaps, to its habit of nesting in termitaria.

The Peach-fronted Parakeet may excavate nest holes in arboreal termitaria (Sick 1984), a habit shared by the Orange-fronted Parakeet (*A. canicularis*), another presumably insectivorous species (Forshaw 1981). I observed a pair of Peach-fronted Parakeets digging with their bills in an occupied arboreal termite nest ca 1.2 m above the ground in the Pantanal region (Poconé, Mato Grosso, SW Brazil) on 30 April 1986, ca 09:30 h. During the excavation the parakeets surely make contact with the nest occupants, and the birds may take some termites as food on these occasions. Together with ground-foraging ability, this situation would facilitate *A. aurea* in promptly shifting to feed on swarms of winged termites, a locally abundant but unpredictable food source.

Acknowledgments.—I thank H. Sick and W. W. Benson for useful comments and reading the manuscript; M. Sazima and O. C. Oliveira for help in the field; the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) for financial support (grant 300992/79).

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IVAN SAZIMA, *Dept. Zoologia, Univ. Estadual de Campinas, 13081 Campinas, São Paulo, Brasil. Received 4 Oct. 1988, accepted 14 Feb. 1989.*