

the 22nd taking the feather into a hole. On August 3, birds in still further reduced numbers were entering holes here and there along most of the length of the bank. By August 26, interest in the holes seemed to have disappeared, at least in mid-afternoon, although on this date there was a flock of about fifty Bank Swallows fluttering close to the bank, many of them settling on the top of the wall and some clinging to the concrete face.

The habit of this species of nesting in artificial holes in walls and banks has been noted in England infrequently from the time of Gilbert White (1774) onwards but appears to be unrecorded hitherto in North America.—P. A. D. HOLLAM, *Dorval, Montreal*.

Post-breeding pugnacity of the Pine Warbler.—On the Patuxent Research Refuge of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, located near Bowie, Maryland, the Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) is a common summer resident. During the breeding season through May, June and July this species is restricted almost entirely to areas that have grown up to pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*). In late August and September, following the breeding season, these birds show a drastic change in habits and frequently occur in small flocks around the headquarters buildings. Here they generally may be found associating with Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) and Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*), feeding on the ground as well as in the bushes and trees of the orchards and landscaped areas. While watching these mixed flocks it was noticed that the Pine Warblers were extremely quarrelsome, frequently fighting among themselves, as well as giving chase to Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows and, on one occasion, a Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*). They were especially pugnacious toward the Bluebirds, for when one of these larger but slower-flying birds would leave its perch, it would often be assaulted by one and sometimes two Pine Warblers that darted after it, snapping their bills much in the manner of flycatchers chasing insects.—ROBERT E. STEWART, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland*.

Birds and smell.—Mr. P. A. Taverner's article on "The Sense of Smell in Birds" (*Auk*, 59: 462-463, July, 1942) evokes a responsive chord in me. I have a yellow-headed parrot as a pet, and this parrot frequently shares dinner with me; that is, he has a plate of his own alongside mine and enjoys the companionship and food allotted to him. He is particularly fond of steak and even more so of the long bones of chicken, which he will deftly open and from which he will extract the marrow. Most parrot owners are not aware of the carnivorous tendency of their pets. The amount of steak that he is capable of stoking away would do credit to a raptor of similar size.

The thing that has interested me more than the carnivorous habits of this bird has been his power of differentiating between various types of vegetables treated in a parallel manner, and which look similar after preparation. I have noticed that when these are placed before him he shows definite predilections. It is not the sight, apparently, that prompts him to give preference to this or that, but the olfactory sense. I have mixed these things partly and it has been very interesting to see with what precision he is capable of extracting the favored element. Although some of these things look very much alike, those that do not attract the bird cause him to stand aside a foot or more, but the moment that his favorite—particularly squash—comes to the table he shows a decided interest. I have therefore come to the conclusion that his power of selection is not visual as much as