

**Budgerigar winters in the open in Michigan.**—In early October, 1966, a blue-green phase Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) was first seen almost daily, or several times daily, at a feeding station in northwest Detroit. This bird fed on the regular feeding station fare which consisted of seeds of sunflower, millet, wheat, oats and cracked corn. It was observed to feed without conflict along with several Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*), Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*).

The owner of the feeding station, Dr. Fred W. Schwab, was at his home most of each day where he made frequent observations out of a window at a distance of about 25 feet from the feeding station. He told me that, with the exception of one period of about three weeks in early March during some of our coldest winter weather, the bird was a daily visitant to his station. He said that on several occasions at dusk he had seen the bird fly into what appeared to be a good-sized nest about 12 feet above the ground in a thick red cedar in his backyard.

On 25 March 1967 from 6:00-6:30 P.M. I watched for the bird's appearance. It appeared and perched in a large maple tree about 30 or 40 feet from the feeding station where it remained for about five minutes without coming down to feed. Then it flew away with great speed and was not seen again as darkness came on within a few minutes.

Corresponding to the behavior of most pets on escaping from captivity, the bird at first appearance at the station could be approached to within a few feet and appeared to respond to whistles and other human sounds. Its flight at first did not appear to be very strong, indicating that it had escaped only a short time before. In the interval between its appearance and the time of my observation its flight had strengthened markedly until it was probably nearly as swift as that of its wild relatives in Australia.

The survival of this descendant of a species originally from much warmer climatic conditions may appear to be remarkable except for at least two factors which undoubtedly were favorable. These were the availability of an abundant supply of its normal food material and almost undoubtedly a large nest of a squirrel or House Sparrow in which it was protected from too great heat loss, especially at night. The parakeet's instinct for food seeking and its habit of nesting and roosting in cavities in the wild almost undoubtedly permitted it to find such a place of protection from the elements.

I have not been able to find in the literature any reference to outdoor survival of a parakeet during winter in the higher latitudes.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 29 March 1967.*

**An unusual nesting situation of the Tree Swallow.**—During the annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists at the Bread Loaf campus of Middlebury College, near Middlebury, Vermont, 11-16 June 1962, many biologists had an opportunity to observe a most unusual nest of the Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). Unfortunately, none of them has seen fit to put this nest on record, probably expecting that someone else will eventually do so. The nest was seen and photographed by dozens of the attending scientists.

A Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nest, probably of the previous year, was built in the corner of a porch. Beside it was a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nest probably also a year old but at any rate unoccupied. The Tree Swallows were nesting in the abandoned Cliff Swallow nest and used the Barn Swallow nest as a convenient perch.

So far as I know, no one investigated the status of the nest, but it was obviously in use, with both birds in constant attendance.—ALLEN H. BENTON, *Department of Biology, State University College, Fredonia, New York 14063, 11 March 1967.*