

APPENDIX 1

Ingredients for approximately 2 l of food:

1 l water
11 g agar (approximately)
1.5 g sodium chloride
1.6 g dicalcium phosphate
1.5 g complete vitamin and mineral supplement for birds¹
25 g soy protein isolate
7 g vegetable oil
37 g wheat germ
680 g mashed bananas, fully ripe

Directions:

Carefully stir agar into rapidly boiling water, preferably with a whisk, continuing to stir until water comes again to a rolling boil and the agar is completely dissolved. If the agar does not dissolve, the food will not "set" firmly. In a separate dish, mix the soy isolate with a small amount of water to make a paste. Thoroughly stir the paste and remaining ingredients into the mashed bananas. Add the agar solution and mix well. Check the sugar concentration with a refractometer and, if necessary, bring the mixture up to approximately 10% with glucose. Place in covered containers and refrigerate. The appropriate amount of agar varies depending upon the brand and purity. The mixture should congeal at room temperature, but also should be easily mashed with a fork. It will keep for approximately one week under refrigeration, but may also be frozen. The texture of thawed gel is much less cohesive but still adequate as a maintenance diet. Only fully ripe bananas should be used because all birds prefer them over slightly unripe bananas, which are poorly assimilated.

¹ We have used 8in1® Vitamin Mineral Supplement for Birds, made by 8in1 Pet Products, Inc., Brentwood, New York 11717.

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Bathing behavior of nesting Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) in southwestern Idaho.—

During 1984 and 1985 we observed 24 Prairie Falcon pairs nesting in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area (BOPA), in southwestern Idaho, from egg laying and incubation through brood rearing until the chicks were 35 days of age (a total of about 4400 h of observation). During this period we recorded 34 dustbaths: 4 were taken by males (3 different individuals) and 30 by females (8 different individuals). All dustbaths were taken on sections of cliffs where a layer of sandstone was exposed and a ledge was available. The falcons landed on these ledges and shuffled on their abdomens through the fine sand with the body feathers fluffed out and their wing and tail feathers partly extended. Dustbathing birds frequently made dipping motions with their heads and bodies. Dustbathing was followed by extensive preening of breast, wing, and tail feathers, and, finally, by shaking of the entire body. Dustbathing averaged 4.7 ± 5.7 min [SD] (range = 1–13 min, N = 4) for males and 2.1 ± 1.6 min (range = 1–6 min, N = 30) for females. Three incubating females took up to 3 dustbaths a day. The aerie of one incubating female who took regular dust baths in 1984 was heavily infested with swallow bedbugs (*Oeciacus vicarius*). The aerie was a large cave, and the chicks (4 of which fledged) probably were able to move away from the source of infestation.

On 28 May 1985 we saw a female Prairie Falcon drink water and take a bath in a depression in a rock, where water had collected after a rainstorm the previous day. Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167:18–22, 1938) considered water bathing by Prairie Falcons a rare event. Captive Prairie Falcons, however, preferred water baths above dustbaths when both were provided (B. A. Haak, unpubl. data). The general scarcity of standing water in areas inhabited by Prairie Falcons may force them to take dustbaths, but apparently they prefer to bathe in suitable pools or puddles when available.

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express our thanks to G. T. Allen and S. V. Sherrod for their comments on an earlier draft. The research is a cooperative effort between Idaho Power Company, the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District's Snake River Birds of Prey Research Project, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.—ANTHONIE M. A. HOLTHUIZEN, *Idaho Power Company, Environmental Affairs Dept., Box 70, Boise, Idaho 83707*, PETER A. DULEY, JOAN C. HAGAR, SCOTT A. SMITH, AND KRISTIN N. WOOD, *Snake River Birds of Prey Research Project, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho 83705. Received 22 Apr. 1986, accepted 14 July 1986.*

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An incident of brood parasitism by the Verdin.—While in south Texas during May and June, 1980–1982, I recorded an incident of interspecific brood parasitism of a Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) by the Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), a species thought only to build its own nests.

On 22 May 1980, at the Val Verde Trailer Park, Donna, Hidalgo County, Texas, I found a Northern Mockingbird nest that contained two Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) eggs and a single Verdin egg, all of which were being incubated. The nest was located in a citrus tree, about 2 m above ground level. The eggs were taken by a predator about 24 hours after my discovery, before any hatched. To my knowledge, this is the first reported case of interspecific parasitism by the Verdin.

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Downy Woodpecker caches food.—Caching of food is rare in woodpeckers. Two species, the Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) (MacRoberts and MacRoberts, Ornithol. Monogr. 21, 1976) and the Lewis Woodpecker (*M. lewisi*) (Bock, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 92, 1970) are known to store large numbers of acorns for future use. Food caching is also noted for the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*M. carolinus*), Gila Woodpecker (*M. uropygialis*), Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*M. aurifrons*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*M. erythrocephalus*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), and Red-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), (Conner and Knoll, Auk 96:195, 1970, and references within). On 6 November 1985, I observed a female Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) feeding on poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) berries. The bird was about 3 m from me when first seen and moved to within 1.3 m as it foraged in a dying apple (*Pyrus malus*) tree. The bird sat crosswise on the twigs of both the poison ivy and apple, and often turned upside down in the manner of a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) or Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*) to reach the ivy berries. Six times the bird flew, with one to several berries in its beak, to a second apple tree about 20 m away. On one occasion the bird was seen to place the berries in a crack in the bark