



Cage Birds



"This Is How My Pet Feels About It"

By GEORGE WOLFF

I THINK that Mr. C. H. Peter's article, "How Does the Pet Feel About It?" is very good; it expresses my assertions and am sure the feelings of hundreds of bird lovers in every nook and cranny in the country.

I, too, would like to offer an incident to substantiate the belief that birds like and enjoy the haven (plenty of food, warmth in winter and protection against prowling animals and night foraging birds) afforded them by caged life.

Several weeks ago I liberated a Mexican male cardinal. This bird had been freshly trapped before he became an inmate of my aviary three years ago. I might add that I had no mate for this bird and having other pairs decided on the liberation.

When I opened my hands to let him fly he DID NOT flush up and dash madly away. He gently flew to a nearby tree and divided his time between the trees and the ground. There is a small woods about one half mile from my home in which he makes frequent journeys. Wild red birds are found here and any day from two to three can be seen about my aviary fighting with the enclosed cardinals through the wire. The liberated cardinal goes to this woods but can usually be found at most anytime sitting either atop the aviary, in the aviary, in a nearby tree or on a clothes line.

One pen is not in use and this very same cardinal that all Humaneists and otherwise would have solemnly avowed and sternly declared one month ago was "pining his heart away" for his beloved freedom and if given his freedom would fly away and be seen no more CAN BE FOUND EVERY NIGHT ROOSTING INSIDE THIS PEN!

He returns each night and if the door is not open he "fusses" and frantically searches for an opening through which he can slip inside and feel secure and go to sleep peacefully and know that no prowling maurader will crush out his life or a sharp claw lay his tiny breast open!

Please recall that this bird was caged in an aviary for three years; having been a free denizen of the wild "pampas" of Old Mexico until he came to me. That after his freedom again for a month, he had his choice of remaining in the woods with other birds or even going where ever his fancy dictates, he REMAINS near at hand during the day time and ALWAYS returns to my aviary in which to spend a peaceful and untroubled night.

Now, ALL-PETS' readers, you are the jury. Which does this bird desire most — cage life or unadulterated freedom???

I, for one, claim that so long as a bird is well cared for and is given a good "home", not cramped up in a small cage that he much prefers the bounteous caged life to the perilous outdoor life and the above personal observation speaks for itself.

Jerry, Circus Parrot, Demands Air Conditioned Quarters

As others of the large troupe of star performers went through their acts under the big top recently during a hot spell, Jerry, the favored pet parrot of Sam W. Gumpertz, general manager of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey combined circus, super-intended a novel air conditioning installation, keeping up a running fire of conversation.

And when in his sagacious opinion, it was getting late he frankly offered, "Jerry wants to go to bed, boys."

It all came about because in the recent torrid spell, while the circus was down in Louisville, Mr. Gumpertz's private car warmed up to 110 degrees, and stayed that way for three days. Jerry doesn't mind a heated discussion, and can meet most situations with his vocabulary of 160 words, but his only answer in Louisville was a hanging tongue and drooping wings.

In fact he looked so bedraggled compared to his usual pert appearance that Mr. & Mrs. Gumpertz practically forgot about their own discomfort, and fearing that Jerry would be another victim of the heat, had ice brought into the car and cooled the air as well as they could by placing electric fans to blow a breeze across the ice.

On the show's arrival in Detroit, Mr. Gumpertz immediately contacted the Kelvinator Corporation, and discussed the possibility of an air conditioning installation with the Sales Manager.

Thus Jerry was responsible for a rush of activity necessary because the circus was moving.

A special Room Cooler unit had to be obtained to operate on the D. C. electric current available in the private car — it had to be an air cooled condenser type of unit because running water was not available—special window connections for the ducts to supply air to the condenser had to be made on the job as standard equipment could not be used — a special order had to be rushed through the the plant — a truck pressed into service — and when the private car was reached, a group of husky circus attendants made short work of moving the unit into the lounge — and finally Kelvinator made sure the installation would be finished in time by rushing a corps of engineers right to location.