

FRANK'S FEEDER

by Frank Miser

Parrots housed in clean, uncrowded aviaries, containing plenty of seed, grit, and water, seldom need medicating. If, however, a problem does occur and the whole flock needs medicating it can be done through the drinking water.

First, take all the water out of the aviaries. The following day, in the afternoon, place the heavily medicated water in each pen and leave it for just two hours. While the birds are on this schedule feed them grated carrots each morning. The thirsty birds will all gather around the water crock, taste the water, shake their heads, then drink their fill and receive a dose of medicine. Depend-

ing on the medication this method may be used for a number of days. Do not use this two-hour-a-day water schedule under normal circumstances. The birds should generally have fresh water before them at all times.

If you choose to medicate your finches this way do so with extreme caution. Observe them closely. I know of tests that proved Silverbill finches lived and raised young without any water at all. The dry seed provided enough moisture. Other finches may need an abundance of water. This water-medication system works well with parrots but with other

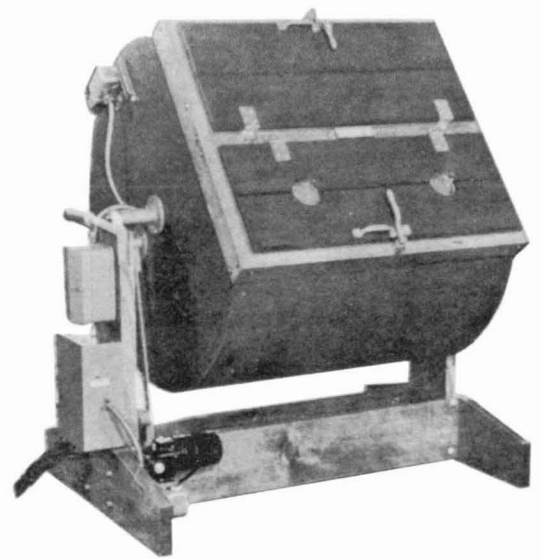
types of birds it is all experimental.

There is no formula regarding the type of medicine to use. It depends upon the type of illness afflicting the birds. Until you are sure what the problem is you may give your bird "First Aid" by putting it in a small cage placed upon a heating pad set on medium. Cover all but the front of the cage and put plenty of seed on the floor. If the bird is not looking better in twelve hours get help from a competent veterinarian. When he tells you what the problem is and what medicine to use, you can use the watering system we've discussed here.

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