

Psittacosis in Birds and Man

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OBJECTIVE: To survey the prevalence of psittacosis in birds and man.

BACKGROUND: No report on psittacosis has been made in Thailand, although parakeets and other birds are common pets in this country.

DESCRIPTION: Dead birds were obtained from a local animal and bird dealer. Their blood was collected for a complement fixation (CF) test and the suspension of liver and spleen was inoculated into mice and guinea pigs in an attempt to isolate the psittacosis agent.

Paired sera were collected from patients suffering from pneumonitis and examined for the presence of psittacosis CF antibody.

PROGRESS: The results of isolation attempts are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Result of the Isolation Attempts for *Bedsonia*

Month, Year	No. of Birds Examined	No. Positive
Nov 74	152	0
Dec	503	0
Jan 75	303	0
Feb	406	0

DISCUSSION: Twenty-eight species of birds including parakeets were obtained from the local animal and bird dealer. Unfortunately the birds often died at night and were left at ambient temperature and the examination was not made until the following morning. This, perhaps, contributed to the difficulty in isolating the agent.