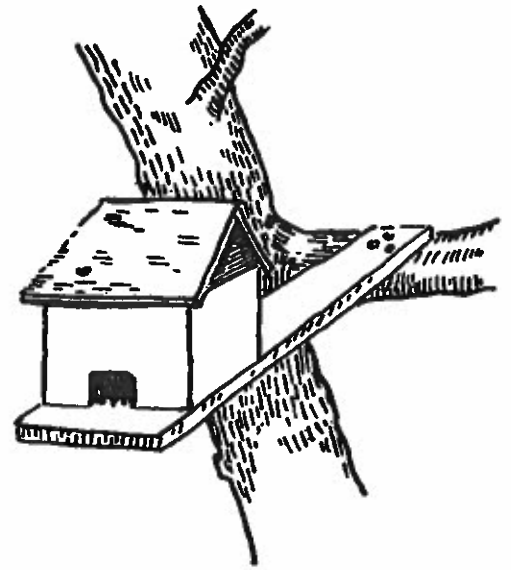


Chirpy the Sparrow

Travis had made a birdhouse at school. When he brought it home, he and his dad put it on a tree branch outside the kitchen window. It wasn't the prettiest looking house. The sides did not fit together very well, but his dad said that he would fix it later if the birds didn't like it.

Months passed and no birds appeared at the birdhouse. Travis's mother said that since it had been made with love, then it was filled with love, and the birds would be attracted to the love. Sure enough! A pair of song sparrow began putting twigs, bits of cotton, and grass into the house. Then, after two weeks, the parents began carrying in seeds and insects to feed their babies. The babies grew. Soon one of them appeared at the door of the house. He would chirp at Travis's mom as she worked in the kitchen. Travis decided to call him Chirpy because he liked to talk a lot.



One Saturday afternoon, a deliveryman knocked on their door and said that their dog had caught a bird. He said that the dog was playing with it just like a cat did with a mouse. Travis ran out, grabbed the dog by the collar, and put her in the house. His mother picked up the very wet and frightened little bird. It could not stand up. Then she noticed that it was Chirpy who had fallen out of the house.

Travis came running over and said right away, "We had better talk to God about this." He began by saying that God is Life. His mother then said that God is Life, Truth, and Love, and Love is all around. A neighbor who had seen the dog with the bird came over and said, "Oh, it's just a sparrow. It probably won't live very long."

Mother, who was holding Chirpy in her hand, turned around and began walking to the side of their house. Travis followed her. When they had found a quiet spot, mother said that the Bible says that not one sparrow shall fall on the ground without the Father. "So that means," said Travis, "that God was with Chirpy—even when he fell! He's all right, isn't he, Mother?" "Yes," said Mother. "Let's get a box for him to rest in." Travis found a cardboard box in the garage. They put some dry grass in it and then put Chirpy on the grass for a bed. They put the box near the birdhouse and went back into the house.

After awhile, they heard the mother and father birds making some loud noises. They looked outside and saw Chirpy sitting up on the edge of the box. He was getting ready to fly. He flew a few feet and dropped down on the ground. Travis could see that Chirpy was frightened. He needed to find some place where he would feel safe. Travis' dad got a ladder and put it up near the birdhouse. He picked up Chirpy and put him back inside. Travis was so happy that Chirpy was back home. He thanked God for taking such good care of a very sweet little sparrow.

Matthew 10:29 "Are not two sparrow sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."