

## Great Kiskadee preying on mouse

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At about 10.30 a.m. on 2nd June 1989 I was sitting on the verandah of my apartment in Flagstaff, Port of Spain, when a Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) flew up with a mouse in its beak. It flew on to a branch of a small ornamental tree only a few feet away and proceeded to bash the mouse against the branch it was perching on, kingfisher style. I was not able to identify the mouse, but it was probably a common house mouse, and it may not have been quite fully grown. I did not see the bird pick up the mouse, so it may or may not have been alive when the kiskadee seized it. However, long after the mouse was clearly dead the bashing continued.

For several seconds at a time the bird would stop and do nothing before resuming.

Suddenly it flew up on to an electricity wire, where it continued bashing but now made repeated attempts to swallow the mouse. It was joined by its mate. When the first bird dropped the mouse the mate retrieved it and it too tried to swallow it. Both birds flew into a nearby stand of bamboo and were lost to sight. It is therefore not known whether the mouse was eventually swallowed, but both birds clearly recognised it (when dead with the second bird) as a food item.