

Bird Enclosures

by Sheldon Dingle, Alhambra, CA

In this photo spread we opted to show some of the many different types of aviaries, cages, and enclosures that actually contain birds in captivity. Bird enclosures are limited only by one's imagination (and, perhaps, money). Enjoy looking at a small sampling of what is really out there. Maybe you will be inspired to try something new yourself.



Hank Dryman's aviaries in a semi-desert climate of California have finch pens that provide complete shelter from the harsh heat and cold. The birds also have the option of enjoying well planted open air flights when they want to. Old Timer Bernie Teunissen visits the birds.



Is a pond an aviary? I'm not sure, but this pond and about an acre of grazing certainly qualifies as an enclosure for Sheldon Dingle's Black Swan and cygnets.

Photos by Sheldon Dingle



These Flamingoes occupy an ornamental garden at Patrick Dingle's small but delightful zoological park in Las Vegas, Nevada. The birds cannot fly so the fenced enclosure doesn't need a top. Because of the very hot sun in Las Vegas, it is necessary to provide lots of shade trees and bushes.

Believe it or not, folks, this lush hillside canyon is a huge aviary in Bel Air, California. In places it is about 50 feet high. The top is covered with small nylon netting and the perimeters are protected by small mesh chain link fencing. Birds kept here include cranes, pheasants, toucans, flamingoes, ducks, plovers, doves, rollers, Fairy Bluebirds, and even a couple of flocks of lories. Owners Bob and Georgia Leonard employ four full time grounds keepers so it is obvious that this type of aviary is not for everyone. But go for it if you can. You will really enjoy it.



Photo by Chris Christman

Photo by Sheldon Dingle



These are examples of "California Breeder" cages built specifically for small birds. Note how they are placed under and among the trees to provide shelter and a rather natural environment.

The Emerald Forest Bird Garden, located between Los Angeles and San Diego, California, displays many types of aviaries and cages. These are the traditional built-on-the-ground flights that seem to work nicely for the toucans that owner Jerry Jennings loves and breeds so well.



Photo by Sheldon Dingle

Photo by Chris Christman



This detail shot shows a huge pole and cables that support the nylon mesh roof of the Leonards' aviary which covers over half an acre.

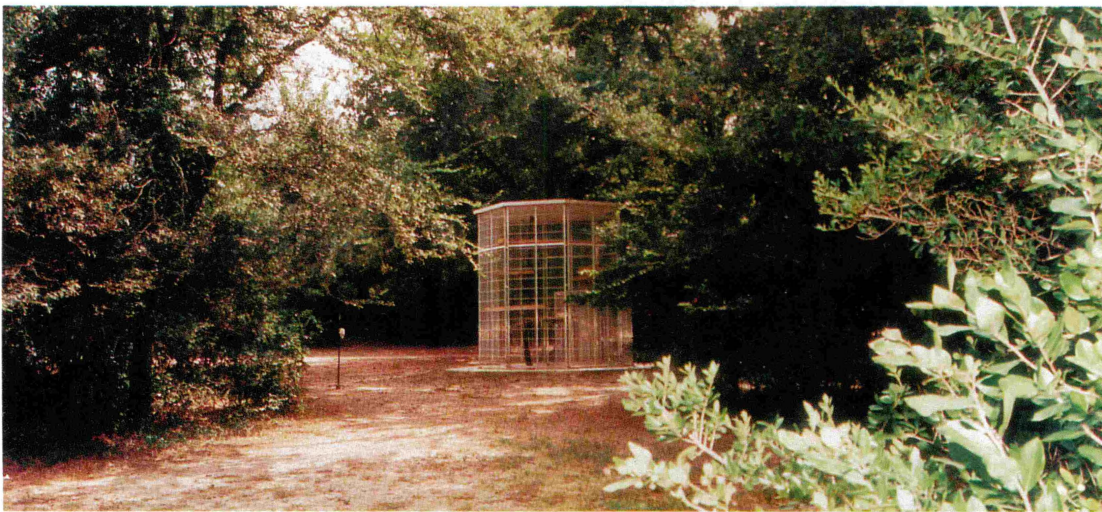


Photo by Sheldon Dingle

Above - This is a one-of-a-kind monster parrot cage Nancy Gallaway uses to keep Dr. Benny Gallaway out of her hair while she runs the bird farm. When Benny isn't occupying the cage, a pair of Hyacinth Macaws call it home.

The cage is custom made out of some aluminum alloy that costs more than gold but the Gallaways believe the birds deserve it.

Left - The magnificent cage seen in its beautiful setting in the Texas countryside.



Most of the Gallaways' birds occupy aviaries like this, often called the "California Breeder" cage or the "Noegel Breeder" cage. These cages are very versatile and suitable for many types of birds. Being portable, they can be moved at need or placed freestanding in the most appropriate place.

Photo by Sheldon Dingle



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This is a bird cage, a time honored device in which to keep small birds. The Grey-cheeked Parakeet (a pet belonging to Sheldon Dingle) looks puzzled as to why the cat invited itself in. Indeed, the bird bailed out shortly after this photo was shot.



Photo by Sheldon Dingle



Big birds need big cages. The Ostriches and Emus on Jim and Marilyn's bird farm near Phoenix Arizona have huge runs in which to get their exercise. Although the chainlink fences are over six feet high, some of the birds easily extend their long necks over to take food from one's hand.

This is one of the best commercial bird buildings you may ever see. Frank Miser of Magnolia Bird Farm designed it to contain a great variety of birds such as one might find at a major bird dealer's facility. These aviaries are versatile. They can be used to display hundreds of birds to the buying public or can be put off limits and used for breeding finches, parrots, softbills or even pheasants. Southern California Regional Director Aletta Long and young April Miser examine the new facility.



Photo by Jean Hessler