



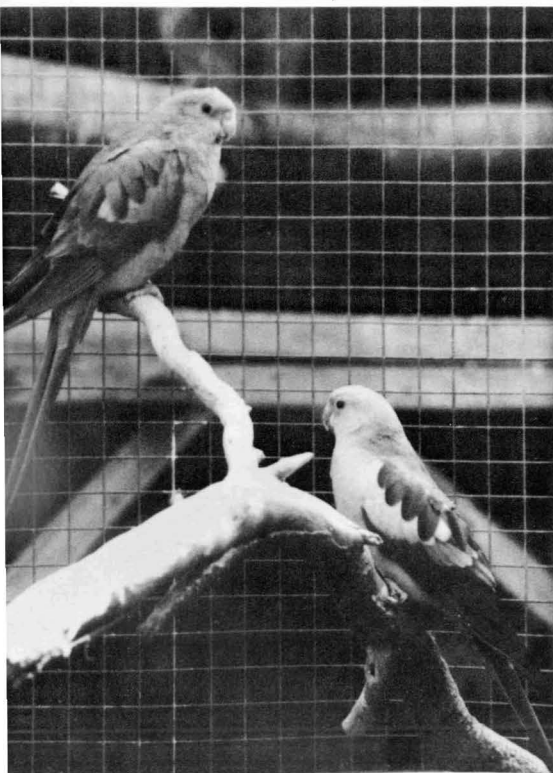
Entrance to West's Aviaries

## A.F.A. Visits A Member's Aviaries



Pennant Rosellas

Pair of Rock Peplar Parrakeets



Perhaps the best known breeder of Psittacines and certainly one of the more successful is Dave West. Dave has the further distinction of being a native Californian. He was born in Montebello, where he still lives today.

Dave's interest in birds began at an early age. As a child, he used to accompany his father to the local slaughterhouse, where the family purchased their supply of chickens for the table. It was during these visits that Dave became interested in the Pigeons that were kept on hand. He was only eight years old when he acquired several of them.

Not long after, Dave heard about the Southern California Bird and Pet Exchange (which no longer exists) and asked his father to take him for a visit. That experience was Dave's introduction to the Psittacine birds, which kindled a lifelong interest.

The first Parrots in Dave's collection were Budgies and Cockatiels. Later he expanded into other Australian and Indian Parrakeets. Today he has over two hundred aviaries at three locations to house them all. What was once a childhood hobby became a full time occupation.

Dave's collection consists of both common and rare birds. He specializes in Ringneck Parrakeets and their mutations. Dave's stock is responsible for all the Albino Indian Ringnecks now in existence, though none have actually been bred in his aviaries. He is still working on producing the Albino and has had considerable success in breeding the Lutino and Blue mutations. He also works with the Prin-

cess Alexandrine Parrakeet and their mutations.

Lovebirds occupy an important part of Dave's time. He has most, if not all, the Peachface mutations as well as some of the Masked Lovebird mutations. Like other Lovebird breeders, he is also working on the Albino Peachface.

Dave has put together and bred a wide variety of Rosella Parrakeets. He has produced a good number of Golden Mantle and Stanleys and breeds the Pennant, Mealy (Blue), Yellow, and Red Rosellas.

He also raises a large number of Grassparrakeets (Neophemas). In 1975 he produced well over one hundred Scarlet-chested and Turquoise Parrakeets from only ten pairs of breeders. That is certainly a welcome happening as both species are on the Endangered Species List. The number of Scarlet-chested and Turquoisines bred by him in 1975 is typical of the success he has enjoyed with them as well as with the Elegants and Bourkes, and is a great contribution to the preservation of these species.

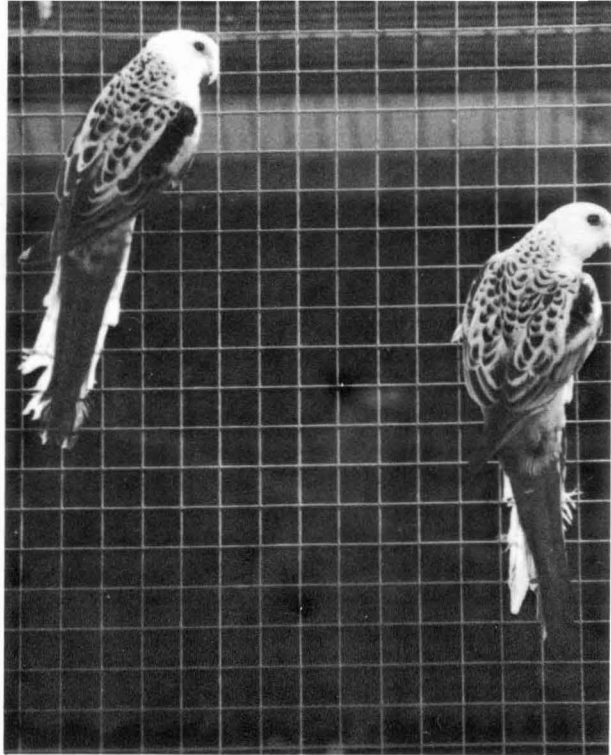
Dave feeds his birds the basic fare of seed, sunflower, etc., supplemented with soaked seed every other day, along with Swiss Chard, apples, oranges, and corn on the cob. He gives Headstart Poultry Vitamins in the water fresh daily except in the summer when he leaves the vitamins out. Apparently, the warmer weather and vitamins cause an algae to form in the water dishes, which he feels may cause problems, i.e., fungal infection.

Dave has an intuitive feel for pairing birds. He can also tell when a bird is going to lay. This "sixth sense" he attributes to his more than forty years experience with birds.

A number of unusual birds have appeared in the West breeding flock over the years. One Blue Princess Alexandrine and a Cinamon Lineolated Parrakeet were raised, but they did not live long enough to breed. He also had an Olive Indian Ringneck appear, only to escape later. The rarest bird he ever acquired was a Coulon's Dwarf Macaw, which now resides at Busch Gardens at Tampa, Florida.

Dave attended school in Southern California, graduating from Whittier College in 1957 with a major in History. Shortly thereafter he received his M.A. in history from Long Beach State College (now California State College Long Beach). After completion of his formal education, Dave taught school for seven years. For the thirteen years following his academic career, he worked for Traveler's Insurance Company, then left to take up aviculture full time.

Dave has been a member of the Avicul-



*Pair of Mealy (or Blue) Rosella's*

ture Society of America for 36 years and has held office several times beginning with Secretary in 1950. Today he serves on the Society's Board of Directors and as a delegate to A.F.A.'s Board of Directors.

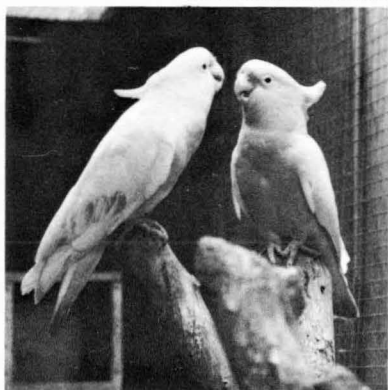
Dave's interests extend to plants. His horticultural collection includes a variety of staghorn ferns, orchids (Symbidiums), Bromeliads, and eleven species of Cycad Palms. He also collects antiques and first edition, rare books, both of which are the logical extension of his deep interest in history books, which he enjoys reading in his spare time.

Dave's many interests make him a fascinating person with whom to converse. His flock of birds attest to his contributions to aviculture and conservation and serve as an example to future generations of aviculturists ■

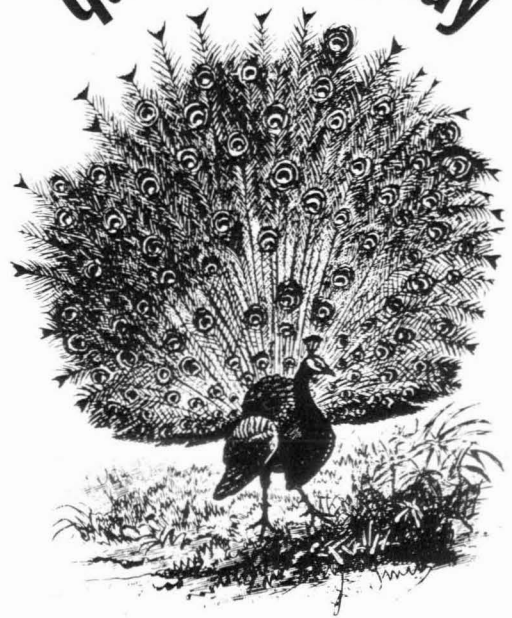
*Derbyan Parrakeet*



*Leadbeater Cockatoos*



**We're  
putting  
on  
quite a display**



**at the  
convention**

**PLAN  
TO  
ATTEND**