

for the collector of fine birds

ZAYANTE FARM



cockatoos,
macaws, etc.....
realistic prices
appointment please
408-336-2442
serious inquiries only

AVES BRASILEIRAS

BIRDS OF BRAZIL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Now it's easy to discover the name of any Brazilian bird. In this book, J.D. Frisch gives the scientific name, the popular names (in Portuguese, Spanish and English) along with the habits and more than 1,560 drawings that facilitate identification by illustrating the original colors. Printed in Italy by Mondadori, this bestseller in its field now includes an Addendum translating the major parts of the text into English.



BESTSELLER!

Size 6" x 9" - 356 pages

ORDER FORM

Clip this coupon and send it, together with a check payable to Editora Daigas-Ecoltec Ltda. 01416 - Rua da Consolação, 3095 - São Paulo - SP - Brasil, to receive your copy by mail.

Deluxe Edition for libraries US\$ 49.95
 Special Edition for field research US\$ 29.95

Please add US\$ 8.50 for air shipment.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

A.F.A. visits a member . . . Ken McConnell

By Sheldon Dingle
Norco, California

Ken McConnell has had birds since 1964. He retired from business as a rather young man and he and his wife did a lot of traveling together. After a few big game safaris and other travels they settled down on 14 acres overlooking the Sacramento River in Red Bluff, California. McConnell's first birds were chukar that he released on his property hoping they would stay put. They didn't.

A short time later while in Southern California McConnell saw some swans on a pond and became totally entranced with the beautiful birds. Back home he worked out and built a fantastic system of ponds and channels designed to keep and breed swans. He then commenced to buy up all the swans he could find and began what is probably the world's most successful swan breeding project.

The swan ponds are a few feet above the normal level of the Sacramento River so water had to be pumped up into the ponds and moats. At present over one million gallons of water are pumped every 24 hours. This fresh water circulates through the small breeding ponds and the larger channels and eventually returns to the river, providing ideal conditions for captive waterfowl.

From McConnell's home on a high bluff overlooking the river and the ponds, the overall effect is very beautiful. In the collection there are several species of swans including the Australian black, and the black-necked, two of my favorites. It is delightful to watch these naturally elegant and grand birds swim with such dignity and self-assurance.

For his outstanding work in breeding swans McConnell has been given a place in the Federation's Avicultural Hall of Fame, and he has received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the International Wild Waterfowl Association. He has many other awards and honors gracing his trophy room.

Although for many years McConnell advertised "Swans are my only business" he no longer does so. During the past few years he has acquired a number of psittacine birds to add to his collection. Very nice birds, too, I might add, including Asian, Australian, and South American species.

These lovely birds are housed in a complex of aviaries that are of unique design. The aviaries are situated on the flat table of ground between the river and the steep bluff upon which McConnell's house is located. The various aviaries are designed to the contours of the land so have no precise geometric pattern. In fact, the complex is difficult to describe and even more difficult to photograph *en toto*.

I shan't give precise details and measurements as they wouldn't be applicable anywhere else anyway. I will, however, try to explain some of the general concepts of the construction which many readers may find useful. First off, there are telephone pole uprights that support a huge overhead netting system that covers almost all of the aviaries. In some instances wire walls are arranged from the ground to the overhead netting to form large pens. Of course these large pens tend to be home for pairs of the larger birds.

In some of these large pens, though, there are banks of individual breeding cages—the large pen serving as a huge safety zone. Some of the individual breeding cages are very unique being built of very heavy planks about 20 feet long. Most of these cages house sun conures which seem to do very well in them. Other individual breeding cages are built of wire along the conventional lines that most of you have seen.

In addition to the huge pens and the individual cages McConnell has a bank of steel framed aviaries that looked to be about four feet wide and eight feet long. Interestingly, he has used a fiberglass fabric to form shelters that give the birds privacy and protection. The fabric is quite strong and flexible—something like sailcloth. The birds, including some notable chewers, do not gnaw on the fiberglass at all according to McConnell.

To visit the McConnell aviaries is to receive a lesson in eclectic construction. McConnell's mind is obviously creative and free from rigid traditionalism. He has designed and built four or five very well constructed types of different aviaries and blended them into a very practical and esthetically pleasing whole. One visit is not enough to comprehend the place.

McConnell comprehends his operation very well though. His breeding results prove it. He lays his breeding success to a good feeding program, the heart of which is sprouted seed. McConnell says it doesn't matter precisely which seeds you use nor the exact ratio of the mix so long as you use a wide variety. It is the soaking and sprouting that boosts the nutritional value over that of dry seeds.

A simple invention greatly simplifies the seed sprouting process—another token of the fertility of McConnell's inventive mind. The device is no more than a refrigerator that quit cooling. McConnell fitted it with low wattage heating elements and a thermostat so the refrigerator became, in effect, a perfect heating chamber to hasten the sprouting of the seed rain or shine.

He runs a batch of seed through it every 24 hours and feeds his birds nothing but the sprouted seed (the swans excepted, of course). To prevent spoilage or mold he uses calcium propionate in the soaking water and he feeds the birds just the amount of sprouts they'll eat in a day. Whatever your personal feelings are regarding chemicals, McConnell's birds thrive on his feeding program and reproduce prolifically, producing happy, healthy babies. It is hard to argue against a successful system.

To treat the McConnell aviaries in detail would require a veritable book. This short article can only hint at the whole but, in conjunction with the accompanying photos, it is hoped that you now know more than you did a few minutes ago. It is always a pleasure to become acquainted with a successful aviculturist and his aviaries. Ken McConnell is an extraordinary aviculturist and his aviaries are an unconventional but unquestionable success. It was an outstanding experience to share some time with him.

Editor's Note: Since my visit to the McConnell place and the writing of this article two tragedies have dealt Ken McConnell very heavy blows. First, his wife of 43 years died severing a companionship that few couples indeed ever achieve. Second, the disastrous California storms caused the Sacramento River to rise over its banks and flood the whole aviary level to a depth of six feet seven inches. Many birds were lost while McConnell and his crew stood helplessly by—unable to enter the savagely swift current of the raging river. All who know him share his sorrow and know that his great strength of character will help him to rebuild his life and face the future with determination.

Donna Schulenburg draws Beauty & the Beast



619-270-4657

4166 Quapaw Avenue San Diego, California 92117

Valentine's NEW CATALOG 100 PAGES

Featuring a New Line of Specialized Equipment for:

- MINK • CHINCHILLAS • RABBITS
- NUTRIA • FOX • DEER • DOGS
- LABORATORY ANIMALS • BIRDS
- CAGEBUILDING SUPPLIES
- PHEASANTS • QUAIL
- FANCY FOWL AND POULTRY
- FISH FARMS • CONSERVATION
- DOMESTIC & WILD ANIMALS



Send \$3.00 (to cover cost of handling and mailing). Price of catalog will be credited to first purchase of \$25.00 or more.

VALENTINE EQUIPMENT COMPANY • P.O. BOX 487 • 7510 S. MADISON ST. • HINSDALE, IL 60521

Please send _____ copies of VALENTINE'S CATALOG
ENCLOSED \$ _____ TO COVER COST.

Name _____

Address _____

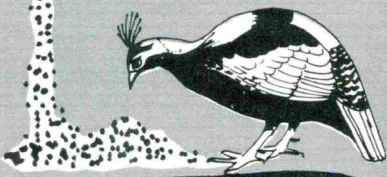
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

 **Valentine** EQUIPMENT COMPANY
7510 S. MADISON ST. • P.O. BOX 487 • HINSDALE, IL 60521 • (312) 323-7070

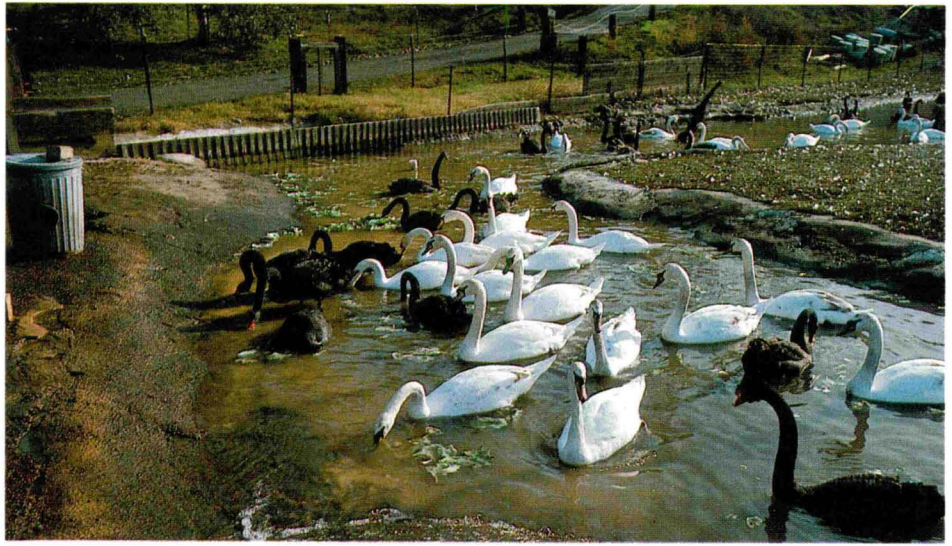


**BUY • SELL • TRADE
BIRDS
BIRD SUPPLIES
AND EQUIPMENT
SEED, FEED**

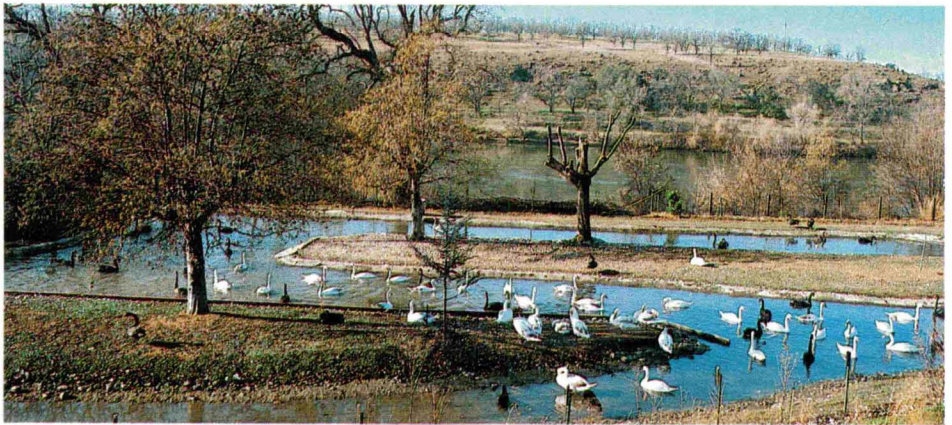
Halfmoons
Cockatiels
Lovebirds
Parrakeets
White Headed Nuns
Green Singers
Golden Breasted Waxbills
Cordon Bleu
**AND MANY OTHER TYPES
OF FINCHES
AND HOOKBILLS**



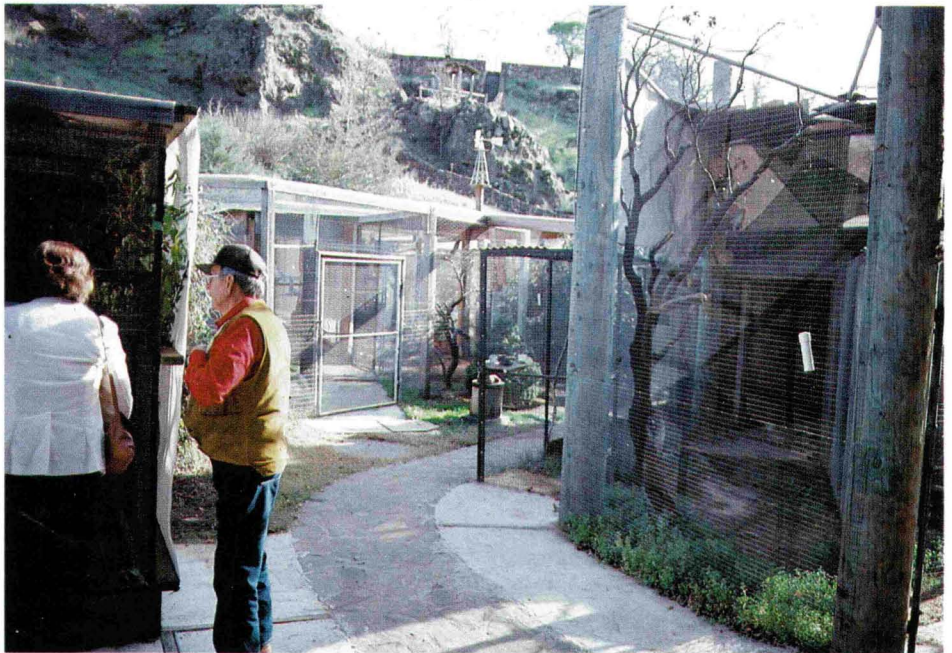
18247 East Valley Blvd.
(at Yorbita Rd.)
La Puente, CA. 91744
213/964-8473



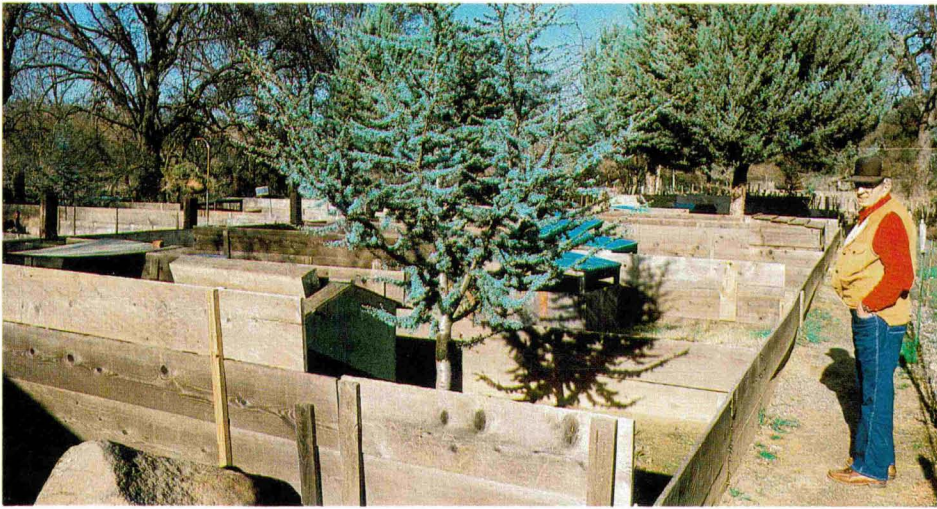
A portion of Ken McConnell's swan ponds. Over a million gallons of fresh water per day are pumped through this system. Note the trash barrel feeder on the far left. A hole is cut and padded part way up the barrel to protect the feed from the weather yet give the birds access to the food.



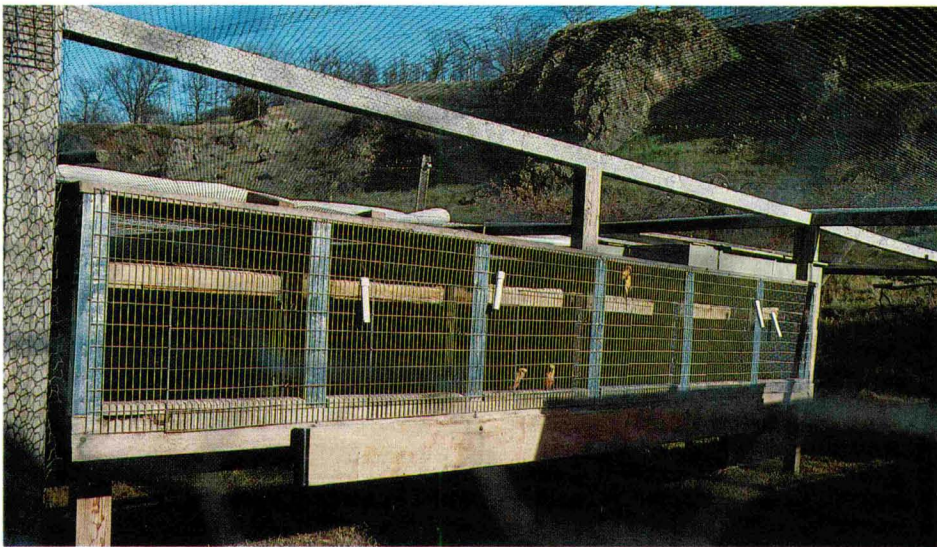
A view of part of the large channel that is provided for McConnell's swans. The Sacramento River can be seen in the background.



Ken McConnell discusses birds with Mrs. Bruce McCulloch. The huge poles support an overhead netting that covers most of the aviaries. The path leads to several complexes of aviaries and cages. On the far left are steel and wire aviaries while those in the background are constructed of wood and wire.



Ken McConnell overlooking individual swan breeding ponds separated by heavy wooden dividers.



Individual breeding cages built of heavy planks about 20 feet long. Both ends of the cages are wire. These cages have over 20 pairs of sun cones.

Photos by Sheldon Dingle



A pleasant little free-standing aviary that houses a mixed collection of small birds.



HAGEN.

VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT-CONDITIONER FOR BIRDS

- HIGH POTENCY MULTIVITAMIN SUPPLEMENT
- CONTAINS ALL ESSENTIAL VITAMINS PLUS IRON
- AIDS GROWTH AND HEALTH



LE RÉGÉNÉRATEUR ET SUPPLÉMENT VITAMINIQUE POUR OISEAUX

- UN SUPPLÉMENT COMPOSÉ DE VITAMINES ESSENTIELLES
- ENRICHÉ DE FER
- UN EMPLOI RÉGULIER FOURNIRA AUX OISEAUX LES VITAMINES ET LE FER NÉCESSAIRE À UNE CROISSANCE SAINTE



Net Contents 30 ml / Contenu Net 1.1 fl. oz.

A high potency multivitamin diet supplement for all cage birds. Regular use will ensure that all essential nutritional requirements during a bird's lifespan are fully met. Hagen Vitamin Supplement Conditioner contains among other ingredients **VITAMIN A** to promote health of plumage and skin. Also to aid resistance to disease. **VITAMIN D** promotes strong bone formation in young and nesting birds. **VITAMIN D & A** promotes quick moult and restoration of plumage. **VITAMIN B** is required for health and growth of the nervous systems. **VITAMIN C** is vitally required for resistance to infections and disease. **VITAMIN E** for mating birds and the prevention of infertility **IRON** to prevent anemia and increase the synthesis of hemoglobin.

HAGEN®

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL PET SHOP

DISTRIBUTED BY
ROLF C. HAGEN (USA) CORP.
MANSFIELD, MA 02048

CANADA
ROLF C. HAGEN INC.
MONTREAL, QUE H4R 1E8