

Young cockatiels get to spread their wings in large holding flights.

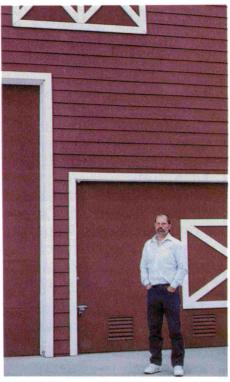
AFA Visits . . .

The Aviary of Arnold Chaney

by Jerry Jennings Fallbrook, California

The cockatiel has been one of America's most enduring and endearing pets during the second half of the twentieth century. It is one of the most popular pet parrots, second only to the budgerigar in numbers. While much is known about large scale budgie breeding facilities, little has been written about parallel establishments in the cockatiel fancy, perhaps because there are far fewer facilities producing large numbers of cockatiels.

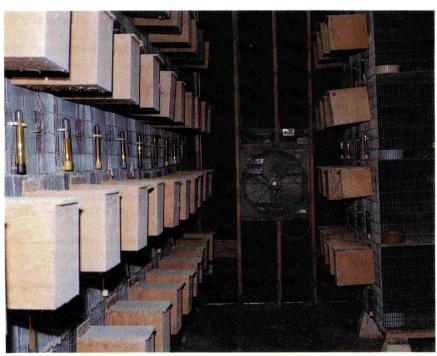
As enduring as the cockatiel in aviculture over the past three decades is Arnold Chaney, a native Californian whose interest in birds began at the age of twelve with show pigeons and has spanned a broad range of species both rare and common. His very first pair of parrots were Thick Bills, which he acquired for the ridiculous price of \$25 each, which he gave to the Los Angeles Zoo in the late sixties, when Frank Todd was the zoo's Curator of Birds. Arnold's second pair was



Arnold Chaney in front of his barn/ aviary that houses his birds.

Red Shining Parrots, indicating he was not shy in a quest for the best.

Arnold began to import birds before the advent of the 1972 Newcastle Disease outbreak and subsequent quarantine requirements, and



View down aisle showing tiers of cages on both sides with nest boxes mounted on outside for easy access.



Frontal view of breeding cages housing Bourke's Parakeets.

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was one of the first people (along with Dave West) to import the Scarlet-chested Parakeet from Europe along with Stanley and Golden Mantle Rosellas, which were quite rare in aviculture at the time.

In 1971, Arnold purchased an entire parrot collection from the Santa Barbara area of California before his flights were ready, as many of us do. He needed cages quick, and was fortunate to find them through Glen Roskilly. Arnold was a roofing contractor at the time, and traded his much needed services for much needed cages. While the birds were temporarily housed awaiting flights, they began to breed and did so well that Arnold decided to let them continue to cage breed, a style he has maintained with great success to this day.

Arnold, in fact, has raised cage breeding to new heights, literally! His cages, measuring two feet by three feet by two feet tall, are stacked to the ceiling of his large, barnlike building five cages high. Each cage is outfitted with a nest box on the outside for easy inspection and each has an easily accessible food and water dish. Perhaps unique is the total absence of perches and litter trays. The birds spend most of their time on the floor, hanging on the wire, or in the nest box. The absence of litter trays allows the waste seed and droppings to fall through lower cages all the way to the ground where they are easily swept up. The birds actually clean their own cages during the extended time they are on the cage floors, so droppings never pile up as they otherwise might.

The only potential drawback to the lack of perches may be lower fertility according to Chaney; however, this is a new concept in his breeding program and the data isn't complete. Arnold's breeding system does get results, though, as last year he reared just over 2,000 birds from approximately 300 pairs.

Each cage contains only one breeding pair, each using a nest box measuring 12" x 12" x 12" with a 1-3/4" entrance hole, and filled with wood shavings to a depth of a couple inches. Shortly after young birds are weaned, they are removed to holding facilities.

All the birds are fed a diet based on a seed ration consisting of: 4 parts United Pacific's cockatiel mix, 1-1/2 parts gamebird starter (26% protein), 1 part hulled sunflower seed, 1 part safflower, and 2-1/2 parts straight canary seed. United Pacific's cockatiel mix, in turn, is made up of various millets, sunflower, canary, rape, etc. Arnold likes the hulled sunflower best, because you get nearly four times as many kernels as sunflower in the shell, at just under double the price, so you get twice as many kernels per dollar spent with hulled seed. And, the hulled sunflower is less wasteful and messy.

The above diet is a complete diet for the cockatiels. No greens are given and are not needed since the birds receive the gamebird starter which, therefore, is a critical ingredient. Arnold also keeps a few Rosy Bourke's, which receive the same diet plus a Dutch canary supplement, known as CeDe, which is served dry in a separate dish. None of the birds receive grit, which has never presented a problem.

All the birds receive a water soluble vitamin supplement half the time, and plain fresh water the remainder of the time. Water bowls are changed three times a week and are disinfected each time. The brand of vitamins is altered using either Vitapol or Nopstress. Both are common poultry vitamins and both contain electrolytes.

Arnold rests the birds twice a year, when he breaks down the cages in December and July. The birds are set up again in March and September, respectively. While the birds are being rested, they are placed on an antibiotic such as NFZ/Amifur for a short time as a preventative, which seems to

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improve their production when they are set up again. Birds that don't breed prolifically by the end of the one year are replaced as are older birds whose production drops. He keeps back one hundred babies each year for new breeders out of which forty will prove to be prolific or average.

Over the years, Arnold has worked with all the mutations and is responsible for hatching the first "true" Albino which, unfortunately, died. He sold splits from this same coupling to Dave West, who went on to raise the first true Albino. Arnold went on to produce the first Whiteface-Pied, and currently has every color there is in the Whiteface mutation.

Arnold has not only devoted time to raising birds, but also to the organizations that support his interests, which temporarily lapsed in the early seventies. In 1974, he visited the Los Angeles County Fair, where he happened upon the AFA booth and its friendly staff, which rekindled Arnold's interest in birds. He attended the second annual AFA convention the following year aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach and went on to serve on the AFA Board of Directors. He has also served the Avicultural Society of America in the capacity of vice president and director.

Arnold's wife, Barbara, supports his bird interests, though is too busy working as a meat/seafood buyer for a number of restaurants. He has two children, a daughter, Wendy, aged 18 and a son, Brian, aged 20, both of whom attend Palomar College. Brian will probably be a future birdman, as he helps with the birds now. Arnold also has a sister, Cherie Bright, who raises birds on Kauai in Hawaii, and who is also an AFAer.

Arnold is currently looking to change careers from the roofing business to the legal business, where he plans to become a paralegal. During this transition, he will keep involved in the birds and urges us to stand behind our support groups.

Arnold is happy to assist anyone with their cockatiels, and you may reach him at (619) 749-5282. ●

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BIRD SUPPLIES

MACAW BREEDERS, raw, dried-in-shell macadamia nuts, premium \$1.65 lb., regular \$1.50 lb. (50 lb. minimum). F.O.B. California. COD's okay. Call (619) 728-4532, or write to Gold Crown Macadamia Assn., P.O. Box 235, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

BIRDS

General Hookbills

BABIES - domestic home hand fed. Macaws, mini-macaws, Amazons, greys, eclectus. Closed banded, tame and talking. SPBE champion breeder. Call p.m. (209) 897-3661, Calif.

RINGNECKS (most mutations), Rosellas (most species), Slaty-heads, Plumheads, Blossom-heads, Moustache, Red rumps, Alexandrine, Derbyans, Princess of Wales, Barnard's, Barrabands, Twenty-eights, Crimsonwinged Parrot, White-crowned Pionus, White bellied and Black-headed Caiques. Call for availability. All babies handfed and raised in our home. We will ship. Call (813) 482-5352, Frank or Claire, Florida.

INCUBATOR HATCHED AND HAND FED WITH TLC. Hyacinth, Red-front, Scarlet, Greenwing, Blue & gold. Blue-eyed Triton, Moluccan, Umbrella, Lesser Sulphur, variety of Amazons. Birth certificates & photos. Closebanded and health certified for shipping. Call for availability. J & J's Unique Birds, (206) 845-5301, Washington.

DOMESTIC-BRED AND RAISED in our home. Red front, Blue & gold, Green-winged, Illiger's, Severe and Yellow-collared macaws, Rose-breasted cockatoos. Eclectus, Congo greys, Queens. Frenchy, (713) 466-9824, Texas.

HAND FED BABIES, CLOSED BANDED, SUPER TAME. ECLECTUS PARROTS, MACAWS: Blue & Gold, Scarlets, Greenwings, Militaries. COCKATOOS: Rose-breasted, Medium Sulphur Crested, Citrons, Umbrellas, Moluccans, AMAZONS: Blue Fronted, Double Yellow Heads, Yellow Napes, Yellow Shoulders. African Greys and Lesser Vassa Parrots. All babies lovingly fed in our home. Nelson, (407)

SUPER TAME, domestic close banded babies. Large Blue & Golds, Albino Ringnecks, Crimson Wings. WANTED: female Hahn's, male Derbyan, male Blackheaded Caique, female Yellow-thighed Caique. Will trade. References gladly provided. Char. (602) 936-1334, AZ.

SURGICALLY SEXED PAIRS of African Greys, Amazons, Conures, Eclectus and Lories. Domestic raised and long term imports. Our hobby has become a chore. (708) 428-8218, İllinois.

MISCELLANEOUS

FEATHER WAY IS BUYING moulted feathers from Scarlet, Blue & Gold and Green-winged Macaws, \$1.50 to \$8.00 each feather. Detailed price list available. In business since 1985. Kevin Schneider, 14292 Jennings Vista Way, Lakeside, CA 92040. Call (619) 561-6303. CA. 2(X3)

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