

Photos by Edwina Van Antwerp



The Klink aviaries are situated in beautifully planted settings.



Nest boxes are hung on the outside of the cages with records kept in sealed plastic envelopes.

Conure Haven

*the aviaries of
Sallie Klink*

*Dale R. Thompson
Lemon Cove, CA*



The Slender-billed Conure is one of the many species being successfully reproduced.

An impressive assortment of conures live at the end of a pleasant narrow road which runs through a typical central Florida oak hammock. There are 20 conure species breeding in an airy pole barn situated under the oaks. The aviary is surrounded with plantings of ginger, clerodendron, crepe myrtle and ferns. The dirt-floored barn will eventually be enclosed with screening to limit the inevitable Florida mosquito problem. Guinea Fowl remove any spilled feed under the cages.

Conures and lories share the barn. Cages are suspended from the barn rafters and are arranged in two long rows with an aisle between them. The cages are uniform: 30 in. wide, 3 ft. high, and 5½ ft. long. The floor of the cage is four feet above the ground level. There are visual divisions between the cages. Sixteen gauge wire (1 x ½ in.) galvanized before and after welding is used for the entire cage, including the floor.

Perches are natural wood placed high in the front and rear of each cage. All nestboxes are positioned at the rear of each cage. Because of the chewing ability of most of the conures, their nestboxes are made of wood with wire lining.

Food and water dishes for each cage are inserted into a wire box that is made exactly to the height of the dishes. There are opening cut in the top of the wire box that matches the top opening of the dishes. This way the birds cannot pull the dishes into the cage. The wire box is fastened to the cage floor against the cage front. There is a door at the front to access the dishes.

The entire facility is fenced. Several dogs prevent any raccoon problems from developing and Guinea Fowl serve as excellent "watch dogs." A neighbor's Java Green Peafowl, *Mincus mincus*, eliminates any of the local pigmy rattlesnakes.

Sallie Klink's *Aratinga* conure collection includes Peach-fronted, *Aratinga aurea*; Red-masked, *Aratinga erythrogenys*; Mitred, *Aratinga mitrata*; Half-moon, *Aratinga canicularis*; Gold-capped, *Aratinga auricapilla*; White-eyed, *Aratinga leucophthalmus*; Jenday,



Food and water dishes are held in place by a wire box which prevents the birds from pulling them into the cage.

Aratinga jandaya; Brown-throated, *Aratinga pertinax aeruginosa*; Dusky, *Aratinga widdellii*; Red-throated, *Aratinga holochlora rubritorquis*; Cactus, *Aratinga cactorum*; Blue-crowned, *Aratinga acuticaudata*; and Sun, *Aratinga solstitialis*, Conures.

Other conures include the Green-cheeked, *Pyrrhura molinae*; Black-capped, *Pyrrhura rupicola*; Pearly, *Pyrrhura perlata* sp.; Maroon-bellied, *Pyrrhura frontalis*; Slender-billed, *Enicognanthus leptorhynchus*; and Patagonian, *Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Conures.

Samples of breeding records are as follows: Gold-caps breed yearly having three to four clutches with four eggs in each clutch. Black-caps produced fertile eggs at 18 months of age. Slenderbills produced three chicks in August of 1997. Klink notes that the Slender-billed Conures, when hand raised, make unusually good pets. They are also exceptionally fond of carrots, cooked corn and fruit.

All of her birds are fed a half-and-half mixture of a Cockatiel seed mix and Roudybush pellets. Fruit is added and sunflower seed is fed during the winter. All food is replaced daily and the water dishes are flushed with a hose and refilled with clean water. All bowls are washed and bleached twice weekly. The cages are pressure-cleaned every two weeks. The feeding and maintenance is done by Klink, herself, with some help from family members.

Visitors are not allowed in the breeding areas. Nestboxes are examined each week and Sevin (5%) is dusted lightly in the nestboxes between clutches. This is to keep away mites, lice and any other insects that might interfere with the nesting period. Conure (and lory) chicks are left in the nestboxes for 10 to 12 days before removing for handfeeding. Once removed from the nest they are syringe fed using EXACT handfeeding formula.

At the proper degree of maturity, potential breeders are surgically sexed. Chicks destined to be pets are blood (chromosomal) sexed. All newly acquired birds are also surgically sexed not only to identify their sex but to have the avian veterinarian observe other organs inside of the bird.

Sallie Klink began her avicultural adventures with the Canaries that she still loves but no longer owns. Prior to 1984, she had as many as 125 pairs of canaries, specializing in Border Fancies and Red Agates. She then developed an interest in larger birds, gathering them from breeders, quarantine stations and pet owners. Klink had always lived in the Tampa area but

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* Position open: contact regional vice president if interested.

** indicates 2 year term has been fulfilled. If no new interested party comes forward and indicates a desire to serve, incumbent remains in position.

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's state coordinator.



The Klink aviaries are very clean and orderly.

when she decided to acquire larger, noisier birds, it became necessary to move away from the urban area. She and her husband moved to a five-acre piece of property that is zoned for agriculture. One neighbor objected to the noise, but plantings on the previously bare property have baffled the sound. Two more aviculturists subsequently moved nearby. The area has had an influx of population, roads being paved and neighbor and noise prob-

lems are once again a threat.

Klink has been very active in bird clubs: Tampa Bay Bird Club, International Avicultural Society and American Federation of Aviculture. She has written articles for the local bird club publications to promote the practice of banding domestic birds. Her primary purpose for breeding exotic birds is to provide an excellent quality pet bird. Most of her sales are to out-of-state purchasers. ➔



Sallie Klink and her pet Yellow-naped Amazon.

Photos by Edwina Van Antwerp