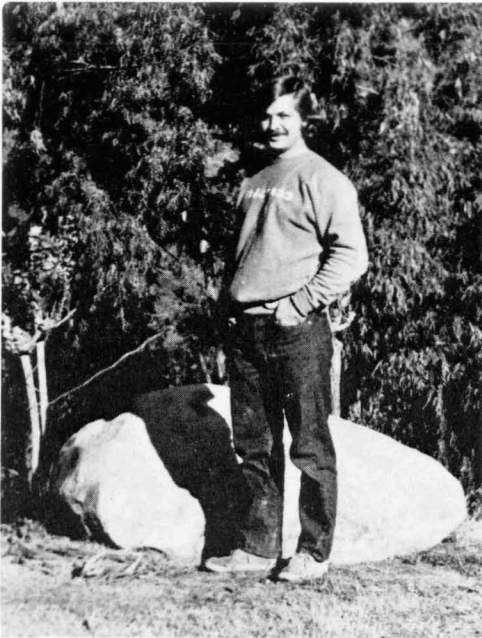


A.F.A. Visits A Member's Aviaries



Harry Linden

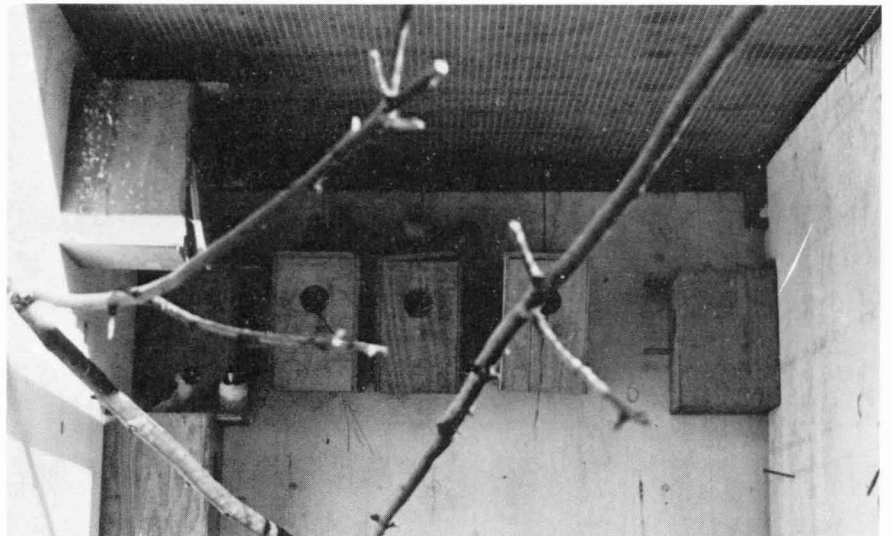
Picturesque Santa Barbara, nestled against mountains overlooking the blue Pacific one hundred miles north of Los Angeles, is the home of the nationally renowned Spanish Days Fiesta, U.C.S.B. campus, historic mission (still in use), and the aviaries of A.F.A. member Harry Linden.

Harry is relatively new to aviculture compared to some of the other members featured in this column. Nevertheless, he has quickly learned to apply the combination of ingredients required to become a successful breeder, i.e. spacious housing, well-rounded diet, clean facilities, etc. He shows a facility for adapting the ideas of other successful aviculturists and has demonstrated that one does not have to have raised birds for years and years in order to consistently do well.

Although he was born in Boston, Massachusetts, Harry is practically a native of California, where he moved at the age of two. His family settled in Malibu and he has lived near the beach ever since. After high school Harry moved to Santa Barbara to attend college at U.C.S.B., where he obtained both his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Mechanical Engineering.

While attending U.C.S.B. Harry met his lovely wife, Jeanette, who enthusiastically shares his interest in birds. In fact, Jeanette has been responsible for training their three pet Amazon Parrots, one of which (their favorite — a rare Blue-crowned) has learned to sing "You Are My Sunshine". Jeanette accomplished most of this simply by talking to the birds in the morning while preparing breakfast.

The Linden aviaries, locally known as the Santa Barbara Bird Farm, are well planned and sturdily constructed. They are made of wood and welded wire set on



Blue and Black Masked Lovebirds

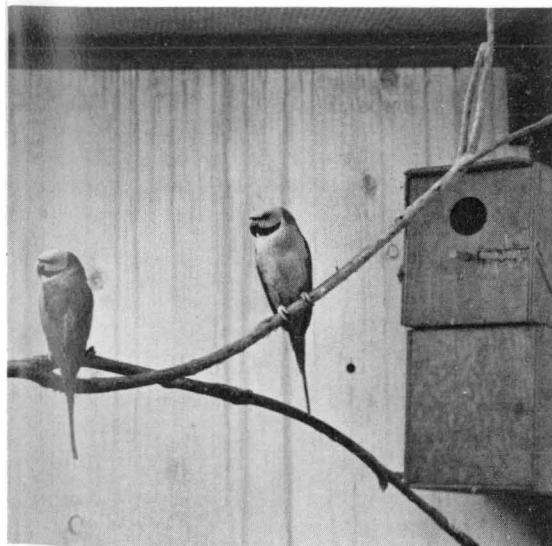
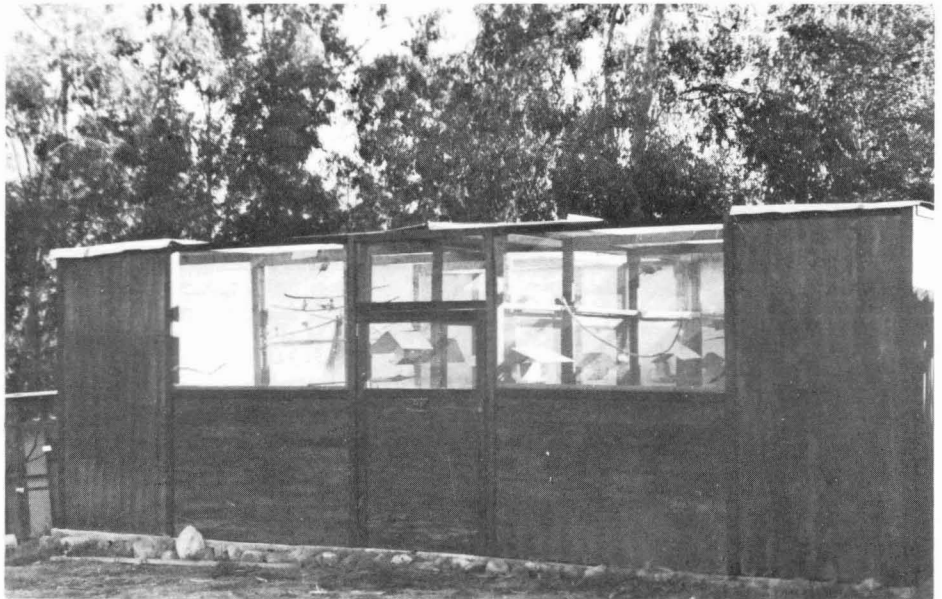
a concrete slab foundation. Harry feels the cement slab is easier to clean and facilitates the prevention of internal parasites in his stock. The slab floor of his aviaries is sloped to allow water to run off. The drinking water system is automatic and under pressure. Each drinker is of the poultry type and is set in the flight partitions so that each waterer serves two flights. Below each waterer is a drain, which carries off water used to flush the drinkers during cleaning.

The most recently constructed group of aviaries uniquely features flight partitions constructed of $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " Nylon netting — unique since Psittacine birds are housed in these flights. The Nylon netting, obtained from Marsh Farms of Garden Grove, CA, has been in place for nearly two months and shows no signs of chewing damage from the Cockatiels and Grassparakeets inside. The outer perimeter is constructed of welded wire, so there is little chance of any escapes. These partitions are constructed in a manner that permits them to be rolled up or down at will. Consequently, one large flight or many smaller ones can be set-up in this unit in a matter of minutes (Harry plans an article on the construction details in a forthcoming issue).

Harry's first bird was a Maximillian Parrot, which he obtained with the proceeds from the sale of some tropical fish he had kept for many years. Harry had always wanted a pet parrot, however, when the bird refused to learn to talk it was replaced with another. It wasn't long before a pair of Cockatiels was acquired. A breeding cage followed and, well, the bug had hit. The building of aviaries and the expansion of his collection have been an ongoing process — familiar to so many aviculturists.



Aviaries



Moustache Parakeets

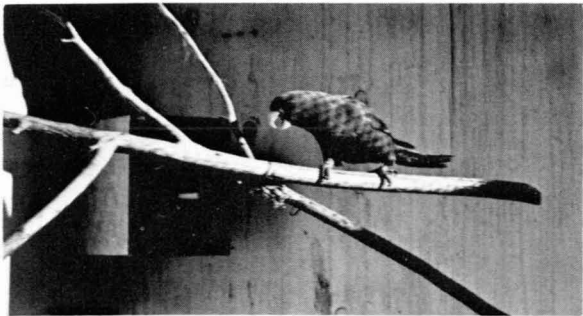
The Linden collection now includes Plumhead Parrakeets, Alexandrine Ring-neck Parrakeets, Mustache Parrakeets, Moluccan Lories, Chattering Lories, African Gray Parrots, Timneh Gray Parrots, Masked and Peach Face Lovebirds, Grassparakeets, and Cockatiels. One of Harry's Lutino Cockatiels is entirely yellow, raising the hope that he may be able to eventually produce a strain of pure yellow Lutinos.

One of the primary goals at the Santa Barbara Bird Farm is to establish a disease free breeding stock. To this end the aviaries have been built. Each flight houses only one pair of birds. Part of the health maintenance program is the diet. The birds are offered cracked corn; sunflower; kibbled dog food; wheat germ and yeast;

a variety of fruits, including guavas, oranges, figs, loquats, nectarines; greens in the form of spinach, chard, kale, carrot tops, grated carrots; and sprouted seed. Wheat germ oil is given one or two drops to a slice of apple. All of the fruit except apple are home grown and are thus guaranteed free of pesticides.

The Lories receive a soft food mixture composed of one part honey, one part powdered milk, and two parts Gerber's High Protein Baby Food — all mixed together with water. Sunflower and fruit supplement the liquid mixture.

The Lindens are sensitive to the need for the conservation of birds and see aviculture as a means to that end. Captive propagation will provide an alternative source of animals for zoological collec-



Moluccan Lory



Baby Cockatiels in nest box.

tions, scientific research, and the pet industry, thus reducing the demands placed on some wild populations. More importantly, captive populations will permit a reverse flow of animals that can be used to replenish critical populations of endangered species in the wild.

Upon completion of his academic career, Harry worked for Burroughs, AMF, and Minicars. The engineering field, however, was becoming increasingly uncertain and did not provide the satisfactions Harry sought. After several years of applying his skills as a mechanical engineer, Harry decided to strike out on his own. A staunch motorcycle racing enthusiast, he decided to turn his hobby into his vocation, and opened the first Bultaco Motorcycle Dealership in Santa Barbara. A brisk business attested to the need, and Harry was on his way.

Jeanette is currently employed with IBM and shares Harry's motorcycle racing interests. Both are extremely active outdoors devoting great energies to numerous activities. The eagerness with which they pursue their goals appears to have been extended to aviculture suggesting we will hear a lot more from the Lindens in the years ahead.

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