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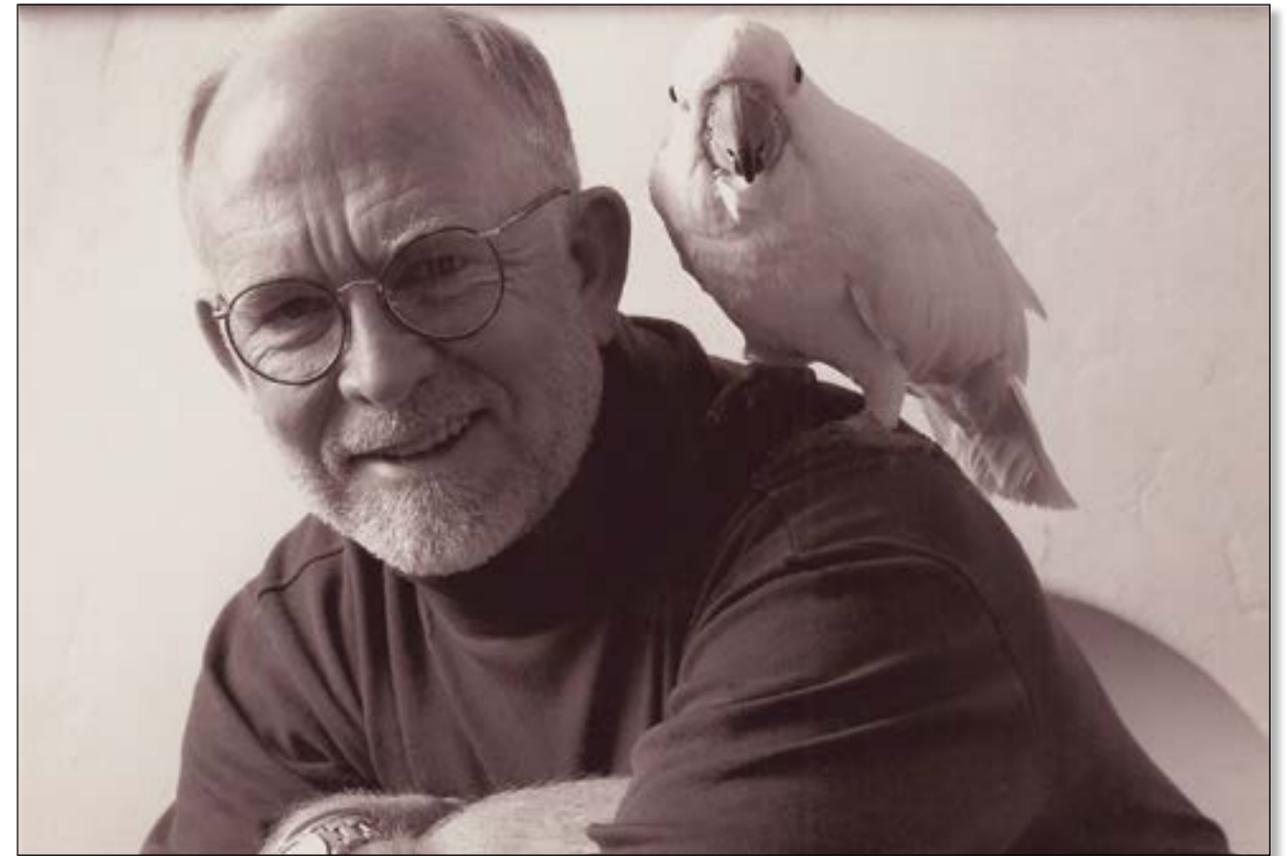
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*In memory of* **Wayne E. Smyth**



Jan. 12, 1942–Nov. 25, 2012 | Goodbye, our dear friend. You made the world a more colorful place.

*In memory of* **Robert Dean Queen**

July 25, 1945—Sept. 22, 2012

Robert “Bob” Queen, 67, died on Saturday morning, Sept. 22, at Vista Hospice Center in San Antonio, Texas after a brief battle with brain cancer.

Bob was born to Emily and James Queen in Monterey Park, Calif., in 1945. He lived most of his life in Riverside, Calif., where he retired from the Riverside City Fire Department after 35 years of dedicated service, receiving both the California State Firemen’s Valor Award for Heroic Acts as well as a proclamation from the City of Riverside for Excellence and Dedication.

He was residing in Blanco, Texas, where he fulfilled his love of animals as co-owner of the highly respected Queen’s Pride Aviaries.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Virginia “Ginny” Queen, of Blanco; his son, Robert Queen Jr., of Springfield, Va.; two grandchildren, Alec and Allison Queen, also of Springfield; and one brother, James Queen of Rosemont, Calif.

At his request, no memorial service was held, but the imprint he left in the hearts and minds of those he left behind will be remembered.



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Development of Fundamentals of Aviculture was made possible by a grant from Pet Care Trust, and by funding and other support from the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

By Rick Jordan

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A view of the aviary area housing mainly small *Poicephalus*. Two cages out of 20 remained upright.

# It Was A Dark And Stormy Night...

Story and photographs by Scott Lewis, Old World Aviaries

At about 3 a.m. Jan. 25, 2012 Linda and I awoke to intense thunder and lightning and the sound of a freight train apparently traversing our backyard. We hurried to the sun porch and saw a wall of green along with the remains of a patio cover. Obviously, a major branch from our 50-foot Live Oak had broken and fallen onto the patio. It was impossible to see anything else or exit from the backdoor, so we went to our guest bedroom, which has a window facing the backyard. Just outside the window, a miserable looking Timneh Grey was perched on the air conditioning unit framed by more green wall. I found a net, crawled out the window, and retrieved the Timneh. At that point, there wasn't much more we could do except wait for daylight.

Morning brought news that the damage was more severe than we had anticipated. About 15 feet of the 50-foot oak remained standing. Cages were everywhere at every angle, some crushed by the huge branches that fell from the tree. The patio cover was toast; grills, patio furniture and such were damaged beyond repair; sections of privacy fence were down; and the koi pond appeared to have absconded into the night.

The first order of business was inspecting all the cages, or at least what was left of them, for injured birds and performing stop-gap repairs on any cages that had openings through which

birds might escape. To our surprise, we found no injured birds. In fact, most of the birds appeared to be taking things in stride, calmly perching wherever perches remained or clinging to the sides of cages. However, one Timneh was later found dead in a cage that was crushed beyond recognition.

Later that day, we determined that 10 birds were missing, of which we eventually recovered 6. That's 10 out of about 150, many fewer than we had first feared. I give primary credit to reinforcing hog rings. Our cages are assembled with standard, 14-gauge, stainless hog rings. However, they have much heavier hog rings about every 1.5 to 2 feet and at each corner. I believe that without the heavier rings, many of the cage seams simply would have unzipped under the stress. I also give credit to well-constructed, heavy, metal nestboxes with secure closures that were bolted to the cages instead of simply hanging from them. Not a single nestbox was torn from a cage. In fact, not a single nestbox door was even open. Final credit goes to 12.5-gauge, 1/2-inch x 3-inch mesh wire instead of lighter wire.

The weak points in the cages were their 1-inch square, tubular steel legs. Many were bent beyond repair. However, damage to the bodies of the cages might have been worse with stronger legs. The cages would have been blown about regardless, and, instead of collapsing, stronger legs would have put more torque on the cage bodies. So, the relatively weak legs may have been a blessing in disguise.