An Impossible Situation

by H.D. "Hank" Brawley
Dallas, Texas

I have had Pionus now more than five years; have had almost all the species and to date have had success with four species. I chose the Pionus because as I approached the city regarding a building permit for an aviary, I hit the first brick wall. Absolutely not! No birds, poultry or anything in my neighborhood. There may even be a bag-limit on kids. After much hassling and many trips, I finally found two employees on duty one lunch hour. Neither knew what an aviary was, so they okayed the plans and issued the permit. Wow!

Believe me, that weekend I had a contractor pour the foundation. As the picture will show, I have five flights attached to the south side of a double garage. A three foot hallway runs the length of the building with a door entering each flight. The 1/2 x 1 inch wire enclosures are 3 ft. x 6 ft. x 6 ft.

Three feet of the enclosure is under the roof portion and three feet is exposed to sun, rain, etc. One very dumb carpenter and I, plus my son and various neighbors, had the thing 'bird livable' in about 30 days or so. Prior to that I had birds stacked all over the house and a mad wife.

Usually in Dallas we have very mild winters, maybe a few days of 20° weather, but then the sun pops out and we range in the 40-65° type of weather. The first winter the birds were out, we had the most severe winter in 100 years of record-keeping. There were 296 consecutive hours of below freezing during which the sun did not appear one time. The temperature went down to 5 degrees two nights in a row. I could stand it no longer and brought the birds all in the house again.

My son and I, in sub-freezing weather, finally located a roll of Hart-O-Glass which is actually screen overshot with plastic, and we applied that to all outside surfaces. Then we found a blower-type electric heater and set it at 40° and replaced the birds in the aviaries.

There is the ground work, now I'll tell you the story. Nothing about the birds seemed to be damaged except on one dusky male (P. fuscus). In 60 days, he had lost every toe he possessed. I call him "Stubby". By that time, the white crowns had eggs so the only damage was to Stubby's feet.

Now when Pionus breed, they are not the mounting type bird. They sit side by side and more or less turn their rears to each other for contact. As you can imagine, this takes toes and toenails to hang on to a perch. This spelled doom for Stubby as a breeder. But, I reasoned, I did this to him so it's up to
Specialists
IN DOMESTIC BRED (NON-FREQUENT)
HAND FED BABY BIRDS

Macaws
Cockatoos
Amazons
Eclectus
African Greys
And Others

Our babies are hand raised in one of our specially designed nurseries. Health care is supported by a full time veterinarian and a complete diagnostic laboratory.
Exotic Bird Society
Avicultural Taxidermy Machine, Boerne, TX
Parrotjungle, Inc., Miami, FL
Norshore Pets, Marengo, IL
coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication,
Jacksonville State Florida
Fullerton, coordinator. There is a
Sarasota, FL
Fins, Furs, ‘N Feathers, Boca Raton, FL
Mason’s Exotic Bird Services, San Bruno, CA

Connecticut Association for Aviculture
COLORADO
Connecticut Association for Aviculture

American Federation of Aviculture
Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.
MEMBER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
African Love Bird Society
American Budgerigar Society, Inc.
American Cockatiel Society, Inc.
American Pigeon Fanciers’ Council
American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
British Columbia Avicultural Society
National Finch Society
Southeastern Aviculturists Association
National Cage Bird Show, Inc.
Avicultural Society of America

ALABAMA
Bird Club of Greater Birmingham
Central Alabama Aviculture Society
ARIZONA
Arizona Aviculture Society
Arizona Budgerigar Society
Avicultural Society of Tucson
The Seed Crackers
CALIFORNIA
American Canary Fanciers Association
Aviary Association of Kern Avicultural Association of San Francisco
Budgerigar Research Association
Butter County Bird Club
California Game Breeders’ Association
Capital City Bird Society
Central California Cage Bird Club
Contra Costa Avian Society
Exotic Bird Breeders Association
Exotic Hibiscus Society
Finch Society of San Diego County
Foothill Bird Fanciers
Fresno Canary and Finch Club
Golden Gate Avian Society
Golden West Game Breeders and Bird Club, Inc.
Great Western Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Hookbill Hobbiests of Southern California
Inland Game Bird Breeders
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
North County Aviculturists
Northern California Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Nu-Color Bird Association
Orange County Bird Breeders
Redwood Budgie Hobbiests
San Diego County Bird Breeders Association
San Diego County Canary Club
San Gabriel Valley Parakeet Association
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club
South Bay Bird Club
South Coast Finch Society
Tri-City Budgerigar Society
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
 Ventura County Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society
Western Bird Breeders Society
COLORADO
Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture, Inc.
CONNECTICUT
Connecticut Association for Aviculture, Inc.

MEMBER CLUBS
FLORIDA
Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
Central Florida Bird Breeders
Feathered Friends of Florida
Avian Society
Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club, Inc.
Greater Brandon Avian Society
Greater Jacksonville Aviculturists Society, Inc.
Greater Miami Avicultural Society, Inc.
Polk County Avicultural Society
Suncoast Avian Society
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society, Inc.
Tropical Cockatiel Club of Miami
GEORGIA
Georgia Cage Bird Society
Greater Middle Georgia Cage Bird Society
HAWAII
Exotic Birds of Hawaii
IOWA
Mid-America Cage Bird Society
ILLINOIS
Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Inc.
McLean County Pet Bird Club
KANSAS
Kansas Avicultural Society, Inc.
LOUISIANA
Gulf South Bird Club
MARYLAND
Baltimore Bird fanciers, Inc.
Maryland Cage Bird Society, Inc.
MASSACHUSETTS
Exotic Cage Birds of New England
The Boston Society for Aviculture, Inc.
Western New England Cage Bird Society
MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor Cage Club
Mid-West Canary Club, Inc.
Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.
MINNESOTA
Minnesota Cage Bird Association
North Star Parrot Breeders Society
MISSISSIPPI
Mississippi Budgerigar Society
MISSOURI
Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society
Heart of America Parrot Society
Missouri Cage Bird Association
NEBRASKA
Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society
NEVADA
Las Vegas Avicultural Society
Northern Nevada Cage Bird Society
Silver State Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Texas Valley Caged Birds Association
NEW HAMPSHIRE
New Hampshire Avicultural Society
NEW YORK
Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association
The Greater Rochester Hookbill Association
NORTH CAROLINA
Carolina Avicultural Society
Charlotte Metroline Cage Bird Society
Smoky Mountain Cage Bird Society
OHIO
Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Cleveland Canary & Cage Bird Club
Golden Crested Cage Bird Club
Mid-American Exotic Bird Society, Inc.
OREGON
Cascade Budgerigar Society
Columbia Canary Club
Emerald Exotic Bird Society
Exotic Bird Club of Oregon
Northwest Pigeon Fanciers Association
PENNSYLVANIA
Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club
The Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society
York Area Pet Bird Club
SOUTH CAROLINA
Carolina Cage Bird Society
TENNESSEE
Little Tennessee Cage Bird Club
TEXAS
Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
Capital City Cage Bird Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
North Texas Bird Club
North Texas Cockatiel Club
UTAH
Avicultural Society of Utah
Utah Parakeet Society
VIRGINIA
Commonwealth Avicultural Society
National Capital Bird Club
Parrot Breeders Association
Peninsula Cage Bird Society
Virginia Ornamental Bird Society
WASHINGTON
Avicultural Society of Puget Sound
Northwest Aviculture Society
Northwest Exotic Bird Society
Washington Budgerigar Society, Inc.
WISCONSIN
Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS
Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD
Prichard Bookkeeping Service, El Cajon, CA
Southeast Avaries, Alexandria, VA
Law-Them-Birds, Miami, FL
Valentine Equipemen Co., Hinsdale, IL
Nekton U.S.A., Inc., St. Petersburg, FL
Rainbow Bird Ranch, Ashburn, NC
Kellogg, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
Birds of a Feather, Santa Rosa, CA
Sandy Creek Farm, Sarasota, FL
Pins, Feathers, Roca Raton, FL
Mason's Exotic Bird Services, San Bruno, CA
Auerhahn Ranch, Boerne, TX
Sendsa Machine, Fullerton, CA
Parrot Jungle, Inc., Miami, FL
Northshore Pets, Marengo, IL

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's closest state coordinator. There is a state coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS
Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD
Prichard Bookkeeping Service, El Cajon, CA
Southeast Avaries, Alexandria, VA
Law-Them-Birds, Miami, FL
Valentine Equipment Co., Hinsdale, IL
Nekton U.S.A., Inc., St. Petersburg, FL
Rainbow Bird Ranch, Ashburn, NC
Kellogg, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
Birds of a Feather, Santa Rosa, CA
Sandy Creek Farm, Sarasota, FL
Pins, Feathers, Roca Raton, FL
Mason's Exotic Bird Services, San Bruno, CA
Auerhahn Ranch, Boerne, TX
Sendsa Machine, Fullerton, CA
Parrot Jungle, Inc., Miami, FL
Northshore Pets, Marengo, IL

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's closest state coordinator. There is a state coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS
Animal Exchange, Rockville, MD
Prichard Bookkeeping Service, El Cajon, CA
Southeast Avaries, Alexandria, VA
Law-Them-Birds, Miami, FL
Valentine Equipment Co., Hinsdale, IL
Nekton U.S.A., Inc., St. Petersburg, FL
Rainbow Bird Ranch, Ashburn, NC
Kellogg, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
Birds of a Feather, Santa Rosa, CA
Sandy Creek Farm, Sarasota, FL
Pins, Feathers, Roca Raton, FL
Mason's Exotic Bird Services, San Bruno, CA
Auerhahn Ranch, Boerne, TX
Sendsa Machine, Fullerton, CA
Parrot Jungle, Inc., Miami, FL
Northshore Pets, Marengo, IL

For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's closest state coordinator. There is a state coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication.
— I counted the days because in the box's position I couldn't get to it to check the egg for hatch but I knew it would just be a throwaway job anyway so I said, what the heck, this coming Saturday I will clean out the whole mess.

Saturday came, and I took out the main perch — slid the tray out so I could get the nest box out of there — opened the top lid, and had about a three day old chick.

I could not believe it. Impossible for him to mate, moving their complete location, strange nest box, noise and usual foot traffic through the living room, but there it was!

I wanted this unusual happening to be known among parrot breeders. This shows that (with any type or species) don't bet your last dime on anything — anything can happen with parrots.

On another subject, often after I read 'of first breedings,' I wonder a year later what ever happened to the youngsters. Some of you may remember the write-up on Ramon Noegel and the first hatching and raising of the dusky Pionus. This happened on May 10, 1983. Actually, Ramon had two pairs for a number of years. They happened to lay and hatch at the same time. One pair had one youngster, and the other three. The youngsters were hand fed by Gregory at Ramon's aviary.

Not long after that I got the chick from the single nest and one of opposite gender from the other nest. They are doing fine and laid their first clutch of eggs at the age of 23 months. All four eggs were fertile, but one egg was pierced by a toenail and the chick died in the shell about 1/3 formed — none of the other three were able to break out although they were fully formed. We had extremely dry weather about that time and I guess they couldn't break the shell. They were fully formed, I washed them and examined them under a magnifying glass and all were perfect chicks — just couldn't make it. At least, I was gratified to see the excellent fertility and I have every reason to think they will do okay this coming spring. The enclosed picture of these two birds and me was taken by wife, Evelyn. She cares little for my Pionus and has a couple of African greys for pets in the house.

So you know now about that first breeding. In Stoodley's book, "Pionus Parrots," he has a picture of these two Pionus and declares them to be a "world's first captive breeding" so I guess the little "beasties" are famous birds. I'm glad I have them. ✧

---

SCHEDULE FOR AFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Mark these dates and plan to attend!

**February 14-17, 1986**
Phoenix, Arizona — Holiday Inn and Holidome
Winter Regional Meeting

**August 6 thru 10, 1986**
New Orleans, Louisiana — Fairmont Hotel
12th Annual Convention