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 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.

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.
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 and fallen onto the patio. It was impossible to see anything else or exit from the backdoor, so we went to our guest bedroom.

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 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 perch was knocked down.

The weak points in the cages were their 1-inch square, tubular steel legs. Many were bent beyond repair. Beyond repair: sections of privacy fence were down; the koi pond appeared to have absconded into the night. Without the heavier rings, many of the cage seams simply...