



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matthew Russell

There is a set of skills that an aviculturist should strive to have. These skills are what can make your aviaries stand out from the pack. It is the ability to design and make your own aviaries and even better the knack to be able scrounge together odds and ends and see what you can build out them. I know to some of you this may sound beyond you, but I assure you anyone can do it.

Skill 1: the scrounge

The ability to see the potential in what seems like rubbish can be a big difference in the over all cost of the project. If you are able to keep the cost of the materials down it means you can build bigger, or source more desirable birds to occupy your new aviary.

Skill 2: finding the knack

In my opinion steel is the best thing to build an aviary out of. But the thing with steel is you can't just nail it together. Welding is the most versatile and strongest way of connecting the pieces together. I taught myself to weld the cheap way, I found an old welder for \$100.00 and started by trying to fuse two pieces next to each other. I might not be the best welder but no one looks at the welds once the aviary is together. Also, there are a number of different types of clips, clamps and brackets that you can use to fix your pieces of steel together.

Skill 3: the design

Keeping in mind the treasure that you have stored behind your shed and the different ways you know to put it all together. It's time to start researching different ways things are built and how you can apply that to your project. Don't just look at other aviaries, look at architecture and zoo exhibits, be as creative as you can! After all you are making a future centerpiece for your collection.

Happy hunting and go for it, give it a go. You have more to lose by not trying than trying.

Please let me know what you think, and we'll publish it in the magazine. You can e-mail me at: tara_matt@hotmail.com.

Cheers,

Matt