

## **MY AVIARIES**

**By “Bird Brain”**

I found a recent article on a member's aviaries very interesting, so decided to do as he suggested and write about our set-up.

### **THE AVIARIES:**

Most are 2.8m high and double-wired. There is a spray system on the roof as well as a cat fence. The floors are dirt as it is too hard to get shellgrit where I live, but mice and dung beetles are a constant problem. Regular hosing and bait boxes help.

### **FEEDING:**

The birds are fed soaked seed and fruit daily, as these are not only nutritious but help keep the dry seed bill down. Also, a daily feeding regime ensures I see the birds each day, and I am able to quickly treat any birds that are sick. I also inspect the aviaries, perches, *etc.* To make sure every thing is OK.

### **THE BIRDS:**

We presently keep both Australian and exotic parrots in various mutations, but three birds I would like to add in the future are Hahn's Macaw, Cinnamon Green-cheeked Conures and Caiques (when I win the lottery).

### **CHALLENGING SPECIES:**

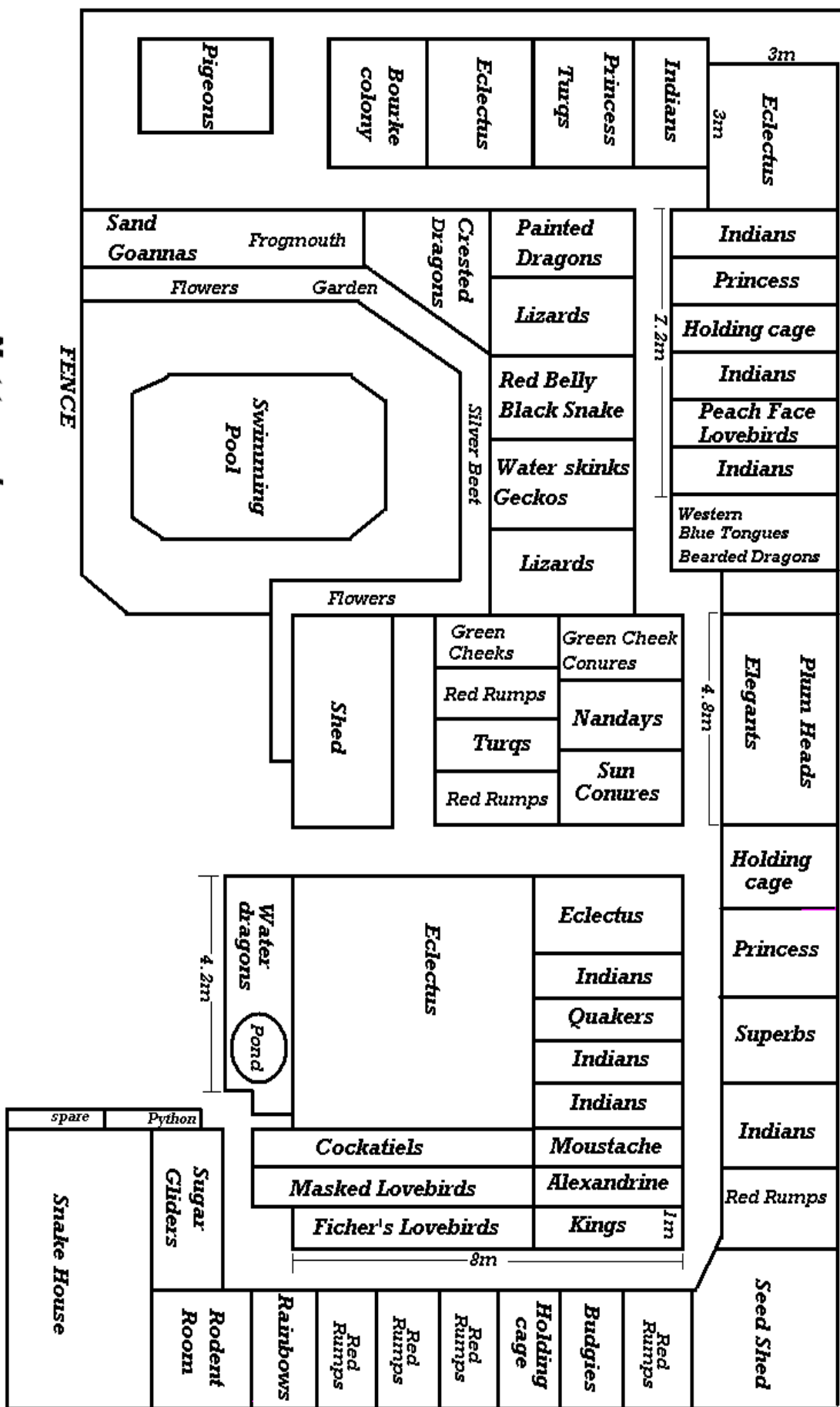
Sun Conures have proved a real challenge, we have had five die over the years, and only one clutch of eggs...infertile. This year we purchased a young pair, and decided to try yet again. In the summer the weather gets very hot here and this may effect the Sun Conure's breeding, but a friend bred them here last year, and further north, in Port Augusta, where it's even hotter, several breeders have regular success with the species, and as I'm home more these days hopefully I'll have a better chance of success. After all, there's always more to be learnt in bird-keeping.

### **REPTILES:**

As you will notice from the aviary layout illustration on the following page we also keep a variety of reptiles. The only big worry with snakes, is mite infestations. Although the new mite treatment products work well. We breed mealworms, roaches, rats, mice and pigeons for the reptiles.

The best thing about aviculture is the people you meet and the friends you make.

# 'BIRD BRAIN'S' AVIARY LAYOUT



Not to scale