

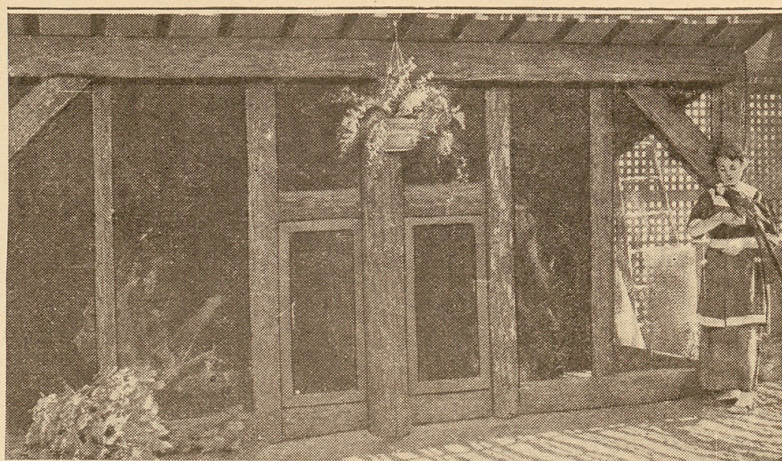
THE PARROT AND COCKATOO INDUSTRY OF CALIFORNIA

By JOHN EDWIN HOGG

BEFORE the war, the United States imported parrots and other birds of the family to the value of approximately \$1,000,000 each year. Most of the cockatoos came from Australia, while parrots and parakeets were brought by thousands from Africa, Mexico, South and Central America, and also from the Isle of Pines, near Cuba. A few were shipped from Borneo and Java. Naturally the war shortage of shipping terminated these shipments, and old birds with vocabularies of from 75 to 100 words became almost priceless. Few were to be had at any price.

About the time the scarcity of feathered talkers reached its height, some one recalled that parrots in captivity had been known to lay an occasional egg. The dealers began to open their eyes. Then they proceeded to develop a brand-new American industry, which bids fair to do away with the importation of birds of the parrot family, by raising them in captivity, like ostriches, or barnyard stock.

About the only requirement for raising



The "Jungle" Cage in the Parrot Brooders Is an Imitation of a Bit of Tropical Wilderness, Whose Temperature is Maintained at 110 and the Humidity Kept High by Sprays of Water on the Sand Floor

parrots and cockatoos in certain sections of the United States is to know something of their habits and to create artificially conditions similar to their native environment. An abundance of fresh

fruit is essential as well as a climate with high temperatures and with shade. Southern California offers more nearly these conditions than any other portion of the United States, except for its hot days and cold nights. Accordingly the parrot brooders are sun-heated in the daytime, and electrically heated at night.

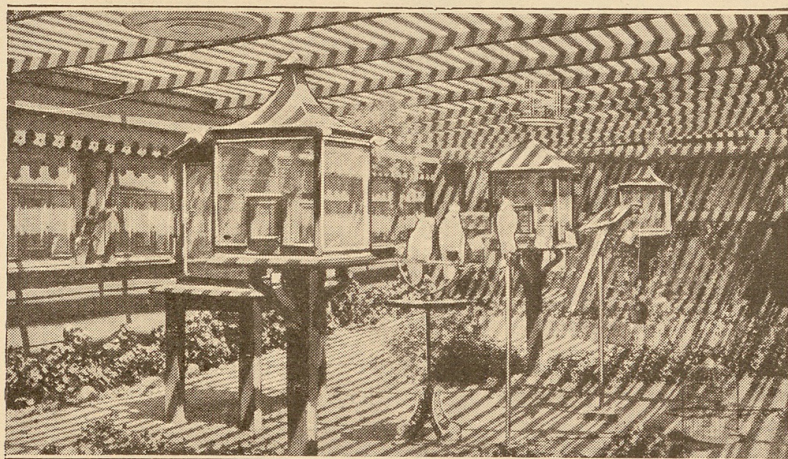


Baby Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo, Asserted to be the First One Successfully Hatched and Raised in America

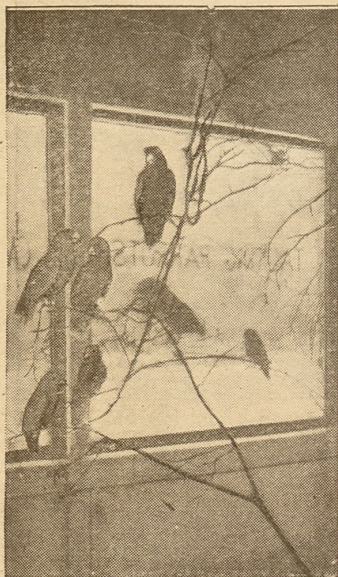
The first attempts to produce a domestic supply of parrots and cockatoos were made with incubators. This

was unsuccessful. The eggs hatched, but the baby birds perished for lack of mother's care in feeding them, all young

birds of the parrot family being fed from the parent bird's crop, like doves or pigeons. Efforts were made to feed the incubator-hatched birds by hand, but to raise a single parrot by this method almost required the services of a special nurse. Setting parrots and cockatoos were then tried, and with greater success. The nesting room is virtually an artificial jungle in which the temperature is kept at 110° F. Humidity is maintained by numerous tiny spray pipes that



Parrots and Cockatoos Hatched in the "Jungle" Cage are Transferred Later to the "Acclimatization" Cages, and in from Three to Six Weeks the Feathered Pets become Accustomed to the Temperate Zone



Baby Parrots Learning to Climb Trees and Bushes, in a Special Cage Room to Which They are Transferred from the Brooders

ing room. This is another greenhouse-like structure, and there the temperature is gradually reduced. In from three to six weeks the little feathered pets become accustomed to climatic conditions similar to those of the average family piazza. They are then ready for shipment.

Several aviaries are now in operation where all the well-known varieties of talking parrots are being domestically reared,

discharge on- to the sand floor upon which the birds make their nests.

Obviously birds reared under such conditions cannot be transferred to a cage and shipped to a purchaser without dying or at least suffering serious injury to their health. Accordingly they are moved to the acclimat-

large ma- caws, cocka- toos, and par- rakeets.

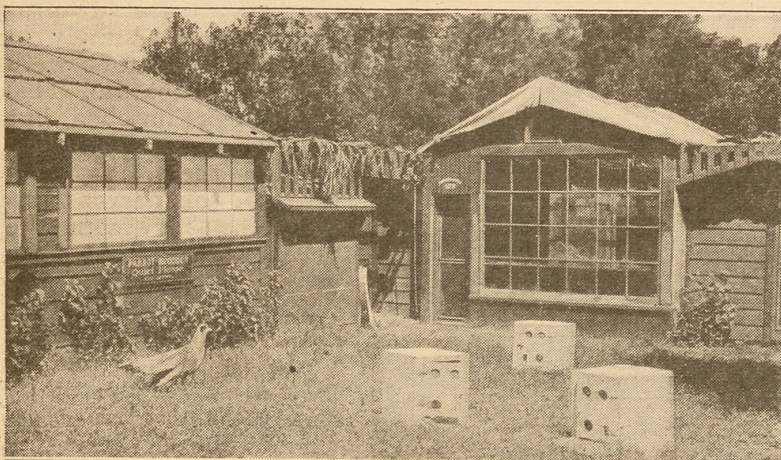
As with ev- erything else, the market- price of par- rots is de- pendent upon quality. Their value in- creases with their vocabu- lary, and their ability to whistle and do tricks. Similar- ly a parrot that speaks Spanish or French com- mands a high- er price from

a prospective purchaser of either national- ity. The bird producers have not been slow in recognizing this, so in connection with nearly every aviary there is a school with a competent trainer. Here parrots and cockatoos are taught to talk, sing, and whistle and go through all man- ner of antics to increase their value.

Considering the progress made in less than two years, most of the aviarists are of the opinion that very soon the nation's entire supply of such birds will be domestically produced, and importation will be eliminated.



Cockatoo's Nest, a Shallow Pit in the Sand, Lined with Sticks, and Located under the Thickest Foliage That can be Found



Though Electrically Heated at Night, the Sun Warms the Parrot Brood- ers during the Day, and to That End They are Built Like Greenhouses. The Square Boxes on the Lawn Are Feeding Cages for the Young Birds

and at a considerable saving over the ex- pense of importing the same birds even if such importations had been possible. Not only have these aviaries succeeded in producing parrots, but they have been equally successful in the raising of the

motion-picture film have been collected and systematically filed as a pictorial rec- ord of all Medical Corps activity overseas. Some photographs depict actual battle conditions. The field, evacuation, and base-hospital scenes are instructive.

MEDICAL-CORPS HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Thanks to the skill and daring of the army pho- tographer, the Medical Corps of the United States Army will not soon forget the grim les- sons learned in the re- cent war. Approximately 10,000 still pictures and more than 14 miles of