

2016 Free Flight Aviary

This new aviary will be a free flight aviary for the approximately 300 parrots and smaller exotic birds that call our refuge home. Most of these birds, especially the long-lived ones, were once someone's pet and T&D's took them in when their owners could no longer care for them, or no longer wanted them. Since there are now so many birds in our care, they have outgrown their current building.

This exhibit will have an open area for most of the birds to be able to fly "freely". Visitors will be able to walk in the area with the birds, much like a butterfly house. Our animal friends at Superior Walls (Middleburg) donated the walls for the new free-flight aviary. The building is 36'x100'x20'.

The roof and inside needed to be completed by T&D's. Our goal was to have the roof on the building in spring 2015. Late winter 2014, a "Go Fund Me" fundraiser was created to help raise funds for the roof. \$10,000.00 was raised to purchase the lumber, trusses, and metal for the roof by the generous people below. Thank you to all those who made a donation!

It was a slow process putting the trusses on the roof but it was accomplished in two days. The metal roof was then attached without an issue. The rest of the building will be worked on throughout 2015 and early 2016.





As of fall 2015 --The new free flight aviary is going well. The windows and doors are in place. The outside walls were painted and the inside walls were framed to add metal to them. The inside roofing is finished and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the roof insulation is finished. The walkway was framed and the dirt added. Plants and other materials (such as roofing metal, wood, faux rocks) are needed to complete this project.



During Spring 2016, work continued inside the aviary. The walkway was completed with a railing and bird safe plants were added. The visitor's area and two bird rooms were also completed. Electricity and lights were installed.

With this progress, we were hoping to have the birds moved into the aviary before opening for the season in May, however, we had a very wet and cold April. We did not want to risk the birds' health with the move from a warm building, to the cold outside, and then to the new building. So we had to wait until it was warmer. It was finally warm enough during the middle of May. It was a gradual move and all the birds were in their new home by May 15. We now needed to give them a few weeks to adjust before allowing visitors to view them.

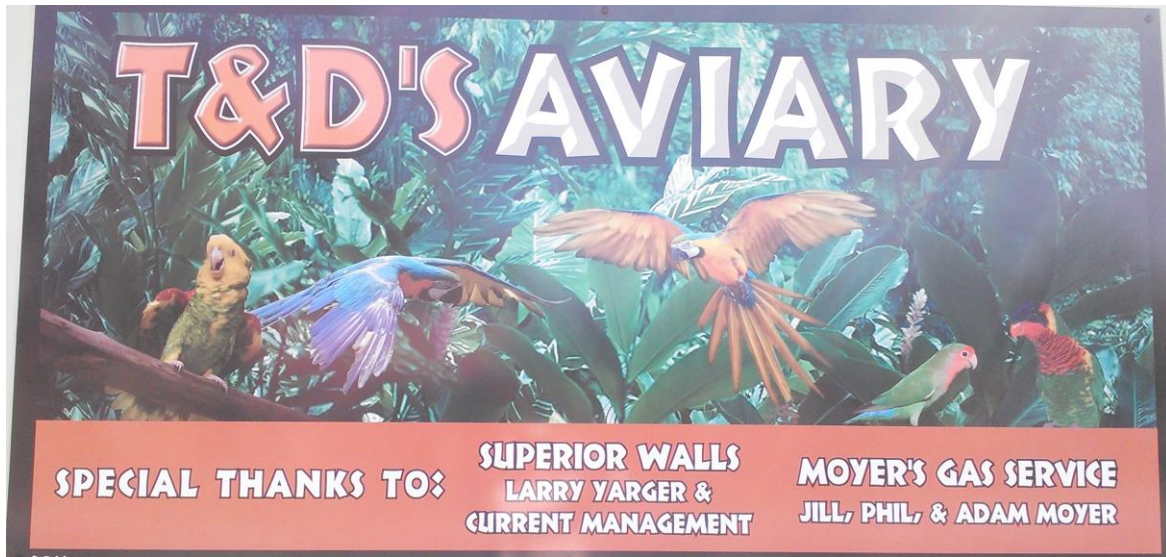


Our plan was to open T&D's Aviary to visitors in July 2016. All was going well and the opening was planned. Then we received a call from New York authorities about a seizure of over 400 animals from one house! Over 200 birds needed a home. "If you build it, they will come"...came to mind. These birds arrived in July and were released (after veterinarian approval) into the aviary. Our birds and the new additions needed time to adjust. All

went well but with the addition of these birds, we delayed the opening of the aviary until the following summer.

In May 2017, T&D's Aviary was finally open for the public during weekend hours. Visitor's seem to enjoy watching the birds fly and seeing all the different species living together. With the unexpected addition of over 200 birds, the flow of the visitors' entrance needed to be changed. Over the winter of 2017 and spring 2018, an addition was added on to the aviary. This addition is the new entrance for visitors and allows a much better flow and viewing of the birds.





A very special thank you to all who have made a donation, either of money or time, to help with this project. The following have made a monetary donation to this project:

Dusty Smith	Maryanne & Steve Sipler	Rick & Janet Thomas	
Amanda Baca	Lindsay Shea	Barb Amsler Nickel	The Kelly's
Allison and Jeff Bankus	Tina & Jeff Carr	Dee Howell	Vickie Clark
Cindy Butts	Betsy Robinson	Stephanie Thomas	Stacy Walter
Dave & Cecilia Price	Michael Stahl & Heidi Dries Stahl	Anonymous	