

**American Giant Homer Lofts of the Deep South**  
**By; Ross Hunt**

Like elsewhere, lofts in the Deep South vary greatly but one thing is common- the vast majority have their fly pens or aviaries attached to buildings open to the south and some to the east due to the heat and humidity that is around most of the year. The breeze from those directions are a relief to the Giant Homers especially during the months of May through October. Most if not all individual pens have wire bottoms with north side closed. They are usually, 3 to 4 feet off of the ground for easy attending. The large grow pens are also off the ground at least a foot. They have wire bottoms fly pens with solid floors. They are enclosed buildings with box roosts on the wall.

Here in the area of Louisiana and East Texas most but not all breeders use the individual breeding pen system.

Glenn Saucier of Ville Platte, La. has one particular building that is 12' X 24' with 20 individual pens that are triple decked. It has a concrete floor and stays in the range of 50 degrees during the winter – very comfortable for the Giant Homers. Glenn also has other individual pens inside where the birds can go to an outside individual aviary pen through a small door that is controlled from the outside. Glenn has a total of 54 individual pens plus large pens with wire floors for old birds and a grow pen for young birds. Glenn usually breeds from 40 pair.

Ralph Swire of Indian Village, La. also has the individual pen system with a total of 16 of which 10 are inside a 20' X 21' building. He also has an 8' X 16' loft with a 4-foot fly pen for hens, young and old. He also has an 8' X 6' loft for the young cocks. All birds are on wire with the lofts built as to be able to open them up for good ventilation during the Louisiana summers.

Curley Montet, Bridge City, Texas, has a small but very nice and well-built loft that has individual pens that have individual aviaries through remotely opened doors. The larger grow and holding pens are not as large as most but serves its purpose. Curley usually breed around 15 pairs.

Ed Berthelot of Santa Fe, Tx, has individuals that are outside. They are off the ground on legs with wire bottoms and well-built of durable redwood. There are 15 of them each being 4' X 7' X 2' all in a row. Ed also has several large houses that are partially enclosed and partially wire fly pens facing south with sand and gravel floors.

Carroll Cooper of Tyler, Tx., has a loft that is about 18' X 56' that has a walk-through system of five pens that consists of community lofts and grow pens and holding pens for old cocks and old hens. The lofts are walled in on one side, open on the other with sand and gravel floors. Carroll has a combination feed room/lofts for holding old birds in the off season. He also has 5 or 6 individual pens for special matings.

Grover Williams of Palacios, Tx. On the Gulf Coast has one 12' X24' loft building with 8 nest compartments on the walls one foot off the floor. He had some individual pens that were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. He will build 12 new ones outside that are 3' x 3' X3'. Grover also has another 12' X 24" building with two large grow pens for young birds.

Here H & H Lofts in Mansfield, La., we have a variety of sizes of individual pens. A battery of twelve pens 3'X 5' X5' high, 12 pens that are 4' x 4' x 2' high and our favorite two pens 4' x 8' x 6' high. The more space you can provide a Giant Homers the better. All pens are wire bottom and front with the rest enclosed as our breeding season is from December until may1st during the coolest part of our year. Louisiana is subtropical so all aspects of a Giant Homer breeder's large lofts must be built for warm to hot weather with a lot of constant humidity.

We have seven big houses, the largest being 16' x 16' x 8' high for the young cocks grow pens. It is half wire floor fly pen and half enclosed with wood floors with box roosts on all the walls. The other big houses are grow pens and old bird pens all of the same construction.

**Lofts of Ralph Swire Lake Village, Louisiana**



**Lofts of Grover Williams of Palacios, Texas**

