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\begin{savequote}[10pc]
Except during the nine months before he draws breath, no man manages
his affairs as well as a tree does.
\qauthor{George Bernard Shaw}
\end{savequote}

\chapter[Aviary and Treetops Terrace]{Aviary and \\Treetops Terrace}

\lettrine{A}{s you arrive at the path} leading up to the Aviary, look
to your left to see a stand of floss silk trees, \emph{Chorisia
speciosa}. %
\index{floss silk tree}%
\index{Chorisia speciosa@\emph{Chorisia speciosa}!floss silk tree}%
They are recognizable by their bright green thorny trunks.

\vspace{-0.375\baselineskip}% Hack to adjust for paragraph spacing

%insert drawing
\piccaption[\textit{Floss Silk Tree}]{Floss Silk Tree}
\parpic(1.78125in,2.5705in)[r][b]{\includegraphics{FlossSilkTree}}
Native to Brazil, floss silk trees bloom in October and November when
they are covered with large pink and white flowers. Their fruits are
large green avocado-shaped pods containing both seeds and a downy
white fluff that gently covers the area when the pod splits open. The
seeds are favorites of many species of parrots. \textbf{Continue
uphill to reach the gardens in front of the Aviary.}
\index{food@foodfor:!parrots}%

There is a Montezuma cypress, \emph{Taxodium mucronatum},
\index{Montezuma cypress}%
\index{Taxodium!T. mucronatum@\emph{T. mucronatum}!Montezuma cypress}%
on the downslope near the bamboo palm. The cypress, called
\emph{ahuehuete} by the Aztecs and considered sacred, is the national
tree of Mexico. Even so, its conservation status is ‘‘threatened.’’

Visit the dawn redwood, \emph{Metasequoia glyptostroboides}, %
\index{dawn redwood}%
\index{Metasequoia glyptostroboides@\emph{Metasequoia glyptostroboides}!dawn redwood}%
\index{plant@plants:!ancient!dawn redwood}%
\textbf{to the right of the rest room by the Aviary.} This tree was
widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere from the Cretaceous
period %
\index{Cretaceous period}%
down to about 26 million years ago when it vanished from the
fossil record and was believed to be extinct. Then during World War
Two, a living dawn redwood was discovered in a remote area of Sichuan

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Province by a Chinese forester. After the war, an expedition led by paleobotanist Dr.~Ralph Chaney of UC Berkeley located a small forest of these trees in a valley 30 miles from where the first tree was found. Today, dawn redwoods are growing all over the world, serving as ambassadors from the Age of Dinosaurs. %
\index{Age of Dinosaurs}%
Like the bald cypress, the dawn redwood is deciduous and so is bare during winter.