

Southwest Virginia Bird Club



**Bird Fair
2003**

**Awards and
Pictures**

Club Notes

**Upcoming
Events**

Fall 2003

A Welcome to New and Prospective Members

For those of you who have recently joined the Southwest Virginia Bird Club, we offer you a hearty welcome and look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.

For those of you who have not yet joined our happy group, we hope you will decide that we have something to offer you and we know that you would be a wonderful asset to our club.

This issue of the quarterly SWVBC Newsletter contains lots of information on our recent Bird Fair as well as a very informative article on full-spectrum lighting written by our own JoAnn Irving. You will also find interesting club notes, upcoming events, and great pictures of the Bird Fair and Photo Contest winners.

So, take a few minutes from your busy day, sit back, and enjoy a few moments with us.



Fall 2003

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SWVBC Board of Directors for 2003

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Sue Brewer, Chairperson ----- | 366-1193 |
| Melody Blankenship ----- | 344-0313 |
| Craig Burkhead ----- | 389-5093 |
| Edie Manuel ----- | 992-2948 |
| Angelika Miner ----- | 965-3057 |
| Terry Moore----- | 265-4777 |
| Angela Myles ----- | 382-2627 |
| Gayle Richardson----- | 345-1208 |
| Vanessa Rolfe ----- | 387-2212 |

September Meetings

Here Come the Macaws!

Our September meeting in Roanoke will be **Tuesday, September 9, 2003**, at **7 p.m.** at Huntington Court Methodist Church. Wayne and Melanie Bond will present the program with their green winged Macaw, Elmo and will be talking about the joys of being the parents of a Macaw.

The Blacksburg meeting will be **Wednesday, September 10, 2003** at the Virginia Tech Veterinary School at **7 p.m.** King and JoAnn Irvin will introduce us to Honeydew, a milligold Macaw. Honeydew is a hybrid, a cross between a blue and gold Macaw and a military Macaw.



Bird Fair 2003 a Success

Our annual Bird Fair for 2003 was held at the Roanoke Civic Center Exhibition Hall on Saturday, June 7. The mixture of vendors, visitors, seminars, birds, toys, and exhibits was a sight to behold.

There were 16 vendors in attendance and many more birds than last years' fair. One even took a few laps around the hall. When he landed the vendor, who had just sold him to a visitor to the fair, promptly clipped his wings. What a wonderfully visual, and safe, way to educate bird lovers on the importance of keeping our birds' wings clipped.



Needless to say, some of our vendors had the most delightful, colorful, noisy, chewable toys for our feathered family members. The Bird Fair is a great place to stock up on the many toys it takes to keep our babies happy.



The fair had more than 350 paying visitors, most of whom had an interesting and informative time exploring our new exhibits this year. Club members worked hard on two new magnificent exhibits, a display of bird eggs and another of bird feathers. Those who spent time at them marveled at the fact that the eggs didn't differ in size between the

large and small birds as would be expected. The beauty of the feather exhibit was breathtaking.

As all of us are aware, the mission of SWVBC is to educate bird parents and the public at large about companion bird care. The seminars at this year's fair were right on target with our mission. Dick Ivy

presented "Amazing Amazons," a slide presentation of the many aspects of raising and protecting our Amazon friends. Kashmir Czaky presented two seminars – "Correcting Unwanted Behavior" and "Raising a Well Behaved Parrot" - both focused on helping our birds to become better socialized, resulting in happier and healthier birds.



We all give many thanks to Craig Burkhead who has done a marvelous job chairing the Bird Fair for several (9?) years now. Craig's career is now taking him to California more than he is home so he will no longer be able to give the time needed to continue the Bird Fair. After a lengthy evaluation of this year's fair, the Board of Directors has voted to continue the fair in 2004. A task force has been appointed to make certain primary decisions until a new Bird Fair Chair is appointed. The members of the task force are: Sue Brewer, Edie Manuel, Melody Blankenship, Beth Bottom, and Maureen Eiger. If you have any suggestions for the task force, please contact any of these members.



Photo Contest 2003



Mom would have a fit if she saw us together!

**Large Birds –
Fun with Feathers**

1st Place

African Grey, Bette Stubbs

**Large Birds –
Beautiful**

1st Place

**Male Eclectus,
Sue Brewer**



Photo Contest 2003 (continued)

Small Birds – Fun with Feathers

1st Place

Nanday Conure and
Blue Front Amazon,
Sue Brewer



Whispering sweet nothings



Small Birds – Beautiful

1st Place

Gold Capped Conure,
Gayle Richardson



LET THERE BE LIGHT

by JoAnn Irvin

How do you feel in the winter months? You get up in the morning and it's dark. You start your daily routine and leave the house as the sun is just coming up. You work in a building under artificial light all day and leave to go home just as the sun is going down. You look forward to the weekend when you can get out and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine just to find out that it is going to be cloudy. You have the Winter blahs! Now you can put yourself in your bird's feathers 365 days a year.

Parrots in the wild spend their day searching for food, preening and yes, sun bathing. They need the full spectrum of light that sunlight provides.

For upwards of 20 years aviculturists, breeders, and avian veterinarians have recognized the benefits of using specialized lighting over birds that are native to areas of the world that receive huge amounts of the most undiluted sunlight to reach the earth.

How does full spectrum light affect pet birds?

Breeders', exotic bird collections, and poultry production farms were some of the original places that the use of full spectrum lighting was demonstrated to have a definite positive effect. There were noticeable increases in the amount of offspring produced and in the survival rate of those offspring in facilities that switched to full spectrum lighting - most originally used incandescent or standard fluorescent lights.

Exotic animal veterinarians would see light-deprived birds and reptiles that exhibited signs of calcium deficiency even though their diet seemed to contain sufficient sources of calcium - one of the most obvious signs was that when x-rays were taken of these animals they would see fractures in their bones.

Vitamin D3 is a hormone necessary for animals (and humans) for the digestive tract to be able to extract calcium from their diet. Without sufficient amounts of D3 even large amounts of calcium supplementation will not benefit these animals. The greatest benefits of full spectrum lighting are the natural synthesis of D3 in the skin allowing the animal to naturally regulate it, as well as the effect the lighting has on the glandular system of the animal.

The Thyroid and Pineal glands as well as the Hypothalamus control many of the most important functions in a birds system. For both of these glands to function properly they need to be stimulated by normal photo periods of full spectrum light.

What is full spectrum light?

Full spectrum light is the name we give to the light produced by the sun after it passes through the earth's atmosphere. In the tropics (where most pet birds originate) the sun's light reaches the earth in its most undiluted form. In captivity we use various fluorescent lights to try to reproduce sunlight as closely as possible. The parts of sunlight we are most interested in reproducing are in the ultraviolet spectrum - in particular UV A and UV B light.



Let There Be Light (Continued)

Direct sunlight that passes through your homes windows has upwards of **90%** of the beneficial UV spectrum *filtered out* by the glass. Studies have even shown that, 30% or more, sunlight can be filtered out by the screening used in many homes. If you have screening over the glass in your home you are not receiving any UV spectrum light through your windows at all.

Why should I use lights for my birds?

By improving access to UVA and UVB light you are providing your bird the ability to produce the necessary vitamin D3 that is required for proper calcium uptake and may be necessary for appropriate thyroid metabolism. In studies done by Tammy Jenkins, DVM providing full spectrum light for your bird can help eliminate feather destructive behaviors. Also, if provided consistently year around can help minimize seasonal hormonal behaviors. The use of full spectrum light will also enhance the feather color and vitality of companion parrots.

Recommend Use of Full Spectrum Lighting.

Full Spectrum lights should be used for twelve hours per day with lights placed two feet or closer to the bird. At beyond two feet of distance the effects of the bulb are greatly lessened. These bulbs should only be used with a light timer. Having these lights go on or off at even slightly different times of the day could cause potential reproductive behaviors in your bird, such as territorial aggression or egg laying. Both of these behaviors are best avoided with our companion birds.

Fresh Look with Lighting

Taking its inspiration from the natural world, illumination with full spectrum lighting is the stylish—and healthy—way to turn a lamp into a little piece of the sun.

You should give your bird the opportunity to see as many of the colors in its visual spectrum as possible, either by providing natural light or appropriate artificial lighting. Most parrots can see several thousand more colors, hues and tones, than we can. The 'extra' colors are made up of UV A and UV B light mixing with the red, green and blue combinations that we also see. So the lighting provided should reflect this situation. Birds should have access to unfiltered natural daylight. Where artificial light is provided, this should match daylight color temperatures as near as possible. Fluorescent lights are quite good at doing this, but sadly, most operate at only 70 hertz. This means they flash on and off seventy times every second. To humans, the flashing is imperceptible because we have a flicker-fusion rate of a mere 15Hz, the maximum number of images our eyes and brain can process per second. Birds have a flicker-fusion rate of up to 170Hz. They probably need this to facilitate high speed flight through trees.

Whatever your taste, a successful interior design concept including a full spectrum lighting source should make your space--and your bird's space--light, bright and cheery-- a place that you both want to come home to and live in.



Bird Fair Pictures



A very friendly Cockatoo



Parrot Fever – one of 16 vendors at the fair



The Bird Fair mission is *education!*



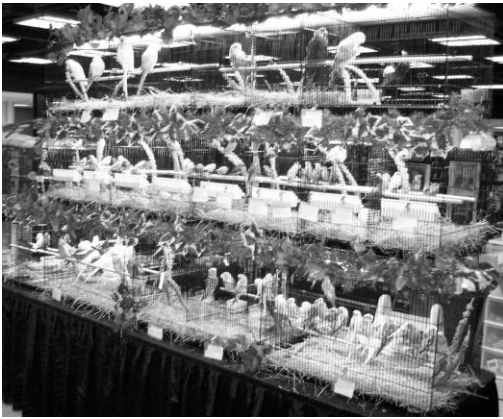
Eddie and *Bird Talk Magazine*



Bird Fair Pictures



More bird vendors at this year's fair



And beautiful cages!

Thanks to Larry
Bailey for these
great photos.

Club Notes

SWVBC Loses a Friend

This Spring SWVBC lost a very good friend to cancer. Betty Baird, a lovely and classy lady, lost her three-year battle with her illness. Betty was an accomplished equestrian who competed in endurance rides, where the object is to ride 100 miles in under 24 hours. She shared some of her adventures, always including the fact that her African Grey, Charlie, traveled with her to each event. During the actual endurance ride, Charlie would entertain all of those who stayed behind. Charlie was not her only bird; Betty once owned a female Eclectus and had recently “been taken-in by” a Cockatoo. She loved them all and enjoyed our get-togethers where we could share our flock stories. Because of her concern for our feathered friends, Betty asked that any memorials to her be sent to the Gabriel Foundation.

Members of the club took a rosebud arrangement, complete with Grey and Cockatoo feathers, to the funeral home and the club Board of Directors voted to send a memorial gift of \$100 to the Gabriel Foundation. Gifts from individual club members, in the amount of \$90.50, were also sent to the Foundation. Betty will be missed.

African Greys Endangered!!

Well, not quite yet, but it can happen. According to the newest brochure put out by The Parrot Trust, the African Grey is one of twelve species listed as endangered or nearly endangered. How can that happen? Thousands of Greys are currently being netted and shipped out of Africa (with many of them not surviving the trip) for other ports. Greys are such popular birds, mostly because of their intelligence and speaking ability, that they can easily be sold even if they have been illegally imported. Hopefully, none of us are contributing to the problem by purchasing wild caught birds of any species.



Club Notes

August Meeting Well Attended

The Roanoke meeting on August 12, 2003, was graced with the presence of Terry Moore and her Moluccan Cockatoo, Boogie. Wow, was he well behaved, showing off at just the right moments! Terry and Boogie spoke to us about the joys of raising a re-homed bird and it is obvious that their match has worked well. About thirty people attended the meeting, including some new folks and some who have been gone for a while. One of the most important points presented during this meeting was that, as our birds may very well out-live us, it is important for us to secure future homes for our flock members.

The Blacksburg meeting was an “Open House” to introduce Beth Bottom, our new meeting coordinator and club liaison in Blacksburg. Here, too, several new folks attended and one couple just stopped by to get a membership application. Beth is doing a great job with publicizing our meetings in both locations. Thanks, Beth! For those of you in the Blacksburg area who would like more information on the meetings or would like to contribute your talents to help Beth, please give her a call at 951-0474 or email her at bbottom@pop.vt.edu.



Beth Bottom working hard to support the August Blacksburg meeting.

Birds Up for Adoption

- ❖ Female Eclectus, two years old. A real sweetie. \$900 with cage and accessories. Has had vet care.
- ❖ Female Umbrella, Cockatoo about two years old. Currently picking. Price is right. Has been vet checked.

For information on either of these birds, please call Sue Brewer at 366-1193



Special Events

A Special Weekend in “Birddom”

Mark your calendars now for the weekend of October 4 and 5! The Amazona Society and The Bird Clubs of America are joining forces for a CONVENTION in VIRGINIA. Held at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center of Hampton, this will be the educational and entertaining event of the decade in our area. The registration cost is \$60 and the rooms at the convention center are \$89 per day, if you register by September 3, 2003. The program will include Sally Blanchard (Editor of Companion Parrot Magazine), Nancy Burke, Nigel Carter, Dennis Saydak, and Nancy Speed. Nancy owns and operates “The P Patch Aviary” in Mississippi and was very helpful with eggs for our Bird Fair egg exhibit. There will also be a Bird Mart at the convention, just in case you didn’t buy all you needed at our fair. To get the most up-to-date information and an application to the convention, visit the American Amazona Society on the Internet at www.AmazonaSociety.org. If you are interested in going to the convention, talk to Sue Brewer or Edie Manual.



Dr. Branson Ritchie, DVM to Visit the Area

Kashmir Csaky, a local macaw breeder and SWVBC friend, has asked our club for some help with a worthwhile project. She is making plans to bring Dr. Branson Ritchie to the area for a seminar. The date and time for the event are still undecided but, hopefully, it will take place in Roanoke. Members of our club will be asked to help set up and publicize the event as well as attend.

Dr. Ritchie is known worldwide as a respected avian disease researcher and is a faculty member of the University of Georgia. He has published several books currently being used as reference and text books at veterinary schools. It is widely accepted that his research will bring the vaccines and the end to most diseases that threaten our flocks today. In that companion birds are not held to the importance of dogs and cats, research monies are often difficult or impossible to find. All proceeds from this event will go directly to Dr. Ritchie’s research efforts. As soon as we have more details, we will share them with all of our members.

Photo Contest 2003 Winners

Large Birds-Fun With Feathers

- 1) Bette Stubbs- African Grey with a cat-"Mom would have a fit if she saw us together!"
 - 2) King Irvin-Hampton- Moluccan Cockatoo-"More Water Please!"
 - 3) Melody Blankenship- Rene, DYH Amazon-"It's raining in the kitchen!"
 - 4) Gayle Richardson- Rocky, Rock Pebbler-"I see a Birdie-oh, so beautiful!"
 - 5) Sue Brewer-Skittles, BF Amazon-"Good to the last drop!"
 - 6) Bette Stubbs-African Grey-"Never try to eat anything bigger than your head!"
- HM Wayne/Melanie Bond-Puffatoo, Umbrella Cockatoo-"Wet and Wild!"
HM King Irvin-Zeus, BF Amazon-"Show Time!"

Large Birds- Beauty

- 1) Sue Brewer-Maui, Male Eclectus
 - 2) Gayle Richardson-Rocky, Rock Pebbler
 - 3) Sue Brewer-Maui, Male Eclectus
 - 4) Sue Brewer-Granite, African Grey
 - 5) King Irvin-Honeydew, Miligold Macaw
 - 6) Sue Brewer-Granite, African Grey
- HM Sue Brewer-Skittles, BF Amazon
HM Sue Brewer-Maui, Male Eclectus

Small Birds- Fun With Feathers

- 1) Sue Brewer-Petie,Nanday Conure, Skittles, BF Amazon-"Whisper Sweet Nothings.."
 - 2) Sue Brewer-Wedgewood, Blue Quaker-"Yuk, I've tasted better!"
 - 3) Sue Brewer-Jello, Quaker-"My buddy, I love my buddy!"
 - 4) Angelika Miner-
 - 5) Gayle Richardson-Willie, Cockatiel-"Where did this come from?"
 - 6) Sue Brewer-Pearl Girl, Cockatiel-"Top Bird!"
- HM Gayle Richardson-Beau, Gold Capped Conure-"Munch with crunch!"
HM Sue Brewer-Jeffrey, Blue Crowned Conure-"I taw I saw a puddy tat!"

Small Birds-Beauty

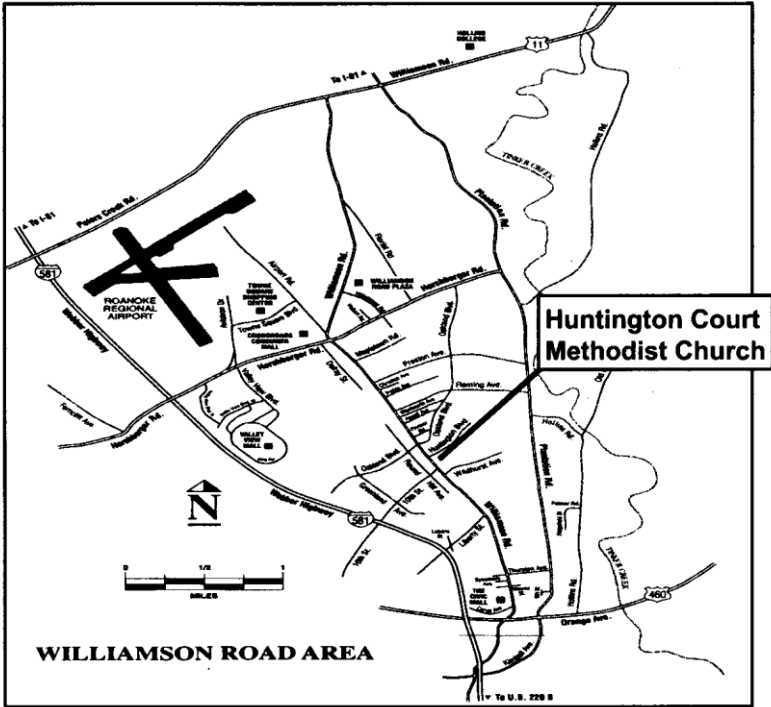
- 1) Gayle Richardson-Crockett, Gold Capped Conure
 - 2) Gayle Richardson-Crockett, Gold Capped Conure
 - 3) Sue Brewer-Pearl Girl, Cockatiel
 - 4) Sue Brewer-Jello, Quaker
 - 5) Gayle Richardson-Gouldian finches
 - 6) Melody Blankenship-Cindy Lou, Cockatiel
- HM Sue Brewer-Pearl Girl, Cockatiel
HM Sue Brewer-Jeffrey, Blue Crowned Conure
HM Sherry Brumfield, Cockatiel

You know you're into parrots if....

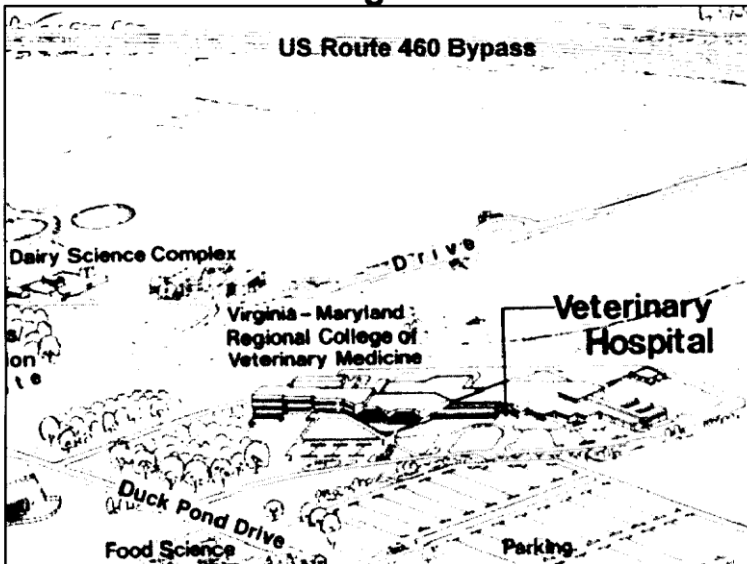
- your home contains 8 cages, 10 playstands, 6 swings, and a bed.
- you are zoned as a rainforest wildlife sanctuary by your city.
- all your neighbors move away, and you live in an apartment.
- you consider collard greens, dandelion greens, parsnips, mustard green, and escarole to be common vegetables.
- you go through the store checkout with 18 different fruits and veggies (none of which you plan to eat).
- the person behind you at the checkout asks how you prepare the collard greens you're holding and you say that you haven't the slightest idea.
- you have to explain to the lawncare company that you like dandelions in your yard.
- you see absolutely nothing wrong with having every piece of furniture in your living room topped with cages while your lamp is on the floor and you use a lap desk because the desk itself holds your parrot toy box.
- redecorating the house means finding a way to squeeze in another bird cage.
- your garage contains extra cages, playstands, toys, but no car.
- you've ever answered the phone with a parrot on your head.
- you tell people on the phone, "I can't talk now; I've got a parrot on my head."
- people overhearing your parrot discussions think you're talking about your date.
- you drive around on recycling day looking for the biggest piles of newspaper to steal and feel guilty when people look out their windows and pity you.
- you want world peace, to save the environment, a cure for AIDS and a better way to clean up bird poo.
- you have vases full of feathers instead of flowers.
- you have 3 tv's and none of them are for you to use.
- your c.d. collection contains opera, classical, and speech lessons, none of which you listen to.
- you haven't owned an alarm clock in 10 years, but never get up late.
- when you're at Home Depot you're busy dreaming about building new play areas.
- you have no carpet in your house, anywhere.
- you shower in the guest bathroom, because the master bath is too full of perches.
- your friends come over for dinner and offer to make a salad, to which you reply "none of those vegetables are for humans!"
- you haven't taken a vacation in 10 years, and like it that way.
- every room in your home is equipped with U.V. lighting.
- your walls are lined with Plexiglas, your ceilings are lined with Plexiglas, and your floors are covered in plastic runners, and they are all still stained.
- you replace your vacuum at least twice a year.



Roanoke Directions



Blacksburg Directions



Southwest Virginia Bird Club

The Southwest Virginia Bird Club holds its monthly meetings in Roanoke on the Tuesday before the second Wednesday of each month, and in Blacksburg on the second Wednesday of each month. Roanoke meetings are usually held in the Huntington Court Methodist Church, and Blacksburg meetings are usually held at the Virginia Tech Veterinary School. The SWVBC does occasionally meet elsewhere. As the newsletter is only published quarterly, postcards with meeting information will be mailed to all members a week in advance.

Annual individual membership dues are \$15.00; the family rate is \$20.00. Please submit a completed membership application (see back page) to join SWVBC and again each subsequent year to renew.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, stories, pictures, etc. to the editor for publication in upcoming newsletters. The newsletter is published in the Fall (September), Winter (December), Spring (March), and Summer (July). Submission deadline is two weeks before the publication month. Please send ads, articles, pictures, etc. to Melody Blankenship, 2311-G Broadway, Roanoke, VA, 24014 or email to melody.blankenship@taproanoke.org.

Address all other correspondence, dues payments, etc. to:

Southwest Virginia Bird Club
P.O. Box 2034
Salem, VA 24153-0465

Bird of the Month

Our club is always concerned about the health of your feathered loved ones, which is why we ask members **not** to bring their birds to the meetings. Well, we have to express our love on *someone*, so each month this very special honor goes to a single bird per meeting. Due to logistics, the Bird of the Month may not be the same for the Roanoke meeting as for the Blacksburg meeting.

So, if you want your birdy to strut his or her stuff, please contact Sue Brewer at 366-1193 to coordinate visits. If you can, please send a photograph with a paragraph or two describing your loved one to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

The SWVBC is proud to be a member of the American Federation of Aviculture, World Parrot Trust, The Gabriel Foundation and Partners in Flight.



Southwest Virginia Bird Club
Membership Application

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Application: _____

Annual membership entitles you to a newsletter, access to club library, and other club sponsored projects. Annual Membership Category:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid Cash | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid by Check |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |

What type of bird(s) do you have?

Would you be interested in serving on any committees?
(Bird Fair Committee, Donation Committee, etc.)

Please mail to:

Southwest Virginia Bird Club
P.O. Box 2034
Salem, VA 24153-0465

Please make checks payable to Southwest Virginia Bird Club