

Southwest Virginia Bird Club



**Holiday Meeting
December 12, 2004**

Avian First Aid

Make Your Own Bird Toys

Winter 2004-05

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 valuable information on bird first aide, all about our Holiday Meeting, how to make your own bird toys, and lots of club notes. So, take a few minutes to enjoy your newsletter.

Our cover bird this month is Kelly, part of Barry Young's flock. Kelly took first place in the Birds are Funny category at this year's Bird Fair Picture Competition.



Second place winner, King and JoAnn Irvin's Hampton.

Winter 2004-05

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SWVBC Board of Directors for 2004

Sue Brewer, Chairperson -----	366-1193
Melody Blankenship, Newsletter Ed. -----	344-0313
JoAnn Irvin, Secretary & Webmaster -----	774-5121
Eddie Manuel, Treasurer-----	992-2948
Angelika Miner, BCV Representative -----	965-3057
Terry Moore, Membership-----	265-4777
Maureen Eiger, Member at large -----	342-4890

Website: www.swvbc.org

Avian First Aid

By Dr. Jennifer Long, DVM

Signs indicating your bird may need help can be obvious or barely noticeable: bleeding, holding a leg up, a drooping wing, resting weight on the beak, open mouth breathing, tail bobbing, clicking noise with breathing, sitting on the bottom of the cage, sitting low on the perch, fluffed appearance, shivering, regurgitation, nasal discharge, abnormal stool, lack of coordination, etc.



Early detection and intervention can make the difference between a quick recovery and a long or no recovery.

What you can do:

First, and foremost, stay calm! Your bird can sense that you are stressed and will become stressed, too. Try to observe your bird before you take any action. Have your veterinary's phone number available to call if you have questions. If you need to handle your bird, wrap him carefully in a towel, holding the towel around his neck and cradling his body. Do not put pressure over the chest or crop area and keep the wings from flapping. **The most important things to provide are warmth and food.**

- **Bleeding.** If your bird is not actively bleeding or if there is just a small amount of oozing, leave the bird alone and just observe. If bleeding becomes more profuse calmly secure the bird and put **pressure** on the site of bleeding with a gauze sponge or towel.
Use cornstarch or flour on a bleeding nail or blood feather. You may also place a small amount of super glue on a crack in a blood feather. If the feather will not stop bleeding it will need to be pulled very carefully with a pair of hemostats or pliers near the base of the feather. This should only be done as a last resort.
If the bleeding will not stop, see your veterinarian immediately. A pressure wrap may be placed using gauze or cotton and tape or vet wrap until you see the vet. Use care not to wrap the chest or crop too tight.
- **Wounds:** if you are able to stop the bleeding, clean the wound. If it is superficial you may use an antiseptic such as dilute betadine. If the wound is deeper or penetrates the abdominal cavity, flush carefully with sterile saline and call your veterinarian immediately. If the abdominal contents are coming from the wound, flush with saline and place a saline moistened gauze over the wound and contents until you can get to the veterinarian. If the wound is caused by another animal, whether or not you see a puncture, get to the vet immediately.
- **Prolapse From the Vent:** Fleshy matter coming out of your bird's vent may be an oviduct, cloaca, rectum, etc. Flush with saline and cover with a layer of lubricant such as KY Jelly to keep moist. Call your veterinarian.

- **Bone Fracture:** Place the bird in a box with holes cut for air. Line the bottom of the box with unwoven towels and place food and water on the bottom of the box. Use towels to support the bird. Do not use perches! Call your veterinarian.

You may wrap a broken wing to prevent flapping. Place the wing against the bird's body in a normal position and wrap with vet wrap or masking tape around wing and body. Be careful not to wrap too tightly across the chest as birds must be able to expand their chests in order to breathe.

If bone is exposed you may flush the site carefully with sterile saline. Put pressure on any area that is bleeding.

- **Burns:** Flush the burned area with water that is just slightly cooler than room temperature. Apply triple antibiotic ointment (e.g. Neosporin). If the burn is more severe than a tiny minor burn, call your veterinarian.
- **Heat Stroke:** A bird experiencing heat stroke may be panting, holding his wings out from his body, be lethargic, or depressed. Mist the bird with water just cooler than room temperature. Do not hold the bird in your hands or a towel. Call your vet.
- **Shock:** Any injury or illness can cause shock. The bird will be weak, depressed, may seem sleepy even in a stressful situation, or may be shivering. Provide warmth by placing a heating pad under or on top of the cage or box* and cover with a blanket. Monitor the bird for overheating. You may administer fluids such as Gatorade, Pedialyte, or diluted fruit juice with a dropper. If the bird is not swallowing do not continue. Call you veterinarian.
- **Head Trauma:** If your bird flies head first into a window, a mirror, or a ceiling fan keep him quiet and warm in a box* with towels and call your veterinarian.
- **Toxic Ingestion:** If your birds swallows your pills or medication, household cleaners, antifreeze, zinc or lead containing materials, toxic plants or branches, or unsafe foods such as avocado, chocolate, fruit pits, etc. call your veterinarian. The best treatment is a crop flush by your vet. Other antidotes and activated charcoal may be given by the vet. If you can't get to the vet and the ingested material is not caustic you may induce regurgitation by administering a small amount of diluted hydrogen peroxide (this causes GI irritation, thus regurgitation). You may also feed your bird a small amount of bread or milk.
- **Respiratory Difficulties:** If your bird is having trouble breathing keep him calm and warm and call your vet.
- **Seizures:** Keep your bird from injuring himself but do not get bitten. Call your vet.
- **General Weakness, Sitting Low on the Perch, Sitting on the Bottom of the Cage:** These activities may indicate a large array of problems. Keep your bird warm, try to administer fluids such as Gatorade or Pedialyte and



call your vet.

- **CPR:** Assess for breathing by watching for rising and falling of the chest. Assess for a heart beat by placing your fingers over the chest or back and feeling for a pulse.

If your bird is not breathing, place your mouth over his open beak and nostrils and give a breath. Do not get bitten if the bird wakes up. If your bird is very big you may need to hold his beak shut and breathe into nostrils only or vice versa. Give a breath every 4 to 8 seconds.

If you do not feel a heart beat give chest compressions by pressing on the bird's sternum while supporting his back. Give 8 quick compressions then breathe; continue until the bird is breathing.

Prevention is the key to a healthy bird!

1. *Annual exams* at the vet.
2. *Hygiene.* Clean the cage and the food bowls daily. The bowls should be clean enough for you to eat from.
3. *Nutrition.* Feed your bird a proper diet. Poor nutrition such as from a seed only diet is the leading cause of health problems in birds.
4. *Toxic free environment.* Keep your bird away from toxic plants, foods, or medicine. A rusty cage or toys must be changed immediately. Do not allow chewing of painted surfaces or the backs of mirrors.
5. *Flight dangers.* Turn off ceiling fans, cover windows and mirrors, cover the toilet bowl, etc. when your bird is allowed free flight. Do not over trim your bird's wings; he should still be able to glide smoothly to the ground.



*Any time your bird is weak or has poor balance he should be placed in a box such as above under **Fractures** to prevent injury.

Dr. Long has recently joined the Valley Animal Hospital practice on a part-time basis and specializes in avian and exotic animal medicine.

Online Pet Connection

If you need to find a lost animal, find the owner of a lost animal, want to become a foster parent to an animal, or find an animal shelter or hospital go to www.PETS911.com This website has all kinds of great information and is now partnering with Animal Planet to make it easier for animal lovers and owners to find the resources they need to keep their pets (most definitely including birds) happy and healthy. The website loads fairly quickly, even when using a modem and is easy to use. Check it out.

Bird Talk, January 2005

Club Notes

September

To the delight of everyone, Chris Stewart, brought her young parrotlet, Gizmo, to the Sept. 7 meeting in Roanoke and the Sept. 8 meeting in Blacksburg. Parrotlets are beautiful, intelligent, fun loving, and independent. In other words, they are truly parrots. Chris talked about their personalities, nutritional needs, housing, and behavioral characteristics and encouraged those wanting a parrot but with limited space to think about acquiring parrotlets.



October

SWVBC held an open house for prospective, new, and old members alike on Oct. 12 in Roanoke and on Oct. 13 in Blacksburg. Both meetings were well attended, with great snacks and beautiful birds to meet.

Angelika Miner brought lots of beautiful budgies to share during the Blacksburg open house. Several of Sue Brewer's flock were also there, including a very friendly gray (Granite) and male Electus (Maui). Melody Blankenship's DY Amazon, Rene, attended both the Blacksburg and the Roanoke meetings. JoAnn Irvin's Miligold Macaw, Honeydew, and Maureen Eiger's Quaker, Spirit, also visited the Roanoke meeting.



November

At both the Roanoke and the Blacksburg meeting in November, Dr. Jennifer Long, DVM spoke to the members about avian first aid. Dr. Long, a new member of the Valley Animal Hospital staff, specializes in avian and exotic animal care. She emphasized how important it is to observe your bird carefully so that you can tell when normal behavior becomes abnormal, often the only sign of illness in a bird. Dr. Long's remarks are reprinted on page 4 of this newsletter.



Thanks to Sue Brewer, the club offered fully stocked avian first aid kits for sale after the meeting.

Club Notes, continued

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, December 12, 2004

Combined Meeting: Huntington Court Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m.

Please see Page 12 for details on this very special meeting.

January 11, 2005

Roanoke: Huntington Court Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

January 12, 2005

Blacksburg: Virginia Tech Veterinary School at 7:00 p.m.

The Mini Macaws will be making an appearance. If you thought Macaws were always HUGE birds, then you need to see these little darlings.

February 8, 2005

Roanoke: Huntington Court Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

February 9, 2005


Blacksburg: Virginia Tech Veterinary School at 7:00 p.m.

King and JoAnn Irvin will be regaling us with tales and pictures of their recent birding trip to Australia. This is a meeting you do not want to miss!

Please check www.swvbc.org often for meeting updates and special events.



Parrot Fever, LLC
Pet Bird Toys & Supplies
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More Club Notes

No, no Santa—No birds for Christmas, please

This is not an original thought; I borrowed it from an article in the Alaska Bird Club Newsletter. If you know a “Santa” who is planning to purchase a bird **for someone else** this holiday, you might have him/her **HALT** unless the recipient: has clearly expressed a desire to have said species; has spent much time checking out this species,; does not already have 15 other animals; has a life-style with housing suitable for that species, etc.

A caged bird has a rough enough time coming down a chimney—we want to make certain it will be more than welcome when it arrives. So, talk to “Santa” and enthusiastically encourage him/her to give a gift of a coupon that can be redeemed at any time for a “fun-filled trip to find **the best** bird.

You can call me “Scrooge” or Board Member/bird re-homer, but we don’t need any more unwanted birds trying to find new homes. Have a happy holiday season.

Sue Brewer, Chairperson, SWVBC

Nominations Made for Board of Directors 2005

The voting and installation of the 2005 Board will take place at the Holiday Meeting of the SWVBC on Dec. 12 at Huntington Court Methodist Church in Roanoke. The following have been nominated for eight of the maximum nine seats on the board:

Melody Blankenship
JoAnn Irvin
Angelika Miner

Sue Brewer
Chris Lewis
Holly Tarquino

Maureen Eiger
Edie Manual

Additional nominations may be written in or taken from the floor. The board is responsible for the programs and other decisions made during the year and we hope we have lots of help this year.

Got Feathers?

If you have birds you probably have feathers from past and present molts. Instead of just tossing them in the trash, put them in plastic bags and store them in the freezer, yes, the freezer! Why the freezer? We have learned that cold storage will do away with any little “varmint” hanging about in feathers that would eventually deteriorate them. Our feather exhibit will probably need some repair or replacement, so we need feathers—all sizes, shapes, and species. Please save your feathers so we can save our exhibits.



Even More Club Notes

Second printing of the SWVBC Bird Care Booklet now available

The second (improved) printing of our Book Care Booklet was recently received. This printing includes updated information and four half-page ads. The advertisements help cover the cost of the printing. Those who advertised will be given copies of the booklet to distribute from their businesses. More booklets will be placed at the Valley Animal Hospital where many of our local birds are treated now that Dr. Rolfe has left us for her new practice in Florida. The distribution of these booklets is part of our mission to educate as many people as possible about owning, living with, and loving companion birds and, especially, those contemplating the purchase of a bird.

If you know of a place where these booklets might be distributed that would reach our target audience, please give Sue Brewer a call.

Bird Clubs of America to meet April 9 & 10, 2005

This year's event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Fredericksburg and it will be lots of fun, especially if a group of SWVBC club members decides to attend. So, check your calendar and your pocket to see if it will be possible for you to attend. The special room rate for a double is \$89. The registration fee is \$65, a low price compared to some other conferences.

EB Cravens, a natural bird keeper from the big island of Hawaii will speak at the conference as well as Eric Peake, a bird naturalist and nationally known painter. Our club is considering taking our feather and egg exhibits to really WOW the whole audience. Of course there will also be a bird fair-type mart (minus most birds) where we will be able to pick up the latest in birdie paraphernalia. We are hoping to find a new vendor willing to come to our fair next summer. Anyone wanting to attend the conference can get in touch with Sue Brewer and we will see if we can car pool and/or share rooms.

The Irvins are down under

JoAnn and King Irvin left on November 13 for a few weeks in Australia specifically to see all the birds they can find. Being the great bird people they are, they have set up a website where they will post messages and pictures as often as they can. Check it out at <http://members.cox.net/parott-fever/>. They will return to Roanoke in December.



Birds Needing a Home

For the right “bird friendly” home, a 4 1/2 year old male(?) Umbrella Cockatoo with cage and accessories. Dad can’t handle the ‘too screams. Gets along well with mom and son. Good price. Call Sue Brewer at 366-1193

Our website, www.swvbc.org, now has a new page, *Adoptions*, where you can find birds needing a home or homes needing a bird. Please check this site often for the most up-to-date list of adoptions needs.

SWVBC does not take any responsibility in matching new owners; we will only help you make the connection.

Financial Report			
August 2004			
Beginning balance	\$ 1,089.54	Deposits	\$ 15.00
Ending balance	\$ 749.54	Withdrawal	\$ 355.00
September 2004			
Beginning balance	\$ 749.54	Deposits	\$ 0
Ending balance	\$ 727.34	Withdrawal	\$ 37.00
October 2004			
Beginning balance	\$ 712.54	Deposits	\$ 65.00
Ending balance	\$ 777.54	Withdrawal	\$ 0
November 2004			
Beginning balance	\$ 777.54	Deposits	\$ 145.00
Ending balance date		Withdrawal	\$ 116.44
Nov. 12, 2004	\$ 806.10		

I would like to express my thanks, on behalf of the SWVBC, to Sue Brewer and Melody Blankenship for their dedication, hard work, and leadership of our club.

Eddie Manual

2004 Holiday Meeting

Come one, come all to our Holiday Meeting and Pot Luck dinner.

It's that time of year again. Time for celebration, feasting, fellowship, and elections. Yes, I know you thought we were over the election business, but we still have our own leadership to choose.

For the feast please bring enough of your favorite dish to feed several people. With all of our dishes on the groaning sideboard, we will have a lovely time socializing over the bounty of this year.

Following our meal, SWVBC officers and board members will be nominated, voted upon, and installed for 2005.

And last, but not by any means least, we will have our crazy gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$10 for birds or members of the birds' families. Who knows who will end up with which gift; that's the fun of the exchange.

We hope to see everyone from Roanoke and Blacksburg, as well as any guests you would like to bring, come to our Holiday meeting. It's a great way to end the year—with friends in the bird community.



Picture courtesy of Tweebette's Nest

By the way, while you are taking all those holiday pictures, re-

Homemade Bird Toys

As all bird parents know, toys are expensive, especially when your feather loved one destroys toys daily. To make your toy budget stretch further try making bird toys yourself. There are plenty of things you probably already have hanging around the house that you can use to make great toys, especially foraging toys. Here are some suggestions from a posting on the Eclectus listserv that have been well-received.

1. Use small, plain white paper cups to wrap a treat (nut, small pinch of sunflower seeds, etc) in. Fold over the top of the cup and string on a kabob, or wad the cup up and jam it between cage bars. Even put the treat-in-cup inside a different treat toy or a food cup. The bird will have to chew up the cup to get to the treat.
2. Do the same as above with a piece of black-and-white newspaper instead of a paper cup.
3. Cover a treat cup with a piece of newspaper so the bird has to remove it or chew up the paper to get to the treat. Vary the covering - a few layers of paper, a wadded-up piece of paper, even a paper cover taped with a tiny piece of masking tape to the top of the cup. *Note: be careful that the tape doesn't end up inside your bird. It can cause serious digestion problems.*
4. Do the same as above with popsicle sticks instead of newspaper. Start by laying only a couple of sticks over the cup so your bird can see the treats underneath. Add sticks gradually until the whole cup is covered. Leave the sticks loose so the bird just has to toss them aside, or tape them in place so your bird has to chew through them. See the note above about tape.
5. Cut an old phone book (with black and white pages) into three or 4 pieces through the spine, so each section is held together by a piece of spine. Drape over the top bars of the cage near a perch so your bird can chew up the hanging pages.
6. Roll a plain white paper plate into a tube (use the ultra-cheap ones that don't have any kind of coating or wax on them). Stuff treats, newspaper strips or any other safe chewables into the tube, twist the ends shut and hang off a kabob.
7. Pick up a craft shop assortment pack of balsa or bass wood (both softer than pine, with balsa being the softest) pieces. Weave thin strips through cage bars, give medium-sized sticks or chunks for foot toys, and poke holes in larger chunks to hang in the cage for chewing.
8. Gouge holes in a chunk of balsa wood and put a sunflower seed or almond in the shell into each hole. Hang as a treat toy.

Try one or more of these toy making suggestions and use the results to stuff your bird's stocking this Christmas. It is sure to be a parrot pleaser.

It's All in the Tongue

In this section of the Fall 2004 issue of this newsletter, we printed an article about how birds talk. The article emphasized that a bird's syrinx produces all of the sounds and words we know as speech.. The following article offers another view.

When it comes to making noise, both parrots and humans rely on an extremely specialized vibrating organs in their throats. Now scientists at Indiana University and Leiden University in The Netherlands have shown for the first time that parrots, like humans, also use their tongues to craft and shape sound.

"This is the first direct evidence that parrots are able to use their large tongues to change the acoustic properties of their vocalizations," said IU Bloomington neurologist Roderick Suthers, who participated in the research. "The basic idea here, we believe, is that motor control of tongue movements is an important part of communication, just as it is in humans."

It's known that to produce sound, a parrot uses its syrinx, a voice box organ nestled between the trachea and lungs. The lingering question has been: What happens to that sound as it moves up and out of the throat? Ornithologists and bird enthusiasts have long noticed that parrots bob their tongues back and forth while they vocalize, but it wasn't known whether the tongue motions contributed significantly to sound-making.

The report by Suthers and biologists Gabriel Beckers and Brian Nelson in the Sept. 7 [2004] issue of *Current Biology* shows that even tiny changes in the position of a parrot's tongue can lead to big differences in sound.

The scientists also believe they are the first to identify four acoustic "formants" in parakeet sounds. Formants are small ranges of frequencies that remain strongly audible as sound travels past the throat, tongue, mouth and nasal cavities. The geometry of these passages deadens some frequencies but leaves others relatively unaffected. What's left distinguishes the character of a sound — in this case, the voice of a parakeet.

Reprinted from The Roanoke Times, 9-5-2004



Who's really talking?

DY Amazon, Jessie

Barry Young

A Visit From Santa Bird ...Narrated by an African Grey



"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the nest, not a wing was a flutter; we birds were at rest. Our feed cups were hung by the cage doors indeed, in hopes that Santa would fill them with seed.

We Parrots were perching all snug in our beds, while visions of pine nuts danced through our heads. After another long day of taking our flap, Mom and Dad settled down for a long winter's nap. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my cage to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, chewed open the shutters and threw up my mash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, looked as bare as my chest (well, what do you know?). When what to my beady eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. With a little grey driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment he wasn't too slick. More rapid than eagles. Hey Senegals, and Conures, and Yellow Napes, and Toucans, Macaws, and Eclectus, and all you Moluccans.

To the top of your perches (don't splatter the wall), now listen, now listen; can you hear our loud call? As seed shucks that wild parrots make fly, when they meet with an obstacle; take that in your eye! So up to the nest-top those reindeer they flew, with a sleigh full of toys, and Santa Bird too. That's when I heard it, (was it The Real Macaw?) the scratching and digging of each little claw.

As I flew back to my cage and was turning around, down the chimney Santa Bird crashed - - a terrible sound. He was dressed all in feathers from his head to his foot, and his wings were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

Zac Squiggles safe toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a vulture awaiting a snack. His eyes, how they twinkled! his strutting, how merry! his grey wings enormous, his red tail like a cherry! His sharp little beak was as black as a crow, and the skin on his chest was as bare as the snow. The stump of a cracker he held tight in his bill, and he gobbled the crumbs til he'd had his fill.

He had a grey face, and a round naked belly, that was as ugly and pink, as a ham from the deli. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly grey elf, and I laughed, when I saw him, cause he looked like myself. But, he let me know I had nothing to dread, everything was okay, cause my tail was red. He spoke lots of words, while he continued his work, and filled all the treat cups, then called me a jerk.

And laying a wing-tip aside of his beak, up the chimney he rose like a sneak. He sprang to his sleigh, to the team gave a whistle, and away they all flew, like the down off a Quetzal. But, I heard him shriek, ere he flew out of sight, "Pine nuts to all, and to all a good-flight!"

Copyright The Real Macaw Parrot Club

ALL OF THIS FOR \$15 PER YEAR!

IN SWVBC WE **SHARE** – Whether it’s consoling someone who has just lost a bird or rejoicing with someone who has just added to his or her flock. We also share a lot of fun about feathered antics.



IN SWVBC WE **SOCIALIZE** – Before each meeting we spend a little time “catching up”, having refreshments, sharing and laughing, and sometimes even picking a feather or two off one another! In July we picnic with lots of good food and fun. And in December we gather with holiday decorations to sum up the year, have good food and fun, and exchange gifts in the wildest way possible!!

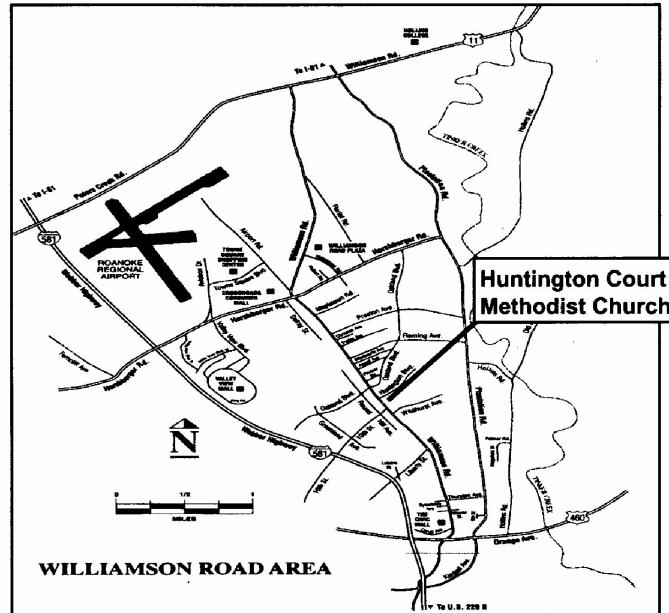
IN SWVBC WE **LEARN** – We have a program each month that informs each of us. We talk of specific species, first aid, nutrition, diseases, cages, safe toys, etc., etc., etc. We attend state and national conventions/seminars and bring back the best information to share. We read, read and read – *Bird Talk*, *Companion Quarterly* and the latest books. Our relationship with The World Parrot Trust and The Gabriel Foundation affords us some of the latest information on avian aviculture and rehabilitation. We sponsor nationally known speakers at our Bird Fair and invite the public to come and learn.

IN SWVBC WE **CONNECT** – We secure a “rehabber” to check on a pigeon in a parking lot and catch a lovebird in someone’s backyard in order to return it to its owner. We re-home a brown parrot with one of our members and get a pair of red-rump parakeets to a caring breeder. We facilitate the placing of a cockatoo with The Gabriel Foundation. We secure “babysitting” services when someone needs to travel and retrieve a quaker that has been relegated to a dark basement. We get information for a panicky pet owner that has a baby that won’t eat even though the expert had to do this by cell phone while on the way out of town. The list goes on as we speak....

IN SWVBC WE **TEACH** – We teach each other. We teach 2nd graders as well as the elderly at the Roanoke Methodist Home where a lady talked for the first time in months when she touched a parrot. We teach to television audiences and at veterinary clinics and at pet stores. At every opportunity, we share what we know. Some of us even teach at national conventions and seminars. We design and construct wonderful educational exhibits for our Bird Fair.

IN SWVBC WE **CARE.**

Roanoke Directions



Blacksburg Directions—Veterinary School

From Interstate 81 North

- Take EXIT 118 (also called 118 ABC) to Blacksburg, Virginia Tech
- Stay on Service Road
- Take exit 118B (460 West) and follow the signs to Virginia Tech and Bluefield, WV. This is the 460 Bypass.
- DO NOT take Route 460 BUSINESS.
- Continue approximately 8 miles to the main entrance to VA Tech (Southgate Drive - there will be a Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine sign).
- Turn RIGHT onto Route 314 (Southgate Drive). This is the main entrance into Virginia Tech.
- Take the first left onto Duckpond Drive.
- Take the second left off of Duckpond into the driveway of the VMRCVM.

From Route 460 East

- Take Route 460 EAST to Blacksburg
- DO NOT take 460 BUSINESS
- Continue on Route 460 for approximately 3-4 miles
- Go past the Prices Fork Exit.
- Turn LEFT at next light (Southgate Drive).
- Take the first left onto Duckpond Drive.

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 of each. Information is also available on our website at www.swvbc.org.

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 next newsletter will be published in March; the submission deadline is February 18, 2005. 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 7243
Roanoke, VA

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 7243
Roanoke, VA 24019

Please make checks payable to Southwest Virginia Bird Club

SWVB
P.O. Box 7243
Roanoke, VA 24019