



Bird Fair Photo Contest Winners
2009 SWVBC Bird Fair Report

Fall 2009

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 information on the Bird Fair (with pictures), Fair Photo contest winners, a parrot's Bill of Rights, and, of course, club notes.



The picture on our cover this quarter is the first place winner in the Small Birds are Beautiful category of the 2009 Bird Fair picture contest. This sun conure is part of Traci Thompson's flock.



Fall 2009

Table of Contents

2009 Bird Fair Report	3
2009 Bird Fair Pictures	4
2009 Bird Fair Picture Contest Winners.....	7
Club Notes	11
Club News	13
Eric Peake, Artist, Breeder, and SWVBC Friend	14
A PARROT'S BILL OF RIGHTS.....	15
Financial Report.....	17
A Note from the Membership Committee	18
Directions to SWVBC Meeting.....	19
Membership Application.....	21

SWVBC Board of Directors for 2009

Sue Brewer, Chairperson	366-1193
Melody Blankenship, Vice Chair	344-0313
Pat Rodes, Secretary	563-0824
Edie Manuel, Treasurer	992-2948
Evelyn Krippendorff, Membership	982-8499
Wanda Crowder, Hospitality	774-8233
Chris Lewis, Member at Large	343-3029
Lois MacDonald, Member at Large	342-0699
Peter Rodes, Member at Large	384-7789

Website: www.swvbc.org

2009 Bird Fair Report

Once again the SWVBC Bird Fair was a huge success. As last year, we were at the St. Elias Church Banquet Hall where the facilities are so nice and there is plenty of room for vendors, bird breeders, and fair goers. Here is a summary of the fair.

COSTS		REVENUE	
Venue	\$850.00	Admissions	\$1,210.75
Display Ad	562.00	Giant Raffle	974.00
Mini Computer	250.00	Vendors	1,780.00
Placards, Stakes	209.00	Small Raffle	104.00
Vet Tech/Videographer	100.00	Vendors On Fair Day	90.00
Food	51.92	Club Sales	80.75
Misc Rental	51.94	Food	52.00
Tape, Foam For Signs	20.92	Peake Prints	40.00
Copies	29.63	Memberships	115.00
Award Ribbons	17.22	Total Revenues	\$4446.50
Wrist Bands	17.00		
Postage	44.09		
Raffle Tickets	40.00		
Small Signs (Website)	48.00		
Misc. Materials	6.07		
Total Expenses	\$2,297.79		

Donations

Melody Blankenship	\$100 towards purchase of mini computer
Eileen Lau	Parrot purse for raffle
Evelyn Krippendorf	Shredder and Blackberry for raffle
Evelyn Krippendorf	Classified ads in The Roanoke Times
Pat Rodes	Design and creation of the seminar pamphlet
Holly Tarquinio	Sign stencils
Pete Rodes	Spray painting signs
Kim Mitchem	Play gym for raffle
Angelika Miner	Play gym for raffle

Advertising Survey

Fair goers reported that they heard about the fair from:

Poster coupons	26
Roanoke Times display ad coupons	23
Roanoke Times classified ad coupons	18
Website coupons	14

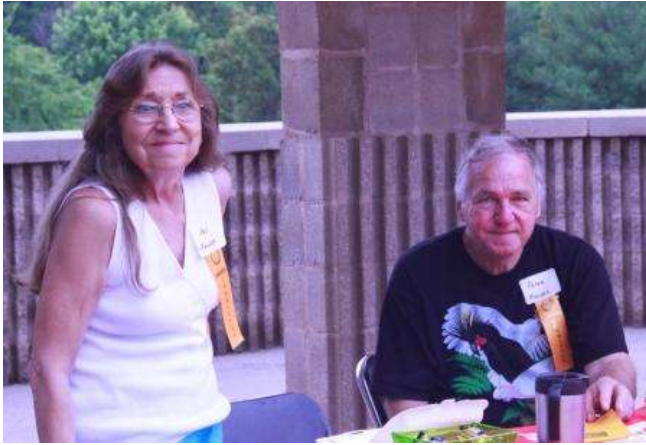
279 Admission tickets were sold

Revenue from club memberships:

New Members	\$65.00
Renewals	\$50.00

2009 Bird Fair Pictures by Lori Ashley







2009 Bird Fair Picture Contest Winners

Small and Beautiful



1st Place, Conure by Traci Thompson



2nd Place, Parrotlets by Traci Thompson



3rd Place, Little Fella by Pix Mahler

Big and Beautiful



1st Place, Cockatoo by Pete Rodes

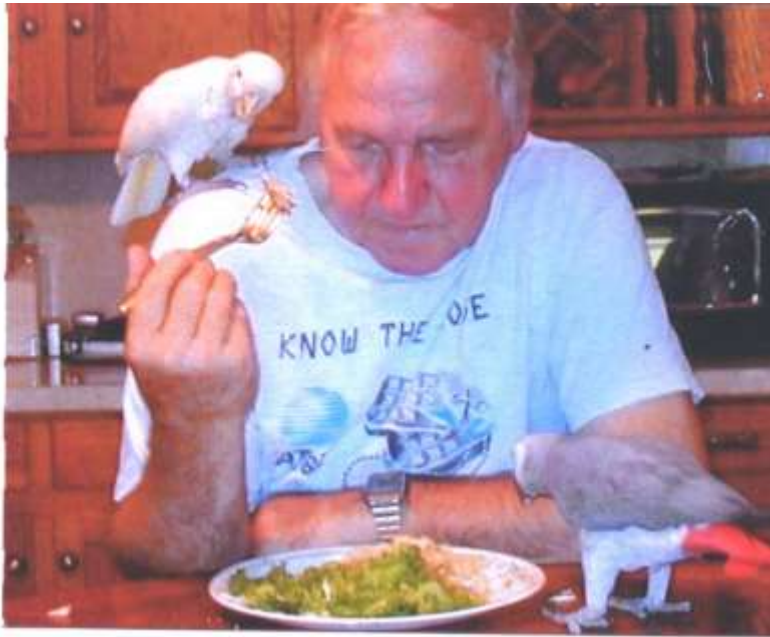


2nd Place, Blue Front Amazon by Sue Brewer



3rd Place, General – the Macaw by Traci Thompson

Small Birds Have Fun



1st Place, "Dinner Date" by Pete Rodes



2nd Place, "Whose turn is it to pay the bill?" by Traci Thompson



3rd Place, "I think I can get through there", by Edie Manual

Big Birds Have Fun



1st Place, "A cow says mooo!" by Pete Rodes



2nd Place, "It's nice to share." by Pete Rodes



3rd Place, "Cardboard is yummy!" by Traci Thompson

Club Notes

Previous Meetings

March 8, 2009

Our own Evelyn Krippendorf recently spent a week in Florida training with Steve Martin (not the comedian, the bird trainer). She used Pat and Pete Rodes' African Gry as a model to share what she has learned.

April 12, 2009

Gail Anderson, a wildlife re-hap specialist in Roanoke, talked to us about the ups and downs of wildlife re-hap, especially at this very busy time of spring hatching. She was not able to bring any babies with her this time but had plenty of stories – some silly, some sad – to share with us.



May 10, 2009

As we do each year at our May meeting, we prepared for our annual Bird Fair by working to put together signs, banners, and all matters Bird Fair – hard work but fun. SWVBC thanks all of its members who worked so hard to get ready for the fair as well as those who worked at the fair.

July 12, 2009

The Annual SWVBC Post-Fair Picnic was very well attended. The food was great and plentiful and Lori Ashley provided us with entertainment with her steel drum, ukulele, sing-alongs, and funny stories. The post-fair analysis was informative. We had a great fair and there is very little we need to change for next year. If, however, you have ideas to make the fair better, please speak up at the next meeting. We need to hear from everyone.



Upcoming Meetings

Please remember that all meetings are held in Roanoke at the Huntington Court Methodist Church at 3:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. The SWVBC Board of Directors meets at 2:30 p.m. before each general meeting.

September 13, 2009

Come make some toys for Phoenix Landing while we watch a DVD of Kashmir Csaky's talks at the fair-"Avoiding The Bite" and "Notes On Feather Destructive Behavior". Many of us did not have time at the fair to attend Kashmir's seminar and we are grateful for this second chance to hear her professional advice.



October 11, 2009

Program to be announced later. Contact Sue at 366-1193 if you have an idea for a program. Would you like to share your bird with us? Call Sue.

November 8, 2009

Program to be announced later. Contact Sue at 366-1193 if you have an idea for a program. Would you like to share your bird with us? Call Sue.

December 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. (Note time change)

Join us for our annual holiday party and pot luck dinner. Bring one or two of your favorite dishes to share and a \$10 gift for a parrot or parront to exchange. We will also be voting for our 2010 Board Members. All club members are encouraged to vote. Come and bring a friend...great food and fun!

Club News

New Members

The following are the names of our new members since our last newsletter. We hope you will greet them warmly at our next meeting. We are very happy to have them on board.

The Diane and L. Don Brubaker family from Vinton

Teresa Peters from Vinton

Elaine March from Roanoke

Betty Henson from Stuarts Draft

The Darran Witt family from Blairs, VA

Welcome to the SWVBC family. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

SWVBC Helps Girl Scouts Investigate “It's For the Birds”

On Friday August 7, three SWVBC representatives joined 24 Girl Scouts at their Discovery Center for a morning of interaction with parrots and parrot paraphernalia. Having spent three days talking, thinking and making items for backyard birds, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders welcomed the parrots. Each girl got to touch a parrot after a 45 minute talk by Sue Brewer with her six parrots. After the talk, each girl met with Megan Schaefer (a frequent SWVBC helper) to make glitzy pins out of parrot feathers and “jewels”. Next the scouts had fun making toys for parrots, using materials provided SWVBC. The toy making was under the able direction of Edie Manuel. All together, the group put together 30-40 toys, all of which will be donated to Phoenix Landing. We were invited to participate in this event by Lynda Calkins, Scout Program Director and a friend of Mel Blankenship. As a reward for doing this, we received the pictures and what else...Girl Scout cookies!



Eric Peake, Artist, Breeder, and SWVBC Friend

SWVBC has a special relationship with British artist Eric Peake. Eric is known for his beautiful and life like watercolor paintings of parrots. He is very involved in the bird world to teaching and helping to prevent the extinction of parrots. Many of the SWVBC members have Eric's prints and really value his work. Club members Edie Manual and Sue Brewer have met Eric and his wife Debby at BCV conventions and, this year, Eric sent several of his prints back with them to be sold at the bird fair. Debbie recently wrote to Edie with the following update:

Eric was presented with the Silver Bird Award by the President of the Budgerigar Society in Wales U.K. for all his dedication, many years of hard work for the society and his support through donations all these years. This is a huge honor presented by nomination and vote of the council of the Budgerigar Society. Eric was nominated for this award when he was in his 20's but he declined saying that, in his view, he hadn't been in the society long enough to merit it. At that time, he considered it the highest honor to someone who was only in their 20's, even though he had been active since he was a boy.

Eric was invited this year to exhibit his art at Bodelwyddan Castle Trust. The castle is located in Wales and houses the National Portrait Gallery Collection. This important event is a botanical and zoological exhibition; Eric was one of only two artists invited to show. He was announced as the most prominent bird artist in North Wales and beyond. It is very difficult to get an invitation to show your work at this event and Eric was very pleased to be asked. Eric's art and talent is recognized not only in Wales but also wherever in the world parrot lovers gather.

In addition to his artistry, Eric raises English budgerigars and sells them to breeders as show birds, many of which become prize winners; he also shows some of his birds himself. Eric has bred many different color combinations and some unique looking budgerigars and, rightly so, is very proud of his birds.



A PARROT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

by Stewart A. Metz, M.D.

1. GET TO KNOW ABOUT PARROTS BEFORE YOU BRING ME HOME

I am not a domesticated pet like a dog or cat. I still have the spirit of the jungle in me. I have special needs, which you may find it hard to fill. Please don't learn these too late for my well-being. And please don't acquire one of my cousins wild from the jungle-it will jeopardize his survival and well-being, and that won't be a party for you either!

2. GIVE ME THE LARGEST HOME POSSIBLE - I am use to flying through rainforests or savannas. I have given up this great gift for your pleasure. At the very least, give me enough room to flap my wings and exercise. And I need toys for my amusement and wood to chew-otherwise, I might confuse your Home with the forest and its trees.

3. GIVE ME A NUTRITIOUS DIET - I need a wide variety of fresh and nutritious foods, even if they take time to prepare. I cannot survive on seed alone. Take time to learn what my needs are.

4. LET ME HAVE A "SOCIAL LIFE" - I am a gregarious flock animal-but I am not one of you. I need lots of socialization to learn how to act with you, and with my siblings. I also need to have adequate quality time with you every day-no matter what your schedule or other needs are. I am a living, feeling creature. Above all, I need to be able to have complete trust in you, and count on your predictability in looking after me-every day.

5. LET ME BE CLEAN - I may like to drop food or even throw it, but I need meticulous cleanliness to be healthy. My skin itches without frequent showers, the barbs of my feathers won't seal if they become oily and, worst of all, I may become ill if my food or water is not always sanitary.

6. I NEED MY OWN DOCTOR - You may not understand my physiology and therefore you may not recognize it early on when I get sick. And it may be too late when you do, because I hide my illnesses (remember what I said about my being an animal of the jungle, where there are lots of predators). And I need an avian vet-a specialist (no HMOs for me please). If you can't afford one, perhaps you shouldn't have taken me home.

7. PLEASE DON'T PUNISH ME - Just as I don't always understand your peculiarities, you may not understand mine. I don't TRY to get in trouble- remember: a house is not the jungle. If I do screw up, don't yell at me and never hit me. I have sensitive ears and I may never trust you again if you strike me. Hands are sometimes scary things to us (why in the world would you not be zygodactylous like us?) Even more importantly, we don't learn by punishment. We are gentle creatures who only strike back to protect ourselves; we learn through patience and love.

8. SPEAK MY "LANGUAGE" - I know you get upset with me when I knock over my water bowl, throw food, scream or pluck my feathers. I don't do these to annoy you-I am probably trying to tell you something (perhaps that I am hurting, lonely, or sad.) Learn to speak MY (body) language. Remember that I, alone of all creatures on this planet, learn to speak yours!

9. SEE ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL - I am a unique and feeling being... No two of us are alike. Please don't be disappointed in me if I don't talk like you wanted, or can't do the tricks that your friend's parrot can do. But if you pay close attention to me (and I always empathize with you, whether you know it or not), I will show you a unique being who will give you so much more than talking and playing...Give me a chance to show you who I am; I think you'll find the effort with it. And remember-I am NOT an ornament; I do not enhance ANY living room decor. And I am not a status symbol-if you use me as such, I might nip at your up-turned nose!

10. SHARE YOUR LOVE WITH ME - Above all, please remember that you are my Special Person. I put all my trust and faith in you...We parrots are use to being monogamous. (no bar-

hopping for us!). So please don't go away for long periods or give me away. That would be a sadness from which I may never recover. If that seems to be asking a lot, remember-you could have learned about my needs BEFORE bringing me home. Even having a baby or taking a new job isn't a fair reason-you made a commitment to me FIRST! And if you think that you must leave me because you might die, provide for me forever after you leave. I may live to a ripe old age but I can't provide for myself. Remember I'm in a small cage amongst people who are not of my blood.

11. YOUR RIGHTS - You have lots of rights, but I can only assure one. And that is, if you treat me the way I described above, I will reward you with unwavering love, humor, knowledge, beauty, dedication-and a sense of wonder and awe you haven't felt since you were a child. When you took me home, you became my Flock Leader, indeed, my entire universe-for life. I would hang the moon and stars for you if I could. We are one in Heart and Soul.

Reprinted from mytoos.com



Birds Needing a Home

Check the *Adoptions* area on our website, www.swvbc.org, 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 adoption needs.

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

Financial Report

April 2009

Statement beginning balance.....	\$1,998.87
Amt. of deposits	247.20
Amt. of withdrawals	250.00
Statement ending balance	\$1,996.07

May 2009

Statement beginning balance.....	\$1,996.07
Amt. deposits.....	585.00
Amt. withdrawals.....	434.74
Statement ending balance	\$2,146.33

January 2009

Statement beginning balance.....	\$2,146.33
Amt. deposits.....	4,116.25
Amt. withdrawals.....	1,318.29
Statement ending balance.....	\$4,994.29



We send our best wishes for good health to King Irvin, long-time member of SWVBC. King has been diagnosed with cancer and has already undergone months of treatment. Please keep him and JoAnn in your thoughts.

A Note from the Membership Committee

Dues are renewable each year by the end of June. Please renew your membership by completing the application form found at the end of the newsletter. You may bring the form, with your payment, to the next club meeting or mail to the address on the form.

To change your street or email address, please email melody.blankenship@tapintohope.org with your changes, including your name, current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

Monthly meeting notices and quarterly newsletters are emailed to current members. Email addresses and names will only be used by the club membership and will not be used or shared for any other purpose.



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. Some of our meetings are species specific and speakers at those meetings will bring one or more birds.

So, if you want your birdie to strut his or her stuff, please contact Sue Brewer at 366-1193 to schedule the both of you for a program. If you can, please send a photograph with a paragraph or two describing your loved one and your program to melody.blankenship@tapintohope.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

The SWVBC proudly supports Phoenix Landing; The Hyacinth Macaw Project of Pantanal, Brazil; Lear's Corn Subsidy; and the Indonesian Parrot Project.

Directions to SWVBC Meeting

- From I-81, exit at the junction with I-581.
- Take the Orange Avenue exit heading east. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Williamson Road.
- The Huntington Court Methodist Church is on the right at 3333 Williamson Road, NE.
- Meetings are normally held in the small building behind the church in the back parking lot.

The Southwest Virginia Bird Club holds its monthly meetings in Roanoke on the **second Sunday of each month at 3:30 p.m.** at the Huntington Court Methodist Church on Williamson Road in Roanoke. As the newsletter is only published quarterly, notices with meeting information will be emailed to all members a week in advance of each meeting. 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](#) with payment, to join SWVBC and again each subsequent year to renew. All memberships expire on June 30 of each year. You will not receive a reminder of your dues expiration; just put a note on your calendar for June that it is time to renew. OR, renew at next year's Bird Fair!

Members are encouraged to submit articles, stories, pictures, etc. to the editor for publication in upcoming newsletters. **The next newsletter will be email on December 6, 2009; the submission deadline is November 15, 2009.** Please send ads, articles, pictures, etc. to Melody Blankenship, 2311-G Broadway, Roanoke, VA, 24014 or email to melody.blankenship@tapintofope.org.

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

Southwest Virginia Bird Club
P.O. Box 7243
Roanoke, VA 24019



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 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 Phoenix Landing and The Hyacinth Macaw Project in Brazil 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.

IN SWVBC WE **TEACH** – We teach each other. We teach second 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.

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:

Single (\$15)

Family (\$20)

Paid Cash

Paid by Check

New Member

Renewing Member

What type of bird(s) do you have?

Would you be interested in serving on any committees?
(Bird Fair Committee, Membership 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
All club memberships expire on June 30 each year.