



**New Format for Newsletter**

**Oh, no! My Bird Flew Away!**

**2009 SWVBC Bird Fair – June 20, 2009**

**Spring 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 about our new newsletter format, what to do if your bird flies the coop, and, of course, club notes.



The picture on our cover this quarter is the first place winner in the Big Birds are Fun category of the 2008 Bird Fair picture contest. Tracy Thompson's cockatoo, Gilly says, "There's something fishy going on here."



# Spring 2009

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### SWVBC Board of Directors for 2009

Sue Brewer, Chairperson	366-1193
Melody Blankenship, Vice Chair	344-0313
Pat Rodes, Secretary	563-0824
Eddie Manuel, Treasurer	992-2948
Membership, Evelyn Krippendorf	982-8499
Angelika Miner, BCV Representative	965-3057
Wanda Crowder, Hospitality	774-8233
Lois MacDonald, Member at Large	342-0699
Peter Rodes, Member at Large	563-0824

Website: [www.swvbc.org](http://www.swvbc.org)

## *SWVBC Newsletter Changed Format*

The SWVBC newsletter is no longer being printed and sent by U.S. mail to our members due to raising printing and mailing costs. With this issue we begin emailing the newsletter to every member with an email address.

We hope that you will enjoy this new format as it allows us to present the newsletter with better pictures and graphics quality while we save money at the same time.

It is very important that you keep us informed of any changes to your email account so that we can make sure your newsletter reaches you. Please email [melody.blankenship@tapintothehope.org](mailto:melody.blankenship@tapintothehope.org) to update your contact information.

We would also like your comments on our new format – plus and minus. Just email to Melody at the address above.

Happy reading!



*Thanks to club member Holly Tarquinio, Barbara Heidenreich, a well known bird behaviorist, has granted SWVBC permission to re-print some of her wonderfully informative papers.*

## *Strategies to Utilize when a Flighted Parrot Escapes*

By Barbara Heidenreich

My blue fronted Amazon parrot, Tarah, does not have clipped wings. However like many birds that were clipped during the fledging process, he has never quite learned the kind of flight skills that might earn him the title of a “flyer”. I often said “He has his flight feathers, but he doesn’t fly.” One day I learned, the hard way, that this wasn’t exactly true.

I was visiting my parrots as I was moving from southern California to northern California. When I arrived I brought Tarah in his cage to my old bedroom. I opened the door to the cage to allow my bird some much needed free time. Before I knew it, he bolted off his cage, through the bedroom door, took a right and made his way down the hall. He then banked left and flew through the living room. At that very moment my father was just opening the sliding glass door to step out onto the deck. Guess who went through the door too? The deck was on the second floor, so my bird had two stories of lift to assist him on his grand flight down the fairway of the golf course behind the house. Thank goodness he was a green flying brick. He ran out of gas and slowly descended to the soft green grass before a tree offered its branches as refuge. Juiced by adrenalin, my feet barely touched the ground as I ran after my bird.



I have always been very careful about the choices I make having a flighted bird in the house. But I was very surprised by the amazing flight my bird made on that day. Sometimes birds that we think will never fly do indeed fly. Sometimes birds that have flight feathers trimmed surprise us when feathers return. Sometimes experienced flyers get frightened or find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Whatever the situation, there are some strategies that can be very useful to recovering a bird that has flown to a location undesired by you. The following information is provided to prepare you for that day when your bird may find itself airborne and heading in the wrong direction. These strategies apply if you bird has no flight skills or is a world class flying athlete.

## **Bird is flying away**

- Call to your bird loudly as he is flying- it may help him find his way back to you.
- As your bird is flying, do not take your eyes off of him. Note the last place you saw him, the level of his flight, how tired he looked. He may have landed in that area. (Radio or phone contact for a group of people searching can be very helpful in this situation. Grab your cell phone!)

## **Searching for your bird**

- If you have a group of people, spread out and circle the area you last saw him.
- If you cannot locate him, call to him. He may call back. Say words or sounds he knows or mimics. Most parrots are located by their screams.
- If he has another bird he likes, put that bird in a cage and bring it to the area you last saw him. Walk away from the bird in the cage. It might encourage the bird in the cage to scream. This may inspire the lost bird to scream. Keep talking to a minimum so you can listen for the scream.
- Look carefully in a limited area (within 1 mile) in the early stages of your search. Parrots usually do not go far unless blown by the wind, chased by a bird of prey or is extremely frightened.
- Keep in mind your parrot may see you before you see him. When this happens, parrots are sometimes very quiet. This may be because the parrot is more comfortable now that you are present.
- Despite some parrots bright colors, they can be very difficult to see in trees. Look for movement buried in the trees as opposed to your whole bird perched prominently on the tree.

## **You have located the bird, but he is out of reach**

- Once you find your bird, relax (unless the bird is in immediate danger.) It is better to let the bird sit where he is (if he is inaccessible) while you work out a strategy. Do not frantically try to grab the bird, hose or scare him down.
- If the bird has just landed he will probably not fly again (if at all) for awhile.
- Bring the bird's favorite person and/or favorite bird friend (in a cage) to the area where your bird is located.



- Bring favorite food items, familiar food bowls and the bird's cage if possible.
- Be careful not to ask your bird to fly from a great height or a steep angle. Try to position yourself (or bird buddy, or bird cage) to allow short flights or short climbs to lower places.
- Try to lure your bird to fly or climb to branches/objects that are similar to those upon which he is sitting if possible. A bird may be too frightened to climb onto a distinctly different perch. (For example, the bird might be afraid to climb off of a tree onto a fence.) If you have no other option, expect the process to be slower and be patient with your bird as he builds his confidence. He may also fly again if he touches the new perch and is frightened by it.
- Do not raise unfamiliar objects up to your bird to have him step onto it. More than likely this will only scare your bird to fly farther away. If you have a familiar item, you may have a chance that the bird will step onto it. Keep in mind things like ladders, people climbing trees, cherry pickers etc. may also scare your bird. Go extremely slowly if you resort to using these items. Stop any action if your bird looks like he wants to fly away.
- Try to call your bird down when his body language indicates he is ready to try to come down. Do not constantly call.
- Try hiding from your bird on occasion. This will create a level of anxiety in your bird which may cause him to try to come to you once you reappear. Usually birds will scream and or start moving around a lot when they are ready to make an effort to return to you. If you notice this activity, come out from hiding.
- If you hear your bird screaming while you are hiding, he may be ready to fly or is already in the air. Come out of hiding right away. Most parrots scream when they are flying in this type of situation.
- Birds also often relieve themselves and also scream right before they fly. Be alert for this. You may need to see where your bird flies. Be ready to run if necessary.
- Avoid having a crowd of people around the bird's favorite person. A scared bird may not want to fly into a crowd of strangers. Give the bird's favorite person lots of room.



### **The sun is setting and your bird is still out.**

- Parrots will usually fly again shortly before the sun starts to set. This is probably your last opportunity to get your bird back before he will begin to

roost for the night. Take advantage of it. You can try to get the bird “pumped” up by yelling and creating a level of excitement. This may encourage one last flight.

- As the sun starts to set, your bird will start to fluff his feathers and get ready to roost for the night. At this point it is best to just allow him to go to sleep. Keep an eye on him until the sun has set completely. Remember his exact location.
- Before the sun rises the next day, return to that location. Your bird should still be there, unless he was frightened in the night (owls can cause this).
- Usually by 8:30 or 9:00 AM your bird will be ready to fly again or make an attempt to get to you. Repeat the steps described in the section “You have located your bird, but he is out of reach”.

### **Your bird has flown off and after 24 hours of searching he has not been spotted.**

- Contact the following people and let them know you are looking for your bird. If a person finds your bird they may contact one of these organizations.
  - Call animal control
  - Call the SPCA/humane society
  - Call local veterinarians
  - Call local zoos
  - Call local pet shops
  - Call local police
- Place an ad in the classified section of the paper for a “lost” bird.
  - Note: Don’t give out the bird’s band number. If your bird accidentally falls into the wrong hands this could lead to removal of the band.
- Check the classified section of the paper for “found” bird. Answer all ads. People are sometimes unaware of what they have found. A Congo African grey may be mistaken for the mythical red tailed pigeon by a helpful stranger who is unfamiliar with parrots.
- Post flyers that state “lost bird” in the areas you last saw your bird. You may also wish to offer a reward as incentive for people to call.
- Often times a bird is found within 24 hours of his disappearance. The trick is to find the person who found your bird before you.

### **Do not give up**

The key to getting a bird back is perseverance. Do not accept that you will not get the bird back once you have lost sight of him or her.



As a professional bird trainer who free flies many types of birds on a regular basis, I can attest that parrots are often the easiest type of bird to locate and recover. Trust me - nothing is more frustrating than searching for the silent, but observant owl who has buried himself in the bushes and has watched you walk by 100 times! Thankfully our parrots often seek out human or bird companionship if and when they have a big flight adventure.

*Barbara has been a professional in the field of animal training since 1990. She owns and operates a company, Good Bird, Inc., ([www.GoodBirdInc.com](http://www.GoodBirdInc.com)) that provides behavior and training products to the companion parrot community. These products include Good Bird Magazine ([www.goodbirdinc.com/magazine.html](http://www.goodbirdinc.com/magazine.html)) books, videos ([www.goodbirdinc.com/books.html](http://www.goodbirdinc.com/books.html)), and training/behavior workshops. She is the author of "Good Bird! A Guide to Solving Behavior Problems in Companion Parrots" by Avian Publications and also "The Parrot Problem Solver. Finding Solutions to Aggressive Behavior" by TFH Publications. She is the past president of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators ([www.IAATE.org](http://www.IAATE.org)).*

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## *Club Notes*

### **December 14, 2008**

Our annual holiday meeting/party was once again a great success with good food, goofy gifts and lots of laughs. Our 2009 Board of Directors were elected and installed.

### **January 31, 2009**

At a "special clay day," held on Saturday at 11am Wanda Crowder returned to help us hone our skills at polymer clay modeling. The completed art work will be raffled off by Phoenix Landing or at our 2009 Bird Fair.



### **February 8, 2009**

There are so many very good videos on parrot care on the market and we were able to watch one such video as a group and then discuss what we had seen. Education is our primary goal as a bird club and that means educating ourselves as well,

## *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.*

### **March 8, 2009**

Our own Evelyn Krippendorf recently spent a week in Florida training with Steve Martin (not the comedian, the bird trainer). She will use one of her birds as a model to share what she has learned. If you want to bring one of your birds to work with at the meeting, please call Sue at 540-366-1193 or email her at [brewersbirds@cox.net](mailto:brewersbirds@cox.net) to register your bird. Please do not bring your bird unless you have registered with Sue.



One of Steve Martin's shows

### **April 12, 2009**

Gail Anderson, a wildlife re-hap specialist in Roanoke, will talk to us about the ups and downs of wildlife re-hap, especially at this very busy time of spring hatching. She may even have some babies with her that she is hand feeding.



### **May 10, 2009**

As we do each year at our May meeting, we will be preparing for our annual Bird Fair to be held on June 20, 2009 at St. Elias Catholic Church, the same venue as last year. Come to the meeting prepared to put together signs, banners, and all matters Bird Fair.

## *Club News*

### **BCV Convention News**

The Bird Clubs of Virginia annual convention will be held on April 3 through 5, 2009, at Virginia Beach. This will be the 25th anniversary for BVC. There will not be any bird shows, but on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a Holistic Workshop with Dr. Dee Blanco and Dr. Hilary Cook. The cost is \$25 per person with the workshop starting at 10 am.



Speakers on Saturday and Sunday will be: Dr. Kevin Flammer, Sally Blanchard, Eric Peake, Mark Stafford, Dr. Susan Clubb and Sandee Molena. Mini-seminars, conducted by SWVBC members Evelyn Krippendorf, Angelika Miner and Sue Brewer, will be open to the public with admission to the vendor room.

BCV is looking for donations of items (not necessarily bird related) for the Silent Auction and the Raffle table. Any contributions are tax-deductible. There will be a very special raffle for an original Eric Peake watercolor of an African Grey created especially for this 25th celebration. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and are available from Edie Manuel. You do not have to be present to win and BCV will pay shipping costs if needed.

### **Know Any Good Places?**

We need good places that will accept Bird Fair signs to be placed in their yards from Mid-May until Mid-June. These signs are our best and most inexpensive mode of advertising for our fair. If you know of someone who has a residence or business on a main road in the Roanoke Valley area, ask if we may have permission to place a sign there for that period of time. If you can, please get a written letter of permission and bring it to our next meeting.



### **Plan NOW For Our Bird Fair!**

Write the date, Saturday, June 20 on your calendar. Start taking pictures of your feathered babies to enter in our Photo Contest. Start thinking about how much time you can volunteer to help set up/take down the Fair. Start saving your pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars to spend at the vendor booths. Get paper/pencil and start your shopping list for those things you must have for your birds for the next year.

**JUNE 20 WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!**

### **Change in Webmaster - Correction**

In our last issue of the SWVBC Newsletter, JoAnn **Irvin's** name was incorrect. Our apologies to JoAnn.

## Birds Needing a Home

Check the *Adoptions* area on our website, [www.swvbc.org](http://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*

### November 2008

Statement beginning balance.....	3,546.77
Amt. of deposits .....	30.00
Amt. of withdrawals .....	1,134.00
Statement ending balance .....	\$2,442.77

### December 2008

Statement beginning balance.....	\$2,442.77
Amt. deposits.....	53.00
Amt. withdrawals.....	101.52
Statement ending balance .....	\$2,394.25

### January 2009

Statement beginning balance.....	\$2,394.25
Amt. deposits.....	0.00
Amt. withdrawals.....	37.17
Statement ending balance.....	\$2,357.57



## *A Note from the Membership Committee*

Dues are renewable once each year. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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. You will receive a reminder email the month before your dues expire.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, stories, pictures, etc. to the editor for publication in upcoming newsletters. **The next newsletter will be email on June 1, 2009; the submission deadline is April 15, 2008.** Please send ads, articles, pictures, etc. to Melody Blankenship, 2311-G Broadway, Roanoke, VA, 24014 or email to [melody.blankenship@tapintohope.org](mailto:melody.blankenship@tapintohope.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 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 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?

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

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Please mail to:

Southwest Virginia Bird Club

P.O. Box 7243

Roanoke, VA 24019

Please make checks payable to Southwest Virginia Bird Club