

*A Guide to Caring
for Your Companion Bird*



*Provided by
The Southwest Virginia Bird Club*

www.swvbc.org

Revised June 2011

New Bird Checklist

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Welcome to the Wonderful World of Companion Birds

If this is your first bird you will want to read this booklet to discover the best methods of keeping you and your bird healthy, safe, and happy. If you already have one or more companion birds you will want to read this booklet to confirm that you are doing the right things for your friends. You have not just purchased a pet; you have purchased a lifetime companion. Some birds can live from 30 to 80 years; you have taken on a life-long responsibility for caring for your bird. Parrots are intelligent, social birds who consider themselves a part of your flock. If you meet all of your bird's needs – physical, nutritional, and social – you will discover the joy of a loving, lively, and inventive companion. As different species of birds have different requirements, we suggest that you read books and magazines, search the Internet, and/or discuss your particular species with your veterinarian. In the meantime, here is some general information for you about taking care of your new companion.

Veterinary Checkup

As soon as possible after purchasing your bird, make an appointment for a complete checkup with a local veterinarian, preferably one who has an interest and special training in avian medicine. This is a good time to become acquainted with your veterinarian and ask specific questions about the type of bird you have purchased, such as caging, food, and healthcare. The doctor will check your bird for infections, deformities, and any signs of illness. This may involve, in addition to the examination, blood work or other diagnostic tests. Plan to provide your bird with annual checkups. Unlike most other companion animals, birds try to hide any weaknesses or illnesses for as long as possible. Therefore, it is important to consult your veterinarian, who is familiar with your bird, at the first sign of illness or any unusual behavior.

Please see page 16 for Some Warning Signs of Illness.

Quarantine

If you are bringing a new bird into a home that already has birds, please quarantine your new bird. A bird who does not appear to be ill may still harbor bacteria or viruses that could be harmful to your flock. Quarantine should be in a room with a closed door as far from your flock as possible. Wear something over your clothes (an old shirt or jacket) when handling your new bird, then remove the shirt and wash your hands carefully before coming in contact with your flock. Check with your veterinarian for the preferred length of quarantine—usually from 45 to 90 days.

Caging and Furnishings

Purchase the largest cage that you can afford that is practical for your home. You will hear this advice over and over and it is correct. Your bird needs room to spread his wings and to move comfortably. The minimum size cage should allow at least twice the wingspan of the bird in width and twice to three times in height. Choose a cage that is well-made, with no exposed sharp areas or loose welds, and whose bars are close enough together to prevent your bird from putting his head between them. If



possible, select a cage that has both horizontal and vertical bars. This allows your bird to use different muscles when climbing inside the cage. Make sure there is a grate that separates the cage from the bedding tray. If you decide on a used cage, be sure to check for rust; do not purchase a cage that is very rusty or whose structural integrity is compromised. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the cage before using it. If there is any doubt about the content of lead in a used metal cage, purchase a lead

testing kit from your local home improvement store. Lead is deadly to birds.

Bedding

Use black-and-white newspaper, plain cage liners, waxed paper, or any other non-colored paper to line the bedding tray in the bottom of the cage. This allows you to observe the consistency and color of your bird's droppings, helping you keep track of his good health. Remember, some foods, such as beets, red peppers, or colored pellets can change the color of your bird's droppings; don't panic. Do not use corn cob, cedar shavings, or similar type bedding material, which may create dust that can harm your bird's respiratory system as well as obscure his droppings, and may encourage the growth of harmful bacteria.

Food and water dishes

Provide at least one water dish and two food dishes in the cage for your bird. Place the dishes in areas not directly under perches to minimize the possibility of feces contamination. Most larger cages have dishes that are accessible from outside the cage. This is convenient for caretakers who prefer not to put their hands inside the bird cage.



Perches

Use at least three different types of perches in the bird cage. For example, a rope perch provides different pressure points for the bird's feet while a natural, non-toxic tree branch can provide perching and chewing. Manzanita wood perches are natural in shape and hold up well with chewing but may be too slippery for some birds. Select perches of various diameters but be sure that they match your bird's "foot span" – the bird's front and back toes should not meet when perched nor be more than 1/3 the circumference away from each other. A bird may fall off a perch that is too big and a perch that is too small can cause arthritis from the effort necessary to grasp the perch comfortably. Never use sandpaper perch covers; they are uncomfortable for your bird and may cause foot problems. You do not need many perches but use enough so that your bird can maneuver in most areas of his cage. Birds feel safest sleeping on a high perch; place at least no less than 2/3 of the way up the cage.



Location

Place your bird's cage in a location where he will be with the family. Depending upon the activities of your household, the bird may want to be in the family room or, if late-night TV or boisterous activity is common in the family room, the bird may fare better in a place that is quieter but is not isolated from you or your family. Do not place the bird's cage in the kitchen; cooking fumes, hot surfaces, and other hazards are too dangerous for your bird. Also be careful of drafts, too much sunlight, or too little sunlight for your bird. Place one side of the bird's cage against a wall; this provides an area in the cage where the bird will feel safe. Your bird needs some natural daylight each day but placing the cage completely in front of the window is not usually a good idea; the visual stimulation may be too much for your bird and cause him to be fearful. Many bird experts recommend using a full spectrum light near your bird's cage so that the bird is exposed to not only simulated sunlight but also to UVA and UVB rays that are helpful in providing Vitamin D3. Proper lighting may prevent feather picking and other unhealthy conditions in birds. Consult your veterinarian for advice on the proper light for your bird.



Cleanliness

Your bird's environment must be kept clean. Food and water dishes should be washed at least once a day, more often if food or feces is dropped into the water dish or fresh food is placed in a food dish. Remove fresh food after three to four hours to prevent bacteria build up. Bedding tray liners should be removed daily and replaced with clean liners. Disinfect food and water dishes once a week either by running them through a dishwasher or washing in a very mild chlorine solution and rinsing well. The cage should receive an overall scrubbing down once a week to remove dried-on food or droppings. This reduces the probability of bacterial growth that may harm your bird. Remove your bird from his cage during cleaning and use only bird-safe cleaners such as mild soaps or cleaners specially formulated for cleaning bird cages.

Sleeping

Make or purchase a cover to put over your bird's cage at night. The cover should be dark enough to allow good visual security but light enough to allow circulation of air into the cage. Most parrots need approximately 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night. While the cover will filter the light, noise will not be abated. An excess of loud noises can cause stress resulting in lower resistance to infections or emotional problems. Give your bird quiet time at night. If your bird is situated in a high traffic area during the day, you might want to consider a "sleeping" cage. A sleeping cage is smaller than your bird's normal cage and has only one or two perches, a water bowl, and no toys. Place the sleeping cage in a quiet room so that when he is ready for bed, you can move him to the sleeping cage for a peaceful night.



Toys

Parrots are extremely intelligent and therefore easily bored. Toys are a necessity. In the wild, parrots are constantly busy – flying everywhere, searching for food, attracting a mate, defending territory, and spending time with other flock members. Toys help to replicate these activities for our companion birds. Foraging toys—toys or puzzles that hide treats for your parrot to find—are especially good. Choose toys that are safe with no sharp edges, loose connections, toxic elements, or other hazards and that are appropriate to your bird's size. Toys made with wood or leather should be untreated, clean and only colored with natural dyes.



Toys can be expensive and are usually destroyed in a short time by sharp beaks. Make your own toys with inexpensive materials such as cardboard tubes, wicker baskets, and pa-

per cups. Be sure, though, that all materials are free of chemicals and metals other than stainless steel.

Choose bird toys to match your bird's size; a large bird can utterly destroy a toy made for smaller birds and then ingest the pieces and small birds can be intimidated by an over-large toy. The label "bird toy" does not mean that a toy is safe. Run your hands over the toy that you are considering, checking for sharp edges, strings that may entangle the bird's toes, or anything else you feel may be dangerous. Always use quick-locks, leather ties or other bird-safe material to secure toys to your bird's cage.



Do not use clothes pins with metal springs, split rings, or spring-loaded clips (such as dog lead clips) that may catch the

bird's beak or toes. Avoid jingle bells as your bird's

toes can be trapped in the small openings. Make sure bell clappers are secure; a swallowed clapper can be dangerous.

Keep string or rope toys in trim; a snagged toenail could cause loss of circulation to a leg and a loop around the

neck could be fatal. Place toys in the cage in a way that will not block food or water dishes.

Do not clutter the cage with toys; space them so that the bird will be interested in playing with them but still have room to maneuver in his cage. If your bird has not been used to toys, you may have to teach him how to

play with them. Introduce new toys to your bird slowly, one at a time. If your bird shows fear of the toy, place it outside of the cage to let your bird get used to it. Then slowly move the toy closer to the cage until it is attached to the outside. Once the bird becomes used to that, move the toy into the cage. Tip: Put the toy inside your bird's cage while your bird is outside of the cage. Rotate toys frequently to keep your bird's interest



Consider purchasing or making a play gym for your bird so that he can have more room to exercise. Birds need to stretch their wings and legs. Climbing on a gym, stretching for toys, and wing flapping are good ways to exercise. If the play gym is portable, your bird can come with you when you move to another room.



Nutrition

Each species of bird has different nutritional needs; but in almost all types of birds a totally seed diet is inadequate and can be harmful to your bird's health. A diet consisting of a quality pellet food with a small proportion of fresh foods is most desirable. Check with your veterinarian for specific dietary requirements for your bird. In general, pellets contain all of the nutrients and vitamins your bird will need. Fresh food, however, will provide variety and additional vitamins such as vitamin A in dark green and orange vegetables. Yams, kale, broccoli, carrots, etc., cooked or raw, are all good fresh foods to offer your bird. Seed spouts, lentils and red hard wheat are also excellent sources of nutrition. Most fruits are safe for birds but are not as nutritionally sound as vegetables. See page 19 for **Appropriate Fresh Foods**. Be sure to remove any uneaten food from your bird's dishes after three to four hours to prevent bacterial growth. Birds love treats, but keep them healthy and safe. Fast food is bad food for birds. No fries, sodas (especially with caffeine), or potato chips, please. Carrot sticks or an unsalted cracker are much better treats. Nuts (including peanuts) and high-fat seeds (sunflower) should be reserved as very special treats and offered only occasionally. Do not feed your bird chocolate, avocado, or the seeds of apples, peaches, pears, and cherries: these are toxic. Also, do not give your bird food that is spoiled, salty, greasy or contains alcohol. There are some foods and seeds that are toxic to birds. Please see page 20 for **Hazardous Materials**.





Safety

Keep your bird safe. Birds are prey animals; they have many natural enemies such as cats and dogs and even larger birds. Do not take your bird outside without a cage. It only takes a moment for disaster to happen. Disaster can also occur inside your home. Even if your bird has had his wings clipped, do not let him out of his cage in a room with an open window or outside door. Turn off ceiling fans when your bird is out of his cage. Birds can drown; keep your bird away from open containers of water, including toilets. Keep your bird out of the kitchen when cooking; fumes from overheated non-stick cookware are deadly to parrots and a fall into boiling water can be fatal. Be mindful of all chemicals and fumes within your house in regards to your birds. If you have a self-cleaning oven, move your bird to a closed room with outside ventilation before using the cleaning feature. Do the same with such cleaning processes as chemical carpet cleaning, carbon-based cleaning solutions, and even furniture polish. If in doubt, move your bird out. As mentioned before, some foods are dangerous as are some plants. Please see page 20 for **Hazardous Materials**. To prevent transmission of diseases from other birds, always wash your hands thoroughly after contact with other birds before handling your bird.

Grooming

Your bird will take care of most of his own grooming. You will see him pull his feathers through his beak and, perhaps, use his beak to clean his feet. Most birds have a preening gland at the base of their tails where they rub their beak and then transfer the oil to their feathers. There are times, however, when you will need to help your bird with his grooming. It is a good idea to keep your bird's wings trimmed to limit his flight. Some of the primary feathers are trimmed back to keep the bird from achieving lift in flight. But remember: birds can still fly with trimmed wings so you will need to continue supervision while he is out of his cage. Your bird may also need to periodically have his nails trimmed. You will know when to do this by how sharp the nails feel when your bird perches on your hand. Until you feel comfortable trimming your bird's wings or nails you will want to have your veterinarian perform these grooming procedures. *Never trim your bird's beak. Check with your veterinarian if you think your bird's beak needs attention.*

Birds from tropical areas, such as Amazons, need a lot of humidity; frequent showering is a necessity. Even birds from desert areas need occasional showers to keep down the bird dander. Some birds prefer a misting from a bottle while others enjoy a regular shower or bathing in a dish of water. Most birds prefer water that is cool, not cold or very warm. Do not leave a bird unattended around open containers of water; birds can drown.

Basic Training

The object of training your bird is to develop trust between the two of you. Once that trust is developed, your bird will become your best friend and a loving companion who wants to please you. Be careful though; that trust can be easily broken by a harsh word or an unexpected reaction on your part. Patience is the key to training your bird. Not only must you have patience in the amount of time that it takes to train your bird but you must have total control of how you react to your bird's behavior. Remember, your bird thinks of you as one of his flock, and trust is an essential part of any flock.

Step-up, Step-down

First, teach the “step-up” command. Teaching this command to your bird is necessary for you to be able to safely remove your bird from his cage or put him back into his cage. Place your index finger, or if you have a larger bird, your hand held flat and palm-down, in an horizontal position, gently at the base of your bird’s chest, just above his feet. Say “step-up” or just “up” firmly but calmly and gently nudge the bird with your finger or hand. The bird will raise his foot to step on your finger. Once he does, praise him lavishly; birds love to be praised. Continue with this training each time you come in contact with your bird, at least several times of day. Eventually your bird will begin to step-up as soon as he feels your finger against his chest. You will know your bird is trained when all you have to do is say “step-up” and he hops on your finger. The step-down command works the same way except you begin with the bird on your finger then move him to where you want him to step down, such as a perch. When you say “step-down” gently bump his feet against the perch. Again, use praise lavishly when your bird does what you want him to do.



If you are unsure of handling your bird at first, start stick training. Stick training is taught exactly the same way as the step-up and step-down commands except you will use a short dowel rod instead of your finger. Once you become more confident, start using your hand or finger. All birds should be trained to step up on a stick as there may come a time when the only way you can reach your bird (he has landed in a spot too high for you to reach) is with a stick.

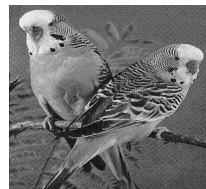
No Bite

Birds naturally use their beak to “test” objects, such as your hand or finger when offered. This is not biting; biting is an aggressive action on the part of your bird meant to injure. Sometimes a bird “tests” too hard. This is when you need to say gently but firmly “no bite” and remove the object being bitten (your finger) in a non-threatening manner. *As much as birds love to be praised, punishment or harsh words will not deter them.* They love any type of commotion and think of it as a reward. Therefore, to stop a bird’s bad behavior you need to be non-responsive to that behavior. For example, if your bird bites you, try not to overreact. Say firmly “no bite,” put a stern expression on your face, turn your back, and walk away from the bird. Do this consistently and your bird will soon associate the bad behavior, biting in this case, with the loss of your company. In some cases, however, biting or other aggressive behavior could be indicative of a larger issue between you and your bird; you may need professional help. Contact a respected avian behavior consultant for more information.

Never hit your bird!!

Chewing

Chewing is natural behavior in a parrot. Provide lots and lots of chewable toys such as wood and leather. But be aware that your bird may chew the leg on your favorite table if not supervised. You cannot train a bird not to chew but you can limit what he chews by giving him safe alternatives, such as toys made of untreated wood that is either natural or dyed with safe food dye. Always provide careful supervision when your bird is out of his cage.



Some Warning Signs of Illness

- Change in droppings
- Decrease in talking or activity
- Picking at feathers other than normal preening
- Discharge from the eyes, nose, mouth
- Not eating
- Sitting on the bottom of the cage with fluffed feathers
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty balancing on perch
- Bleeding
- Convulsing
- Regurgitation other than with courtship
- Caught by a dog or cat



Behavior – Yours and Your Bird's

Allow your bird as much out-of-cage time as possible but never leave him out of his cage unattended. There is too much danger of a bird being harmed or damaging something. Birds love to be the center of attention. Set aside time each day to give your bird your undivided attention and devotion. Use your bird's out of cage time as training time or just cuddle time. You may want to provide a play gym with lots of toys for your bird's out of cage time; this will keep him happy and active.



Socialization is very important for your bird. A bird that is comfortable around people is much less likely to bite or to be unhappy. Some birds are naturally more outgoing than others. While you want to socialize your bird, do not force him into situations in which you know he is uncomfortable. As noted above under **Basic Training**, a bird's behavior can be modified with the proper training. But you, as the bird's caretaker, must also monitor your own behavior. Before you start introducing your bird to other people, be sure he is comfortable with you. Say "hello" to him when you come home and "goodbye" when you leave. Touch your bird as much as you can to let him know he is part of your flock. Once he is very comfortable with you and your family members, slowly introduce new people – neighbors, friends, etc. Some people love to hold birds while others are terrified of them. Do not allow any one to mistreat your bird. Do not offer your bird to someone who is not confident about holding him. Birds are very empathic; they sense the mood of people around them and act accordingly. So, if a stranger is wary of holding him, a bird will either resist going to that person or will become aggressive toward that person. Don't force the issue. If, however, the stranger really wants to hold the bird, offer the bird slowly on your hand or finger and have the stranger use the step-up command onto his finger. If the bird responds, fine. If not, just hold the bird near the person and let them get to know each other.

Socialization can also be accomplished with the bird still in his cage. Gradually have people the bird does not know come near his cage. Keeping their hands away from the cage, strangers can interact with the bird through language, both body and vocal. It is extremely important that your bird become comfortable around your family as this will be his family, too. Always monitor small children and animals around your bird. It is your responsibility to provide a safe environment for your companion bird.

At times you may think your bird has a dual personality—cuddly and sweet one moment and a biting machine the next. Birds usually bite for a reason—fear, anxiety, etc., and they very often warn us ahead of time with their body language. Observe your bird carefully to learn how he stands, moves, positions his feathers, or how his pupils change in different circumstances. You will learn when your sweetie pie is upset and needs to be given space.



The dual personalities of birds.

Most important of all, love your bird and respect the fact that he is not a domestic animal but only one or two generations away from the wild. Work with the instincts and behavior that nature gave your bird and you will find yourself with a loving companion.

Appropriate Fresh Foods

Favorite Veggies	Fresh Fruit	Protein
Raw Carrots	Apples (no seeds)	Well Cooked Beef
Raw Corn on the Cob	Grapes	Well Cooked Chicken
Broccoli	Kiwi	Tuna Packed in Water
Asparagus	Bananas Oranges (no seed)	Low Fat Cheese (Mozzarella/String Cheese)
Zucchini	Plums	Beans
Squash	Tangerines	Hard Boiled Eggs
Bell Peppers Spouted Seeds	Strawberries	Scrambled Eggs Cooked Well
Fresh Jalapenos	Blackberries	
Cucumbers	Blueberries	
Cauliflower		
Tomatoes	Carbohydrates	Dairy
Raw Spinach	Wheat Toast	Low-Fat Yogurt
Brussel Sprouts (cooked only)	Cooked Pasta Sweet Potatoes	Dairy listed above under Protein
Peas in the Pod	Oats	
Fresh Green Beans	Warm Oatmeal	
Greens (Kale, Mustard, etc.)	Unsweetened Cereal Brown or Wild Rice	

Generally, anything that is healthy for you is probably healthy for your bird with the exception of the hazardous substances listed on the next two pages.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous Plants

Amaryllis	Bird of Paradise	Calla Lily	Oleander
Rhododendron	Snake Plant	Hoya	Datura
Cycads	Kalachoe	Philodendron	Peace Lily
Diffenbachia	Caladium		

Safe Plants

African Violet	Boston Fern	Roses
Begonia	Aluminum Plant	Rubber Plant
Banana Tree	Belmore Sentry Palm	Blushing Bromeliad
Brazilian Orchid	Burro's Tail	Butterfly Orchid
Dainty Rabbit's		
Foot Fern	California Pitcher Plant	Camellia
Cape Jasmine	Carob Tree	Carrion Fern
Chenille Plant	Crisped Feather Fern	Christmas Orchid
Staghorn Fern	Confederate Jasmine	Dwarf Palm
Earth Star	Easter Daisy	Easter Lily Cactus
Emerald Ripple		
Peperomia	Fan Tufted Palm	Fish Tail Fern
Flame Violet	Florida Butterfly Orchid	Golden Shower Orchid
Ice Plant	Kahali Ginger	Kenya Palm
King and Queen		
Fern	Living Stones	Lipstick Plant
Mosaic Plant	Moss Fern	Nerve Plant
Persian Violet	Prayer Plant	Wandering Jew
Bamboo	Baby's Tears	Blunt Leaf Peperomia
Butterfly Ginger	Canary Date Palm	Cast Iron Plant

Hazardous Foods

Alcohol in any form	Avocado	Caffeine	Chocolate
Coffee	Highly salted foods	Mushrooms	Tea
Rhubarb	Apple seeds	Apricot pits	Cherry pits
Peach pits	Pear seeds	Plum pits	Wine

Hazardous Compounds

Ammonia	Antifreeze	Ant Paste
Auto products	Bathroom cleaners	Bleach
Camphophenique	Carbon Monoxide	Charcoal Fluids
Deodorants	Detergents	Diazinon
Drain cleaners	Felt tip markers	Flea products
Formaldehyde	Gasoline	Glues of any type
Hair sprays	Herbicides	Insecticides
Kerosene	Lighter Fluid	Lye
Metal cleaners	Moth balls	Muriatic acid
Oven cleaner	Paint, thinners	Permanents
Photography solutions	Shoe polish	Shaving lotion
pot removers	Spray Starch	Suntan oils
Wax	Window cleaners	Wart removers
Wood preservatives	Asbestos	Boric Acid
Disinfectants	Floor polish	Gun cleaners
Iodine	Matches	Nail polish
Pesticides	Shellac and Varnishes	Non-stick cookware fumes

Heavy Metals

Arsenic

Cadmium

Batteries, Paints

Lead

Batteries, floor tile, galvanized wire, old house paint, hardware cloth, insulation, lead toys, draper weights, fishing sinkers, linoleum, paints and removers, stained glass, antiques, wires and cables, wrapping foil

Mercury

Thermometers, levels

Zinc

Brass, chrome, paints and removers, galvanized wire, nuts, washers, bolts, nails, coins

Fumes from plug-in air fresheners, scented candles or oils, Teflon coated cookware and self-cleaning ovens are deadly to birds.

For More Information . . .

Bird Talk Magazine
Companion Parrot Quarterly
The Good Bird
Parrot Magazine

Companion Parrot Handbook by Sally Blanchard

The Amazona Society
The American Cockatiel Society
Phoenix Landing

www.swvbc.org
www.birdchannel.com
www.companionparrotonline.com
www.petbirdpage.com/
www.thegabrielfoundation.org
www.upatsix.com/liz

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Your birds will likely outlive you.
Make provisions for them in the event of your
death or your disability.

Legal services also provided on all family law matters:
Divorce, Separation, Division of Property,
Child Custody and Support
and
Spousal Support

No charge for Initial Consultation.



PROVIDERS and ADVOCATES

The Phoenix Landing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization. It was established to promote and protect the welfare of parrots, especially those with an extensive lifespan.

Increasingly, these intelligent and beautiful birds are becoming household companions. Meanwhile, their native rain forests and deserts are being rapidly consumed for use by people. As guardians of our pets, and growing consumers of the land, it is our responsibility to provide care and help for parrots -- both in domesticity and in the wild.

Phoenix Landing provides for parrots in need and acts as advocates for those without protection.



PHOENIX
Photo by Paul M. Howey,

OBJECTIVES

Phoenix Landing seeks to improve the quality of life for all parrots. Our objectives are to:

- Provide educational activities regarding the care and needs of parrots;
- Facilitate adoption for parrots who need a new family;
- Help parrots who outlive their guardians to find a new home;
- Find new homes for neglected or unwanted parrots;
- Sponsor research of wild habitats and natural parrot behaviors;
- Support conservation and eco-tourism;
- Sponsor better avian education for vets and vet students; and
- Advocate standards of care for breeders, pet stores, sanctuaries, and rescues.



ADOPTION AND FOSTER PROGRAM

Washington D.C. Area, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina

Phoenix Landing operates an adoption program which covers the Washington D.C. region, as well as most of Maryland and Virginia. In addition, we have coordinators in North Carolina (Asheville and Charlotte). Some support is also available in eastern Tennessee, the Greenville-Spartanburg area of South Carolina, and southern Pennsylvania.

We strive to find the best possible home for every bird in need. If you can offer a parrot a safe and loving environment, good nutrition, and a family to call its flock - then we would like to hear from you. Your patience and compassion may be required depending on each circumstance, but every bird is truly worthwhile and special.

In addition, we are always in search of nurturing and experienced people to provide foster care support on a regular basis - people we can count on to help a bird temporarily, until a more permanent home can be found.

If you are at a time in your life when it is not possible to give a parrot a long-term home, fostering may be a great option for you and the parrots who often quickly need our help. An application, home visit, adoption fees and attendance at one of our comprehensive parrot care seminars are required for adoptions.



Southwest Virginia Bird Club
Membership Application

Name: _____
Address1: _____
Address2: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Date of Application: _____
Email: _____

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 Check |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |

What type of birds 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
PO Box 7243
Roanoke, VA 24019

www.swvbc.org

(Please make checks payable to Southwest Virginia Bird Club)