

Barb Crowther (Con't)

Partner/Family: My husband and I have been together for 23 years.

Pets: We're both "dog people," but we're not home enough to have one – it just wouldn't be fair to the dog. So, we feed the birds instead. In the back yard, we keep three types of seeds, peanuts, suet boards, bird baths, etc. The birds are great pets: they don't whine, they don't need to be housebroken, and, if we go away for a while, they're self-reliant.

Sports/Hobbies: Bird watching, button collecting, beading and crocheting.

What your ideal weekend would be: At the cottage in July on a sunny day.

Favourite Foods: Chocolate – it **is** it's own food group, you know.

If I could be anything at all (besides a SAS programmer), I would be... A professional bird watcher.

When I'm not programming in SAS, I like to... Bird watch, go to the cottage.

One thing every SAS programmer should know The data dictionary tables have been optimized for SQL. So while you can access them in a dataset or with procedures, using SQL is much more efficient:

```
proc sql;
  create table mytable as
    select * from sashelp.vcolumn
    where libname='WORK' and memname='SALES';
quit;
```

as compared to:

```
data mytable;
  set sashelp.vcolumn;
  where libname='WORK' and memname='SALES';
run;
```