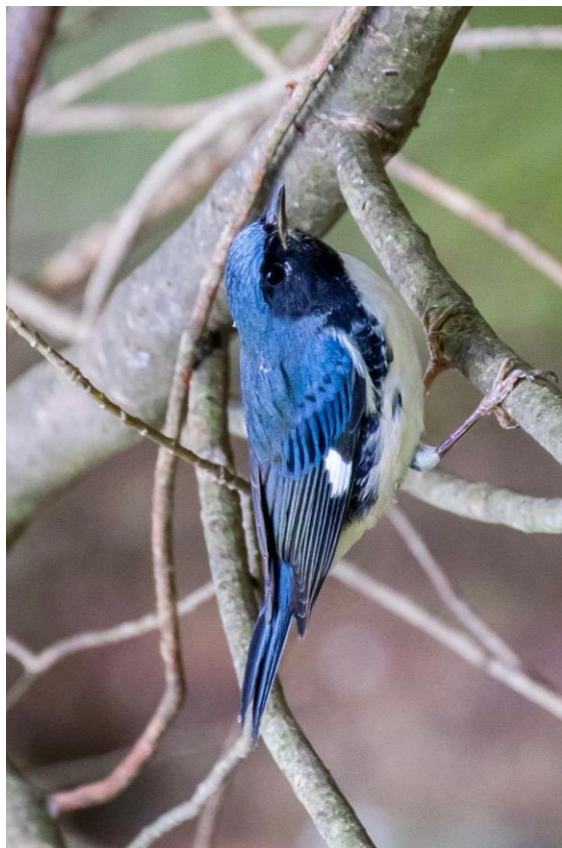


Black River Audubon Society
WINGTIPS



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Elyria, Ohio
Permit No.50

May 2017

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Printed by Tony and staff at Bobel's



Snow geese photos by Jeanne Jakubchak at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lititz, PA

Program

Mark Purdy

Antarctica Trip

May 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Sandy Ridge Reservation



Dr. Mark Purdy spoke to Black River Audubon in October 2013 on the equatorial African state of Rwanda and its varied ecosystems. Now he will educate us on the continent at the far end of the earth – Antarctica.

A native of Kentucky, Dr. Purdy earned his Chemical Engineering degree from North Carolina State University before working for nearly 30 years in aerospace research for BFGoodrich in Akron. Retired, he is able to devote himself fully to nature causes. He has been the president of the Greater Akron Audubon Society, volunteers for the Nature Conservancy's Herrick Preserve in Portage County and also volunteers to work on invasive species at the Bath Nature Preserve in Summit County.

Travel has always been his biggest passion. Mark has made trips to every continent with an emphasis on nature. At the time of his last presentation to BRAS, Antarctica was next on his list. Having been there he will educate and entertain us in discussing his trip.

Cover photos: Blackthroated blue warbler by Sue Mowatt; House wren by Barbara Baudot

PLEASE NOTE

The May monthly meeting of Black River Audubon Society will take place at Sandy Ridge Reservation's Perry F. Johnson Wetland Center off Otten Road in North Ridgeville.

Spring & Summer Field Trips Warbler Migration Magee Marsh

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at west end of boardwalk.

Wyandotte Wetland Meadows Preserve

Saturday, June 17, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at gravel parking lot,
5307 Cleveland Road, Sandusky
Paul Sherwood to lead

Columbia Reservation

Saturday, July 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at 25145 Royalton Road, Columbia Station
Tammy Martin to lead

Chippewa Inlet, Medina Metro Parks

Saturday, August 19, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at 5803 Lafayette Road, Medina
Debbie Parker to lead

March Field Trip Report Killbuck Marsh/Funk Bottoms, Etc. March 18, 2017

By Sally Fox



Four of us made the trip to Shreve on March 18th for our BRAS field trip. As is often the case for birding, the weather was not that great, but was typical for a northern Ohio spring day – mist, rain, sun, and snow.

We met at Shreve Lake to find a group of Amish birders and several spotting scopes lined up along the bank. Saturday was the Shreve Migration Sensation and there were help stations set up at several locations around Shreve. Because the dam at Shreve Lake needs repair, the water level is down and diving ducks are no longer there, but we saw green-winged teal, northern shoveler, northern pintail, great blue heron, sandhill crane, bald eagle, killdeer, Wilson's snipe, American

crow, American tree sparrow, song sparrow, and red-winged blackbird. From there we went to Wilderness Road where we added tree swallow and horned lark.

Continuing on to Funk Bottoms, we saw Canada goose, mallard, ring-billed gull, and lesser scaup.

From there we drove along Rt. 95. There were a couple places to pull off the well-traveled road to view Funk Bottoms and saw eastern bluebird. We had been given directions to find a great horned owl nest along this road and find it we did along with two owls looking at us. This was a highlight for one of our group.

By this time lunch was calling so we headed into Shreve for a lovely lunch at Der Dutch Essenhaus. To finish up our day, we headed to Killbuck Marsh. There we added trumpeter swan, gadwall, American wigeon, blue-winged teal, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, American coot, northern flicker, and downy woodpecker. Birds seen traveling between sites were: turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, rock pigeon, mourning dove, blue jay, American robin, European starling, and northern cardinal for a total of 38 species. All in all it was a delightful day in the rolling hills of Amish Country.

A Birder's Diary: Territories, Part II

By Carol Leininger



During the breeding season territories are really important for successful reproduction but the type of territory varies with the species.

Mating territories— Prairie chickens and grouse defend an area or tournament ground called a 'lek'. Here two or more males will gather to display communally, inflating their vocal sacs, erecting their tail and neck feathers and making bizarre sounds. This attracts a female to the area for mating after which the female departs alone to build a nest and rear her young. Species with lasting pair bonds often defend a mating territory.

Nesting territories – Colonial birds tend to defend only the nest area. Penguins, albatrosses, cormorants, herons, gulls, and terns defend just enough area beyond their nests to carry out the nesting activities without disturbance to neighbors.

Mating, Nesting, and Feeding territories – Vireos, warblers, thrushes, most songbirds, and many woodpeckers defend a territory that includes their whole world during the reproductive season. Threat displays and mock fights usually replace actual fighting. The

male tends to do most of the defensive activity but in some, like the redstart, both sexes become threatening.

Mating and Nesting territories – Goldfinches, grebes, and red-winged blackbirds tend to defend the mating and nesting areas but will feed on neutral ground with no aggression.

Super territories – Some birds will defend a territory that holds more resources than are necessary for survival and reproduction. This possibly allows them to hold food in reserve for a bad year.

Take some time in bird watching this spring to see how birds defend their territory and just how large an area it is. There is so much more to watching birds than just checking off those you see and identify.

The Snow Geese Experience

By Chuck Jakubchak



If you want to see an amazing waterfowl spectacle, please consider a drive to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area near Lititz, PA (about a 5 to 6 hour drive from Elyria).

During the last half of February Middle Creek hosts a huge flock of migrating snow geese that stop to rest and refuel in the area before continuing their journey to their Arctic breeding grounds. The geese are only at Middle Creek for a short time, so you have to check the website for updates.

The average count of snow geese during mid to late February ranges from 40,000 to 80,000 and the number varies based on the weather.

At night the geese rest on the Middle Creek Reservoir, departing at dawn in sizable flocks to feed in nearby fields. They return in waves to the safety of the lake shortly before dark. The best bird watching occurs at dawn and dusk when the geese are moving.

Bald eagles populate the area and the sight of an eagle soaring over the lake sends the snow geese flock into a tizzy. They take flight and circle the lake, sometimes flying over the crowd positioned at the Willow Point viewing area. An incredible sight to see!

Tundra swans are also an attraction with their numbers being in the 2,500-5,000 and beyond range. An assortment of ducks can be found at Middle Creek, but it is difficult to take your eyes off the snow geese and swans.

The geese move on by early March so plan ahead and mark your calendar for early 2018. You will not be disappointed because the sight and sounds of thousands of snow geese cannot be accurately described.



Snow goose in flight. From Audubon.org

If you have a question, please contact Chuck at the address below. He visited Middle Creek in Feb. of 2017 and was overwhelmed with the spectacle.

Jakubchak@yahoo.com; Photos on page 2 by Jeanne Jakubchak

Black River Audubon Society's Scholarship Winners

Two Lorainites have been named the 2017 Black River Audubon Hog Island scholarship recipients.

Teressa Nemeth, an OSU Extension master gardener for more than twenty years, will be attending the ***Field Ornithology*** camp at Hog Island off the coast of Maine.

Ms. Nemeth, as a master gardener gives advice during presentations to groups interested in gardening and also answers telephone callers and internet questions. She has worked with Lorain Metropolitan Housing's "Green Thumb" program to teach gardening to the residents who use the skills around their homes.

Her extension program position gives her access to many other public venues such as libraries, garden clubs and schools to teach gardening. Her goal after the camp is to "encourage others to take a deeper look at the world around them. To arouse in people the desire to remove the 'ear buds' while outdoors and take in bird song."

Charmaine Lupinacci, is a teacher at Elyria's Crestwood School. She will be attending Hog Island's ***Sharing Nature: An Educator's Workshop*** camp. Charmaine, also, has twenty years of experience in her profession, teaching science as well as social science.

Ms. Lupinacci acquired her love of birds from an ornithology class and an independent bird-counting study she took part in during college, "it was the best class I ever had," she remembers.

She intends to use the experience "to further environmental understanding in my school by sharing ideas that students could do in their own backyard - to make a small ecosystem and learn how it works."

Her social science class can benefit as well as the students study the use of natural resources and different land forms that make for different ecological niches for birds and other wildlife.

Black River Audubon Society congratulates both recipients on their selection and their goals to improving environmental understanding in our area. **JJ**

HOUSE WREN

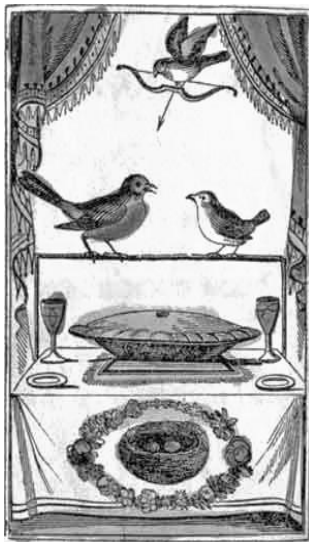
Troglodytes aedon

By **Barbara Baudot**

*When Jenny Wren was young
So neatly as she danced,
And so sweetly as she sung—
Robin Redbreast lost his heart.
And thus to her he said.
“My dearest Jenny Wren,
If you will but be mine,
You shall dine on cherry pie,
And drink nice currant wine.*



Decades ago my mother read me this poem published in Philadelphia in 1809. The curious illustration below celebrates the Marriage of Jenny Wren and Cock Robin. Clearly, robin red breast is the American species of robin and the plain brownish Jenny wren with stripes on wings and tail is our house wren. The poem has origins in England and the US. An 1820 British publication of the poem featured the European robin and the Eurasian wren [*Troglodytes troglodytes*]. These *Troglodytes* species are most closely associated with humans.



The house wren breeds from Canada through the West Indies and Central America, to the bottom of South America. Only northern breeders migrate. The Eurasian wren, the only troglodyte beyond the Western hemisphere, inhabits the Eurasian continent.

A bird with an effervescent song, the house wren inhabits semi-open woodlots, thickets, and gardens. Both wren genders are dressed in the same suit of feathers year round. Actively bouncing about with its short tail, this perky little bird whooshes through shrubs and low tree branches, nipping a wide variety of insects. The male defends his territory by singing.

In breeding, house wrens use nesting boxes or any enclosed cavity such as a tree hollow. The male begins his courtship by singing and building several dummy twig nests to offer his intended. She finishes the nest by lining it with soft feathers, grasses, even snake skins and to protect the young she sews in spider egg sacs before laying 5-8 white/brown speckled eggs she incubates. Both parents feed the hatchlings. Inclined to infidelity, male and female may also nest with another mate.

The house wren on this cover was building a nest when I took his picture. The length of the twigs he chose to manipulate into the box fascinated me. The longest stood as a sentinel in the hole of the bird box. I was thrilled by this activity envisaging a nest of wrens near my porch.

When our beloved Harry Spencer told me that the male was simply building a dummy nest, I was deflated. Six weeks later, fortunately, six fully feathered fledglings streamed out of the box. There was so much bird lore to learn from Harry, whose encyclopedic knowledge of bird species, songs, wing movements, and breeding habits was illimitable. He taught me the secrets of bird photography. Most significantly he imparted the wisdom of gratitude for every day one is alive. He is sorely missed.

References: Wikipedia; Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; library.villanova.edu/Find/Record/949286

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Dendroica caerulescans

By **Cathy Priebe**



Once again I must go back in time to my first trip to Magee Marsh and the resulting warbler overload. Seriously, it was overwhelmingly awesome, but also confusing for a newbie, armed with a

field guide but with no previous warbler experience. But fortunately, there are a few birds that actually look like their names and the black-throated blue warbler definitely fits the bill. No pun intended.

The male has blue upper parts, black face and throat, a distinctive white wing patch with white underneath and black sides. He also has white tail spots. The female looks nothing like the male, except she may have white wing patches if she is older. First spring females have a smaller or no wing patch. She is a dull grayish green on top, broken white eye ring and a buff belly. She looks so unlike her partner that even bird expert John James

Audubon originally thought she was a separate species. I am sure this little girl has fooled many, me included.

The black-throated blue is not a regular nester in Ohio; in fact, there are only a few documented nests from an old growth boggy forest in Northeastern, Ohio that has since been destroyed. They do prefer a habitat of dense understory shrubs and forests with trees over 50 years old.

The best and only time for us to see this dapper bird is during migration. Luckily for many of us who may suffer from “warbler neck”, this bird does not move very fast and tends to feed in the lower canopy and even on the ground in bushes and damp areas. He also has a unique song, zoo, zoo, zee, zee, zeeE, which in English is “I am so lay-zeeE”.

Now that I am a more seasoned “warbler watcher”, I have been very fortunate to have black-throated blues and other warblers briefly visit my backyard each spring. Magee is THE place to go, but don’t rule out your own yard. Take some time to look at the tops of your neighborhood trees this spring. You will be happily surprised to see that these beautiful birds do fly through, nabbing bugs on the wing as they migrate north. Some may even stop for a drink and a quick shower at your birdbath or water feature.

Enjoy migration! It only lasts for a few short weeks in the spring, so get out your binoculars and see what you have been missing in your own backyard or local Metro Park.

References: *Warblers of Ontario* by Chris G. Earley; *Birds of Ohio* by Jim McCormac; *Pete Dunne’s Essential Field Guide Companion* by Pete Dunne.

Native Nurseries

If you are interested in native plant landscaping, Andy Lance, our speaker on backyard gardening at the April 2017 Black River Audubon meeting, provided this list of nurseries that specialize in plants native to our area.

Native Roots, Inc.

Address: 3576 Five Oaks Drive, Richfield, OH 44286

Phone: 330-704-5735

Website: sonia.bingham@nativeroots.com

Perennials Preferred

Address: 7572 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, OH 44026

Phone: 440-729-7885

Website: Perennialspreferred@gmail.com

Ohio Prairie Nursery

Address: ORDERS TAKEN BY PHONE OR ONLINE

Phone: 866-569-3380

Website: info@ohioprairienursery.com

Scioto Gardens Landscape Nursery

Address: 3351 S.R. 37 W., Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740-363-8264

Website: sales@sciotogardens.com

Naturally Native

Address: 13737 S.R. 582, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Phone: 419-833-2020

Website: nnn@naturallynative.net

Companion Plants, Inc.

Address: 7247 N. Coolville Ridge Rd., Athens, OH 45701

Phone: 740-592-4643

Website: sales@companionplants.com

Ernst Conservation Seeds, Inc.

Address: 8884 Mercer Pike, Meadville, PA 16335

Phone: 800-873-3321

Website: sales@ernstseed.com

Prairie Moon Nursery

Address: 32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, MN 55987

Phone: 866-417-8156

Website: info@prairiemoon.com

To receive Wingtips without membership in National Audubon – Application is \$15 /Year

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Send with \$15 check to Black River Audubon

P.O. Box 33, Elyria, OH 44036

The mission of the Black River Audubon Society is to promote conservation and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife through advocacy, education, stewardship, field trips, and programs for the benefit of all people of today and tomorrow.

National Audubon Membership Application

(Includes membership in Black River Audubon and subscriptions to WINGTIPS and AUDUBON magazine: \$20/year, \$30/2 years, \$15/year for students and seniors)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Chapter Code S52, 7XCH8

Send your check to: National Audubon Society,

225 Varick Street, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10014

Attention: Chance Mueleck

In Memory of Harry

If you knew Harry Spencer, you knew he was the very heart and soul of Black River Audubon Society. Board member, treasurer, president, bluebird monitor, Wingtips editor, field trip regular, Harry did it all. He did everything with a quiet grace that welcomed everyone to the joys of birding. We were all made richer by his presence in our lives.

When Harry Spencer retired and joined Black River Audubon Society he did so with much enthusiasm. As president and Wingtips editor he brought BRAS into the age of technology. He spent a great deal of time and energy improving the organization to make it what it is today. He did much to encourage and guide others with his quiet, friendly works. He will truly be missed. (Carol Leininger)



Harry tending his bluebird trail.

It has been very rewarding to know Harry. When I started working on the Black River Audubon website, I knew little about birds; he taught me a lot. He was my go-to person for bird identification. We began posting to the website with the February 2008 issue. Since then all are on the website. The back issues are a tribute to him. (Arlene Lengyel)

I first met Harry in 1985 when he retired from Eastman Kodak and came to teach in the Oberlin College chemistry department for a number of years. At the time neither of us was birding, so it was a pleasant surprise to find we shared a common interest when I returned to birding in 2005.

We immediately began birding together and did so often, mostly at one of the Carlisle Reservation trails, which Harry knew intimately. He knew where you were likely to find elusive birds such as a yellow-breasted chat or a cerulean warbler or when the bobolinks would return. Harry birded for the pleasure of the experience, not for generating a life list. He appreciated any bird he saw. But he did keep a daily list for posting on eBird. As a scientist, he knew the value of collecting good data. When possible Harry took along his Cairn terrier, Star. He attached her leash to his waist so his hands were free for his binoculars and camera. Sometimes when I walked Carlisle alone, a dog walker would enquire about Harry if they had not seen him for a while.

Harry had a strong commitment to BRAS and was constantly looking for ways to get others involved, and I soon was one of his converts. Harry always saw what was possible and brought out the best in others with his gentle manner, good humor, insight, and patience.

Since we both lived in Oberlin, Harry and I carpoled to most activities. On birding outings Harry required that he be home by noon. His wife, Peg, was unable to go on regular field trips but every day they took a lunch and drove to a spot where they could eat and observe birds. Wellington Upground Reservoir and the Lake Erie shore in Vermilion were two of their favorite spots.

Harry touched every aspect of my experience with birding. I am thankful for the friendship we shared and will miss him greatly. (Marty Ackermann)

Harry was one of the first people I met when I joined Black River Audubon four years ago. He always enjoyed discussing the Navy where we both served. The thing about Harry that I will always remember is how much he was committed to advancing the goals of Black River Audubon. And on a personal note, Harry was very helpful in trying to allow me to hear birdcalls, even though my old hearing aids didn't pick up the high frequencies. Harry was really delighted when I got new ones that would allow me to hear birds I had never heard before. He will be missed by all who knew him. (Larry Wilson)

Harry always had positive words to say to me. He always looked for ways he could help grow membership. He is now with his precious Peg looking for those ivory-billed woodpeckers. May he rest in peace. I will miss you Harry. (Betsy Miles)

When I first met Harry, I had volunteered to write articles for our publication Wingtips. He was so happy that I agreed to help, his smile was from ear to ear. I don't know whether he knew if I could write or not, he was just glad that someone offered to help. After I submitted my first article, Harry emailed me back hoping that I would become a regular contributor and now I am an editor. I spoke with Harry at our February 2017 program and he told me he always looked forward to reading my articles for Wingtips because he appreciated that I wrote my own personal experiences with the bird and it made my stories more enjoyable. It was my last conversation with Harry and I will always remember his kind words. Harry was often soft-spoken but always honest and direct when necessary. I will miss him dearly. You earned your "wings" Harry. (Cathy Priebe)



Harry on a field trip, July 2016

Like our founder, Jack Smith, Harry was a great advocate for educating and involving our young people in environmental education and conservation. He encouraged and supported me as education chairperson in getting Audubon Adventures into classrooms and providing scholarships to educators to the Hog Island environmental education camp.

Harry initiated the idea of members adopting a trail and regularly monitoring it with eBird with the goal of establishing a Lorain County birding trail using data to let visitors know where to go to find different species.

Harry always had the BRAS mission in mind when discussing issues and was able to cut to the core of the discussion and suggest a solution that met our mission.

Above all, I will remember Harry for his compassion for people and his extraordinary kindness. (Dick Lee)

I am happy that the last time I saw him was at a Black River Audubon meeting when he was happy, spunky, and responsive to our speaker. Godspeed, Harry. You will be missed.

(Tammy Martin)

During his long and valuable association with Black River Audubon, Harry Spencer provided key leadership and effectively supported Jack Smith's wish for the continuation of Jack's vision for the organization.

As President he revised the By-Laws providing for clearer guidelines and more active participation by Board chairs, adding the establishment of co-chairs where indicated. As a Board member, he served in several capacities, most recently as Treasurer, as he continued to be involved with growth and management.

He developed the web site and participated in its operation as it improved, expanded its reach, and became the current attractive and comprehensive picture of Black River Audubon available to members, prospective members and other interested viewers. He was an advocate and a perceptive critic, both valuable assets for any organization. And he was an avid birder, one of the most faithful of members in participating in field activities regardless of weather.

My initial reaction that I shared with some of you: Harry is one of those people who will live forever in the memory of the many who knew him and appreciated his uniqueness. (Harriet Alger)

My friendship with Harry was short, barely a handful of years but his influence in my life was impossible to measure. His knowledge of birds, identification by sight and call, was something I can only aspire to and his patience and enthusiasm in pointing out species new to me during bluebird trail walks was motivating. Harry had a child-like curiosity, a quick intelligence, a quiet but wry sense of humor. I always felt his support for the bluebird program we recently started coordinating for Black River Audubon and his approval of its growth. The last time I saw Harry he asked me to "wow" his daughter with the numbers of fledglings from that program and the sparkle in his eyes during my answer told all of us that he took much personal satisfaction from imagining the hundreds and hundreds of fledgling native birds listed. It is because of great men like Harry that our children and grandchildren will have a richer and more beautiful world to explore and enjoy. We feel the loss of his presence but know that this world is a better place because of his walk among us. (Penny Brandau)

I nearly missed my last, and best, visit with Harry. We were co-editors of Wingtips and I needed to visit him at his house to correct a problem I was having with the April edition. He suggested that I join him for dinner that evening. I was rather busy at the time and considered declining. Something told me, though, that I could always make time for Harry and I accepted. I am certainly glad I did; it gave me another chance to take part in the wonderful conversations that we always had together. We had a great time talking in his beautiful home, appropriately surrounded by trees on the edge of Oberlin. I also met, once more, his faithful dog Star who came to greet me and see me off.

Harry certainly was the most cordial person I ever met; yet one who in his devotion to Black River Audubon Society let his opinions be known without causing animosity. A very rare gift, indeed. Perhaps my best memory was the pleasure he took in his last meeting when the teenaged speaker related his Hog Island experiences. To see the future of birding assured gave Harry such pleasure despite the obvious effects of his last illness. Harry was a role model for all of us. (Jim Jablonski)



Happy Birding, Harry!

The first time I spent with Harry was on the Wellington Christmas Bird Count hiking Charlemont on a cold, dreary day. Harry brightened the day with his Day-Glo orange cap and his sharp wit. He gently informed us it was hunting season and we should have something bright on too. Harry had a way of giving helpful hints with a twinkle in his eye. Over the last few years I have been trying to take pictures of birds and submitted some to Wingtips. I sent Harry a picture I thought was worthy of publication, but when it didn't make the cut I asked why. Harry said it was because he couldn't see the eye of the bird and that is what gave it spark. Harry had that spark in his eye. I am grateful to have known Harry. He will be missed. (Sally Fox)



Harry, front and center at Eagle Point Nature Preserve, doing what he loved most with (l-r) Nina Love, Marty Ackermann, Paul Sherwood and Barb Knapp.

Harry was always a fun loving guy who would get excited by the sounds and sights he heard and saw while birding. Once on the Christmas bird count we saw about thirty horned larks. Although it was snowing and windy we stopped to count and listen to them call to each other. Harry became excited just watching, listening and counting them. Another time we were at Sandy Ridge Reservation when it had been raining a lot. When it finally stopped I began to take off my rain gear and two sandhill cranes that happened to be nearby became startled and started to make a lot of noise. They kept it up for about fifteen minutes. Larry Wilson, Arlene Ryan, Marty Ackermann and Harry just laughed and laughed. Harry loved to laugh and we all loved to laugh with him. Even as I relive the event tears stream down my face. Harry was loved by us all; I wish I had hugged him a few times.

Hopefully everyone who reads this gets to know the other members of this group. We love to laugh together and Harry was our influence; he was so much fun to be around. I will miss him so much. (Doug Cary)

Dear Harry:

We never had a chance to say goodbye—so quickly you soared to the heavens! I am convinced Providence had a purpose for this abrupt departure. Perhaps it was the call to share in another realm your kindness, teaching and great appreciation of nature and beauty. Down here on earth we hold to your exceptional goodness and wisdom as sacred living memories and thank God that we had the privilege to know you.

We sense your frequent presence at the dinner table where we had profoundly inspiring discussions, all the while you were smiling and your blues eyes were twinkling with warmth and enthusiasm; and Star was at your side.

In bird walks your instructions—on communicating the location of birds and photographing them by focusing on their eyes—remain with me. You taught me about writing for Wingtips. How sweet the success of pleasing you!

Your wisest advice was that we should live each day to its fullest with the utmost gratitude for being alive. You inspired us to follow your example!

Our last bird walk with you was on Hale Road looking particularly for trumpeter swans. Never saw them, but something else drew my camera's attention, perhaps an omen of your impending departure on wings toward some marvelous destiny.

Thank you Harry! We miss you very much! (Barbara Baudot)



Harry and Star, both departing, 2017

Harry Spencer
1927-2017



If you read the personal memorials to Harry Spencer, it should not come as a surprise that he was a native of *Friendship*, New York. His cordial, happy and gentle nature filled him with a love of life that drew others to him. His love of nature and especially birds were legendary in our area and inspired others to the same activities.

Harry's final years, as all of ours, brought heartache as he lost his beloved wife, Peg, and was preparing to move from his lovely home just prior to his death. Still, he was always among friends, attending Black River Audubon Society meetings and birding during poor winter weather up to the very end. His term on the Society's board was ending but he made every meeting until the last one, just days after his passing.

Even as this is written, I find myself thinking that I must hurry to get the pages of this issue to him for proofreading before I remember. Still, I hope he likes it.

Above photo by Barbara Baudot