

# Skimmer

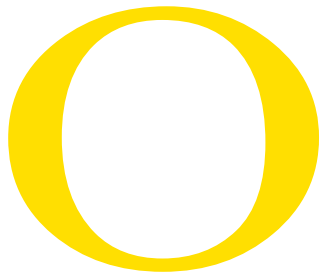


Feb. - March 2009  
Vol. XXXV No. 5

The Francis M. Weston Audubon Society

## Adventures in Wildlife Rehabilitation

by Ann Forster



One of my favorite topics is the association among sister organizations. We often work on projects with the Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Blackwater River Forest and State Park to name a few. One of our closest associations is with the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. They have

given us invaluable support and advice in our new raptor project at the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center. Their mission statement will tell you why we often work in concert:

*... to provide a safe haven for injured and orphaned wildlife and to foster public awareness and appreciation of wildlife. This mission will be accomplished through the mobilization and direction of public, private, and human resources to provide care, create natural habitats, and promote wildlife preservation through education.*

The object of all their hard work is to release 100% of their "clients" back into the wild. Sadly, that is not possible. An eagle with one eye or a hawk with one wing simply cannot return to normal activities but can be recruited to teach youngsters why these creatures are wonderful and valuable. The most popular permanent sanctuary residents are the owls. No one can resist the fierce and proud glare of those eyes.

Our home is in an area that has perfect habitat for herons, egrets, rails, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. It has been our privilege over the years to release many rehabilitated birds in our yard. Our most exciting attempt at a release was of the Storm-petrel the Duncans wrote about in the December/January Skimmer. Even though the bird had no external injuries, it was evident that there was neurological damage that made it impossible for the bird to fly or to feed itself. By the time I returned to the Sanctuary, it had died. As it turned out, its value as a scientific specimen is

unquestionable.

Most of the releases have been successful now that the Sanctuary has a flight cage that gives a clear idea of a bird's flying ability. When Storm-petrels are released, they have amazed us by flying straight for the Gulf of Mexico...no looking around to get bearings. One of the worst experiences was releasing a Storm-petrel and finding that its size, shape and flight pattern was so similar to the Purple Martin that it triggered 'attack mode' in a male Purple Martin. It chased the Storm-petrel, lifted up and stooped like a falcon, striking the poor bird in the back of the head dropping it like a rock. We were flabbergasted.

We have released many gulls and terns with success, but once a Royal Tern fooled us. He acted fine, but when we released him he flew about 100 yards and fell into the water. Rats!! We put Cheryl Greene and a landing net in the bow of the rowboat and off we went to the



Photos by Dorothy Kaufmann

Continues on bottom of page 3.

## Field Trips

### **Saturday, February 14, Gulf Islands National Seashore and Navarre Beach Birding.**

Lucy Duncan will lead us to look for wintering birds in the Naval Live Oaks unit of GINS and the recently opened Navarre Beach Park. We hope to see a wide variety of bird species, including most, if not all, of the possible small plovers. Expect moderate walking. Bring a picnic lunch, which we will eat at a very nice picnic spot overlooking a terrific birding area. Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of the GINS Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze. We plan to return by early afternoon.

### **Sunday thru Friday, March 22-27, Platte River Nebraska Birding.**

Morris Clark will lead us on an extended birding trip to the Great Plains during spring migration. If you are interested, call Morris Clark or email him at [morisclark@cox.net](mailto:morrisclark@cox.net) for more details. There may still be a space available for you.

### **Saturday, March 28, Ed Ball Nature Trail Native Plants.**

James Burkhalter will lead us on a walk to observe the many native plants, including early spring wildflowers, along the Ed Ball Nature Trail at University of West Florida. The trip will also include a visit to the Michael I. Cousins Herbarium. There will be a short, side field trip to see the rare plant *Lepuropetalon spathulatum*, which has a common name of Little People. Expect easy walking. Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot in front of the Target Store located near the intersection of University Parkway and Nine Mile Road. We will finish by noon.

### **Saturday, April 11, Ft. Pickens Birding.**

Merilu Rose will lead us to look for spring migrants at Ft. Pickens. The new access road construction is scheduled to be completed by April 1, allowing the first field trip in five years to what used to be a terrific migrant trap during spring migration. We will get to see how it has changed and hopefully, see lots of birds. Expect moderate walking. Insect repellent may be needed. Bring a picnic lunch and beverages for the day. Meet at 7:30 am in the Office Depot shopping center parking lot located across Highway 98 from Gulf Breeze Hospital or at 8:00 am in the sound side parking lot located at the entrance to Ft. Pickens. We plan to return by early afternoon unless birding conditions are right and the migrants are plentiful. Because of potential construction delays, please check the April-May issue of the Skimmer or the chapter website in early April for possible changes in the plan.

## Chapter Meetings

Pensacola Junior College, Main Campus, 7 pm,  
Baroco Science Center, Room 2142, Guests welcome!

**Thursday, February 26.** Liz Langston, wildlife biologist in the Blackwater River State Forest (BRSF), will present

a program on "Forestry with Endangered Species." Liz will inform us about several work projects going on in Blackwater and update us on Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) recovery in the forest. Our chapter sponsored the transfer of five RCWs to BRSF and Liz will update us on their peril through the years and RCW health in general.

**Thursday, March 26.** Barbara Albrecht with the Nature Conservancy will present the Gulf Coast Plain EcoSystem Partnership. Over 11,000 acres of land in Northwest Florida fall into the partnership. These lands protect valuable habitat for the Florida black bear, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Indigo snake, Panhandle lily, and perhaps the elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Barbara will talk about the partnership's latest purchases and goals of the Nature Conservancy.

**Thursday, April 23.** Frank Butera from the Department of Environmental Protection will bring us information on the health of Northwest Florida's streams. He will discuss his studies of the conditions of our waterways and how they influence the beginnings of the food chain from aquatic insects to turtles, fish and birds.

## Board of Directors' Meetings

Thursdays, 7 pm, February 5, March 5, April 2 at the Baskerville-Donovan Building, 449 West Main Street, Pensacola. Open to all members.

## Other Events

**Friday, February 20, 2009.** Bay Area Resource Council Stormwater Workshop, 9 am-3 pm, Gulf Power Company Conference Room, Bayfront Parkway. Topics include: Stormwater and Human Impacts, Stormwater BMPs, Stormwater Success Stories, and Water Quality-TMDL's. The agenda will be posted on the website <http://www.wfrpc.org/Environmental-Education> at a later date.

**Saturday, February 21.** Recycling Roundup. Escambia County Regional Roundup at Escambia High School, 8 am-12 pm. Bring old electronics, household hazardous waste, 4 tires per car. Items accepted for no charge, Escambia County residents only. For more information call (850) 937-2160 or [www.escambiarecycles.com](http://www.escambiarecycles.com).

**Saturday, February 21.** Victory Gardens Growing Your Own Food, Growing Your Own Fish Dinner (Backyard Aquaponics and Ponds) excludes decorative pond care, at the Escambia County Extension Office, 10am-12pm. For more information and registration contact Beth Bolles at 475-5230 or email [bbolles@ufl.edu](mailto:bbolles@ufl.edu).

**February 13 – 16.** Great Backyard Bird Count. Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the twelfth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Details are at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/2009release/>.

### We Need your Help!

**The Northern Cardinals and Tufted Titmice on the Birding Bus ledge need your help!**

**"Regis" the King Snake needs your help!**

**So do the turtles in the pool!**

**And so do the new Screech Owls at the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center (RHEC).**



**A**ll of these critters help teach the children in Escambia County Schools to appreciate the natural world and all its creatures. But they can't do it without us. What can you do to help?

FMWAS wants you to join in the spring Birdathon, our main fundraiser for the RHEC. How? You form a birding team and participate in the Birdathon during April, counting all species you can find in any 24-hour period. You will compete to be the top scoring birding team (We have devised a system that will make every team equally competitive regardless of experience.) You will find team sponsors to pledge money for each species you find. All pledges help FMWAS employ our naturalist to teach students coming to the RHEC. You can get out and have some fun days birding during the height of migration season.

We will make more information available on our website about our Birdathon including a team registration application. We will provide a letter that you can distribute to your friends, relatives, professional acquaintances, and businesses that you support to ask for their help in our endeavor. We will give prizes to the birding teams in many different categories. These categories will be announced at a later date. We will celebrate the winning teams at our annual banquet in May. With your help, we can continue to support this excellent environmental educational program for schoolchildren in our area.

- Start your planning now for our BIRDATHON 2009 coming in April.

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## Rehabilitation, continued from front page

rescue. Thank goodness Cheryl is petite because we chased that tern all over the bayou. He certainly seemed to have enough energy to fly. We finally rounded him up for further rehabilitation and I had my exercise for the week.

Some of these birds haven't figured out that we are there to help and can be downright cantankerous. We put a Common Loon in a cardboard box figuring that the darkness would calm him down, which he did on the short trip to my house. I had a Green Heron in a carrying case and managed to carry both containers toward the water. I stopped and released the heron in the marshy edge of the estuary. He flew strongly across and landed. I picked up the loon box, and it was obvious that he was squirming around so I hurried down the path. About that time, the box lurched and he stuck his bill clean through the cardboard, darn near stabbing me in the stomach. I carried him to the water at arm's length . . . and I can tell you loons are heavy! When I got there, I very

carefully put the box on its side and opened the flaps. He rolled into the water right into a school of menhaden, dived, and surfaced with a triumphant flap of wings. Two successful releases with no damage to the releaser.... priceless.

The Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida accepts injured and orphaned indigenous wildlife 7 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. All incoming wildlife is given a thorough examination and veterinary help if indicated. They are fed a diet most resembling the food they would eat in the wild, and are carefully monitored to insure that captivity is as stress free and as temporary as possible. For more information go to [pensacolawildlife.com](http://pensacolawildlife.com).





# F I E L D N O T E S

by Bob Duncan

■ **The tempo of birding activity always increases in December.** This year was no exception, kick-started with an incursion of winter finches at feeders. **American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins** and a few **Purple Finches** heralded the beginning of an exciting season. And then came Fred Bassett of the Hummer Bird Study Group. Birders with hummingbirds waited for Fred to come, band and sometimes identify “their” hummers, usually rare species from western states. And then it was time for the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts when parties of birders fanned out in frenetic searching and counting of our local birds. It was, and is, always an exciting season to be a birder. The results of the Pensacola CBC are reported elsewhere in this issue.

■ In November, the Duncans and Cecil and Pam Brown found a **Western Kingbird** and a rare **Vermilion Flycatcher** at the Ft. Walton Spray Fields (FWBSF) that continued to 21 January. The Duncans found three very late **Rough-winged Swallows** there on 1 December and a rare **Clay-colored Sparrow**.\*

■ Rare in winter, 8 to 21 **Cattle Egrets** were sighted by Powers McLeod during his bird patrols of the Pensacola Regional Airport perimeter 12 -23 December. Ann Ziccardi spotted a **Yellow Warbler**, an outstanding find and only the second ever for winter, during the F. M. Weston Audubon field trip to the Solutia Sanctuary on 13 December. Lynn Gould found a secretive **LeConte’s Sparrow**\* on that same trip. A very rare **Calliope Hummingbird**\* and a **Rufous Hummingbird** were banded by Fred Bassett at Jan Lloyd’s Pensacola home on 13 December. Widely reported in the area, up to 120 **Pine Siskins** crammed Morris Clark’s feeders in north Pensacola during December and January.

■ **Among the outstanding finds on the Choctawhatchee CBC held 15 December** were very late **Sandwich Terns** found by Bill and Greta Bremser and Duncans. Rare in winter, a gorgeous male **Baltimore Oriole**\* frequented Betsy Tetlow’s feeder in Pensacola on 17 Dec.-20 Jan. Another was found by the Duncans in the Escambia River swamp on 18 January. Exciting finds were **Sandhill Cranes** spotted by Carol Tebay in Santa Rosa Co. on 22 November and eleven found by Laura Catterton on 28 December in north Escambia Co. Five **Pacific Loons**\* were spotted by Scot Duncan at his home in Gulf Breeze on 23 December. Only a second December record, a very rare **Clay-colored Sparrow**\* was identified by Merilu and Rufus Rose at their home in Pensacola on the twenty fourth. Heartening was the count

of 80 **Rusty Blackbirds**\* by Laura Catterton in Cantonment on 23 December. The species is in decline nationally. Starting the New Year off well, Frank Jennings sighted 30 - 40 **American White Pelicans** over Pensacola 1 January.



Baltimore Oriole, ©Dan Sudia

■ **The northern half of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties are lightly birded at best.** We stick to the coast because we think that’s where all the “good” birds are. On 11 January, the Duncans and UWF student and south Florida resident Alex Harper ventured north and found great birding, despite raw, cold, windy weather. A field of over a thousand gulls across from the Molino school on Hwy 97 yielded two rare gulls, **Glaucous**\* and **Lesser Black-backed**.\* Apparently when the garbage dump closes on Sunday, the gulls disperse to the countryside for gourmet food, namely, post-harvest soybeans or peanuts. Across the road were hundreds of blackbirds including **Brewer’s** and one **Rusty**. At the catfish farms in Walnut Hill, we counted at least 17 **Bald Eagles**, most of which were immatures, a maximum ever for our area.

■ **A banded Piping Plover observed by the Duncans** at Navarre Beach Park in November 2008 was banded at Vermillion, South Dakota, in June 2007. Especially abundant this season, were **Chipping and Vesper Sparrows**, the latter often hard to find in most winters. Flocks of Chippies seemed to fly up from road shoulders wherever we went. Forty **Boat-tailed Grackles**\* seen by the Duncans flying over the Escambia River marsh on 18 January were a sighting of a species that is fairly common just to our east and west, but inexplicably rare locally. A **Wilson’s Phalarope**, observed 21 January at Big Lagoon State Park by Carolyn Henning, Jan Osborn, Annelise Reunert et al. was the first ever for January in this area.

The *Skimmer* welcomes reports of noteworthy birds. If you have something to report, please call Bob or Lucy Duncan at 932-4792.

\*Species with asterisks require documentation so that they may be processed to become part of the ornithological record.

# Tripping to Blackwater

By Ann Forster

It is not as though Peggy Baker doesn't have enough to do with managing Audubon Adventures, supporting Hyatt Center activities, organizing the Birdathon Fundraiser, leading field trips, and serving on the presidents' committee. She has always been interested and involved in projects at the Blackwater River State Forest, and now they have asked our chapter to census their bird populations. The Forest Service is, of course, aware of its Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and some of the other associated pine woods birds such as the Bachman's Sparrow, but do not have a real handle on the bird population as a whole. Peggy stepped up, offered to help, and contacted those of us who like to participate in this kind of project.

As a retired scientist, I have always gravitated to birding activities that contribute information to the world's largest biological database. Taken together, the Christmas Bird Counts, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Breeding Bird Surveys, and the state bird atlas projects generate invaluable information on distribution and population changes. Ornithology is one of the few sciences that allow amateurs to make major contributions. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has recognized this and coined the title, "citizen scientist" in our honor.

We are in the early stages of organizing the Blackwater project. Our first obstacle has been trying to round up current and accurate maps. Peggy has subdivided the forest into 13 areas of equal size so that a day count has some framework. We haven't established a scientific protocol, but that will come after several visits. The more consistent our

technique, the more accurate our results will be. Furthermore, once a procedure is established, different groups of counters will be able to reproduce similarly good results.

We have generated a master list of the most probable birds in the forest, which we will formally confirm. This list divides the year into spring, summer, fall, and winter. Peggy has developed a day list for use on the counting trips. We will keep notes on the numbers of species and the numbers of individuals present so that we can add information on abundance. This effort will require three to four years for the thoroughness we'd like to achieve.

We are lucky to have the Blackwater River Forest nearby and even luckier that they are good caretakers of the special birds of the piney woods. If you are interested in participating in this project, contact Peggy Baker at 934-3242.

## 2008 PENSACOLA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

By Bill Bremser

This year's CBC started off with relatively warm weather but with fog that hampered distant viewing especially over the water.

The Pensacola CBC area is a 15-mile diameter circle with the center about mid-Escambia Bay. This circle has been used for decades as it reaches south to the Gulf, far enough north for good woods habitat and east to Garçon Point for salt marsh species.

This year we had a total of 137 species, the same as 2007 and 2002 and our second highest count, the best being 140 in 2006. We found a total of 25,092 individuals, the highest number since 1996. Over the past ten years our average was around 17,000. Why so much more this year is difficult to say. Perhaps the overall warmer temperatures this December could have had an effect. Species noted this year to have higher than normal numbers included Lesser Scaup-1308; Bufflehead-380; Horned Grebe-216; White Pelican-266;

Mourning Dove-2411; Red-headed Woodpecker-35; Red-bellied Woodpecker-225; E. Bluebird-373; E. Robin-2709; Cedar Waxwing-797; Yellow-rumped Warbler-2140; Palm Warbler-105; Chipping Sparrow-972; N. Cardinal-198; B.H. Cowbird-459; and American Goldfinch-226.

Needless to say with the help of our faithful volunteers, this year's CBC was one of our best. Thanks to the following (in alphabetical order and team leaders in bold): Carol Ascherfeld, **Peggy Baker**, **Thomas Barbig**, Dan and Howard Barbig, Pam Beasley, Roberta Bonwit, Greta and **Bill Bremser**, Cheryl Bunch, Billye Christopher, **Morris Clark**, Jane Crittenden, **Bob** and **Lucy Duncan**, Dan and **Ann Forster**, **Jere French**, Lynn and Jay Gould, Cheryl Greene, Mary Jones, Les Kelly, Liz Langston, **Jan Lloyd**, Powers McLeod, Mo and Lucy Michel, Heidi Moore, Jan Osborn, **James Pfeiffer**, **Merilu Rose**, Mike Scheller, Alan Sheppard, Sam Tagatz, Dana and Susie Timmons, Carol and **Don Ware**, Dick Zani, and Ann Ziccardi.

## From Conure to Pterodactyl



friend from California called recently asking me to identify a bird that had come to her table at a patio restaurant. “A cute little bird,” she explained, “all velvety dark blue. Beautiful.” I made it a Brewer’s Blackbird. Another California friend came to my front door one August afternoon, excitedly describing “a large silvery bird” that had been demonstrating an aggressive attitude towards him. While he was jabbering, a Mockingbird landed on a fence post across the street. My friend nearly gagged. “Ohmygod, there’s another one!” No *Silver Tanager* time.

Persons of that large, generic composite known to us as non-birders frequently bewilder me with the capricious unpredictability of their sightings. They grandly expand or diminish size and misconstrue behavior. Color they get. “I saw a chippy,” our secretary reported one morning, “with a red head. Is that even possible?” I allowed that it was. And while fervently, if inaccurately, reporting the commonest of bird sightings they often shrug off the genuinely spectacular. I once spotted a Roadrunner stalking the planters between buildings in our downtown—a most unusual setting for a rather unusual bird, I reasoned, which I pointed out to the first passerby I could nab.

“See that bird? It’s a Roadrunner!” His response? “Beep beep.” And one afternoon at a California shopping mall I was electrified by the unexpected sight of thirty or forty conures squawking loudly from atop a clump of tall *Washingtonia* palms, the birds’ long tails and brilliant plumage providing the otherwise unexceptional mall plaza with a decidedly exotic prospect. How they got there one can only conjecture. Perhaps a truckload of contraband birds crashed and split apart while attempting to shake off the Border Patrol. But as nobody in the mall seemed aware of the avian theatrics overhead, I began buttonholing passing shoppers and pointing to the big birds shrieking, as parrots do, and flapping from palm to palm, flashing bright wings in the sunlight. The shoppers looked up, shrugged and went on about their shopping, indifferent and undistracted from their more pressing objectives.

I think non-birders lead flat, narrow lives, while they, on the other hand, think of us as living close to the edge of the charts. I once sent people running when I loudly announced, “boobies on the beach!” (the boobies were Gannets), and certain folks have refused to ride with me, if they spot binoculars on the front seat. Even non-birder cartoonists have fun picturing us with vague, slightly dopey countenances, in knee length shorts and ankle boots, binoculars and bandanas around our necks, staring from under pith helmets into some bewildering unknown. Some non-birder friends may willingly join us on the trail from time to time, as a waltz through the woods usually piques their enthusiasm for adventure, but they quickly grow restive when obliged to wait silently, even a moment or two, for a nuthatch to reappear around an oak twig or for a woodpecker to emerge from a hole in a pine stump.

Staked out on just such an occasion one summer evening in the Choctawhatchee Forest, awaiting the arrival of the resident Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Joan had become increasingly antsy, distracted, and disinterested, in the usual behavior of the non-birder ensnared temporarily in a birder’s milieu. “Are they ever coming? Are they all that important? Are we going to miss dinner?” And then suddenly here comes a huge bird, an unwanted intruder landing on our pine branch, a Pileated Woodpecker, bright red crown glowing in the setting sunlight.

“Wow!” she whispered, “a pterodactyl! Now this is really something!”

See what I mean.



■ *Bird Watcher's Digest* has an offer you can't refuse. They will split the cost of any new subscription with FMWAS if you mention our Audubon Chapter and give them our address found on this newsletter! If there is such a thing as "free money" (and I don't mean bailout!), then this has got to be it. Visit [http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/publications/bwd\\_index.aspx](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/publications/bwd_index.aspx) to find out more. Remember to mention FMWAS if you subscribe.

■ **The curious case of the chickadee and the Chinese Tallow** (*Sapium sebiferum*). Chipping away at the white clusters of berries, the chickadees attacked the invasive tree's fruit, never gleaning an insect nor breaking open the hard white seed. Why? The birds are chipping away the waxy coating and eating it! Bill Fontenot of Louisiana, who researches bird frugivory, says that the Chinese Tallow, or "Popcorn Tree," is right up there near the top for diversity of birds using it.

■ **The annual January fieldtrip to St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge exceeded all expectations!** The most memorable sighting was a cadre of seven Whooping Cranes following their leader—an ultralight aircraft their destination—St. Mark's NWR!! The cheers of all 2000 (not quite all of them were our members) spectators made it very clear that the early morning wait in 20° temps was worth the chilly discomfort. Operation Migration ([www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org)) expects this event to repeat annually as it strives to build self-sustaining flocks of these magnificent birds in Florida locations.

And the other 109 species observed? How about a Clapper Rail leisurely moving along the edge of the reeds at Bald Point State Park, or a pair of Bald Eagles mating at St. Mark's, or access to the off-limit areas of the refuge impoundments with a knowledgeable guide? Trying to top that, we experienced a stunning sunset at Otter Lake after watching the nearby pair of Bald Eagles closing the day perched on their impressive nest. Following this, we enjoyed the local color and the best fried mullet ever at Posey's.

We closed our memorable weekend observing Manatees at Wakulla Springs, and enjoying the ever-exciting Jungle Boat Cruise. Alas, we bid adieu after a relaxing lunch in the elegant dining room of the venerable Wakulla Lodge. Let next year match that!!  
—By Miriam Jennings.

## An Opportunity to Volunteer

The Francis M. Weston Audubon Society nominating committee needs to fill several positions. Positions open are President, Vice President, Treasurer and one Director's position.

This is a year for renewed volunteerism in America, new starts and beginnings to find ways to serve through non-profit organizations. Perhaps FMWAS is the perfect place for you.

As treasurer you will need access to a home computer and be willing to make bank deposits several times during the month. Our outgoing treasurer will guide you through the first few months and teach you the basics. For more information call our current Treasurer, Ms. Becky Grass, at 850-455-9666.

In addition, we need to fill committee positions for Publicity and Outreach. For information on any of these opportunities, call any board member. Contact numbers are on the back page.

## Remembering Jim Dyehouse



Photo by Mike Abrams.

### 'Snowy orchid and pitcher plants.

The birding and native plant communities lost a mentor and friend with the passing of Jim Dyehouse on January 9th. Jim knew tomes about native flora and birds, and he loved sharing his wealth of knowledge with everyone around him. Often by the end of a field trip Jim left us knowing much more than we ever knew we wanted to know! He was a masterful storyteller, and his enthusiasm was infectious as he taught us in ways that brought to life the plants and their

habitats. Part of Jim's legacy is that he tweaked our curiosity in a manner that encouraged us to continue learning. He also enjoyed sharing his love of books and telling long jokes that just seemed to go on and on. Jim enriched our Audubon chapter in many capacities over the years, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

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Our online edition of the *Skimmer* is in full color at [www.fmwardubon.org](http://www.fmwardubon.org)  
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