



COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

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MARCH 2001

Chicago Audubon Society member — Roy Slovenko Wins National Audubon Photography Contest, Twice!

In a competition sponsored by Nature Odysseys, a National Audubon Society travel program, two photographs of Chicago Audubon Society member Roy Slovenko placed 1st and 3rd.

"It is unusual for one photographer to win two prizes," said Margaret Carnright, Director of Travel Programs. "We always hope that Kim Hubbard (photo

editor of Audubon Magazine) will choose three different Audubon travelers. However, she felt strongly that she should be able to choose photos without knowing the name(s) of the photographer(s). She also felt that these should be the 3 photos she truly felt were best."

First place went to a photo of a black-crowned night heron and third place to a photo of black-necked stilts

at Kealia Pond in Maui. The Nature Odysseys trip to Hawaii took place between February 23-March 4, 2000. To view the entire gallery of Roy's photos from this trip, go to his website at <http://royenko3.homestead.com/hawaii.html>.

— Gail Goldberger



Black-crowned night heron — First place winner
"This is a nice tight picture of the bird. Got in very close, nothing distracting in foreground. It's a clear view of the bird..." Kim Hubbard



Black-necked stilts — Third place winner
"Nice composition. I like that you could see the reflection of the birds." K.H.

I N M E M O R I U M

Chicago Loses Beloved Naturalist and Writer

Jerry Sullivan celebrated nature in field and street

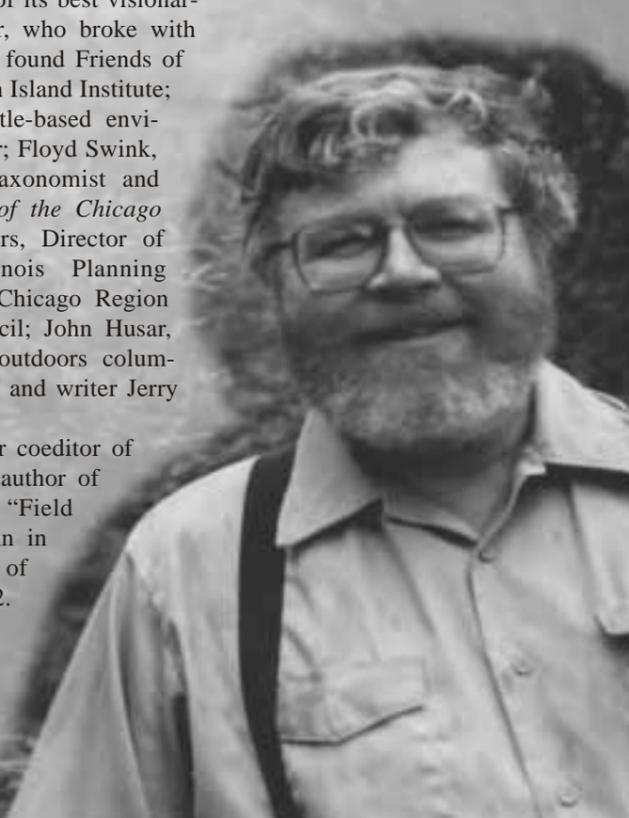
By Karen Furnweger, CAS Secretary

In 2000, the environmental community lost some of its best visionaries: David Brower, who broke with the Sierra Club to found Friends of the Earth and Earth Island Institute; Hazel Wolf, Seattle-based environmental crusader; Floyd Swink, renowned plant taxonomist and author of *Plants of the Chicago Region*; Phil Peters, Director of Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Chicago Region Biodiversity Council; John Husar, Chicago Tribune outdoors columnist; and naturalist and writer Jerry Sullivan.

Sullivan, former coeditor of the *Compass* and author of the long-running "Field and Street" column in the *Reader*, died of cancer on Dec. 2. He was 62.

Sullivan was a physically big man with

a long reach that embraced Chicago Audubon Society, the North Branch Restoration Project, Chicago Wilderness, the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Preserve District of Cook



Jerry Sullivan at work in the Cook County Forest Preserves.

County and a variety of other conservation efforts. He was best known for his clean, clear prose that illuminated nature. His work appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Field Museum Bulletin*, and such magazines as *Outside*, *Chicago Wilderness* and even *Playboy*. He was author of *An Atlas of Biodiversity*, published in 1998 by Chicago Wilderness. Now in its fourth printing, it provides a comprehensive look at the biological diversity of the Chicago area — a diversity that surprises those who take our urban landscape for granted.

Sullivan was born in Chicago and raised in Des Plaines. Except for a brief interlude in Seattle, he spent his life here, steeping himself in the ecology of our parks and forest preserves. He wrote of our fauna and flora with a loving familiarity.

"He used to say his muse faded when he lost sight of the Sears Tower," said Glenda Daniel, his wife and collaborator on many writing projects.

From the late 70s until 1985, Sullivan and Daniel edited and wrote most of the articles in the *Compass*, raising the journalistic and graphic design standards of the newsletter. Along with their vast knowledge of birds and other wildlife, they brought their shared passion for conservation to each issue.

Sullivan and Daniel also co-wrote

A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the North Woods, hiking books about the Midwest, the Appalachian Mountains and the Ozarks, and articles for the *Chicago Tribune*.

In addition to his prodigious print output, Sullivan was a spontaneous teacher who volunteered his time leading nature walks for Chicago Audubon and other groups. Jerry Garden, past CAS president, said, "Jerry was one of the people who, as a friend and birder, kept me going in the early years of my birding. I might have continued birding on my own, but not as a thing with Chicago Audubon."

A skilled birder who could identify a species by call as quickly as by coloration, Sullivan always emphasized the connections between birds and their ecosystem.

"He could tell you about plants, other animals, geology — all of it — in a very integrated and engaging way," said Carol Fialkowski, former chair of Chicago Audubon's field trip programs, and current education and communication chair for Chicago Wilderness. "If you didn't see birds, it didn't matter. You always had a good time on one of his walks." Sullivan led field trips for St. Ignatius and Northside College Prep high schools, and was a steward in Nature Conservancy's Mighty Acorns program for children. During the many years he volunteered with the North

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Blizzard Doesn't Stop Fundraiser

Members were able to help Chicago Audubon raise needed funds by participating in the Jewel Shop-and-Share program on December 11, 12 and 13th. For those who do not remember, Chicago experienced its biggest snowfall of the season on December 11, followed by blizzard-level winds. Area schools were closed on December 12, and we had another snowstorm on December 13.

The timing could not have been worse for our 3-day fundraiser. The brave souls who endured the elements, shoveled out cars and pushed grocery carts through snowdrifts raised \$140 for CAS. We are grateful and deeply impressed by the dedication of our CAS-supporting shoppers. Many would-be-fundraisers called to apologize for their inability to make it to Jewel as planned, and asked for a "snow-date."

We have therefore applied for additional Shop-and-Share dates and will post the information in an upcoming COMPASS when the dates are finalized. (We are hoping for May or June, when there is less chance of snow). Thanks again to our staunch shoppers.

— Jill Anderson, CAS
1st Vice President

2001 Bird Monitoring Workshops

Get ready for the summer nesting bird census

Thinking about becoming a bird monitor? Whether you are an experienced monitor, a beginner, or just have birds on the brain, you are welcome to attend one of the 2001 workshops on monitoring bird populations in the Chicago metropolitan area. Bird census activities range from a simple checklist to a detailed point count, and you can apprentice for a few years if you aren't comfortable being a "full-fledged" monitor in the first year. Beginners will learn how to conduct the Census, experienced monitors can share their wisdom, and we will all brush-up on the protocols.

These workshops, sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network and Audubon's Habitat Project, are presented by local monitors and ornithologists. The BCN Census is a unique on-line database of bird distribution information used by area land managers for decision making.

In 2000, we had 160 monitors assigned to sites. That may seem like a lot, but the more monitors we have, the more information we compile, for a more accurate picture of local bird population trends. So come join the people who count in 2001!

For information, contact the coordinator for your region; the monitoring hotline at (847) 965-9239; or e-mail jpollock@audubon.org.

Will/Lake Co. IN
— March 3rd, 9am to noon
Gibson Woods Nature Center
6201 Parrish Ave in Hammond, IN
Contact: Judy Pollock (847) 965-1150

Central Cook
— March 17th, 12:30 to 3:30
Humboldt Park Field House
1440 N. Sacramento Ave, Chicago
Contact- Jerry Garden (773) 545-4632

Kane/McHenry
— March 24th, 9am to noon
Prairie View Education Center
2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake
Contact Brad Woodson-(815) 728-8307

DuPage
— March 31st, 9am to noon
The Grounds and Resources Complex at Blackwell Forest Preserve.
29 W 220 Mack Road in West Chicago
Please pre-register with Cindy Hedges at (630) 876-5929 by Friday March 23.

Lake, IL/N. Cook
— April 7th, 9am to noon
Ryerson Woods
21950 N. Riverwoods Rd, Deerfield
Contact Dennis Bohm-(847) 283-9231

COMPASS

Chicago Audubon Society
North Park Village
5801-C N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60646-6057



Editor: Gail Goldberger
Layout Artist: Noël Maguigad

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Rare bird alert: (847) 265-2118
Activity line: (773) 539-6793, press 1
Web page:
www.audubon.org/chapter/il/chicago/
Audubon office: Manager, Karen Andersen, (773) 539-6793, fax (773) 539-6830. Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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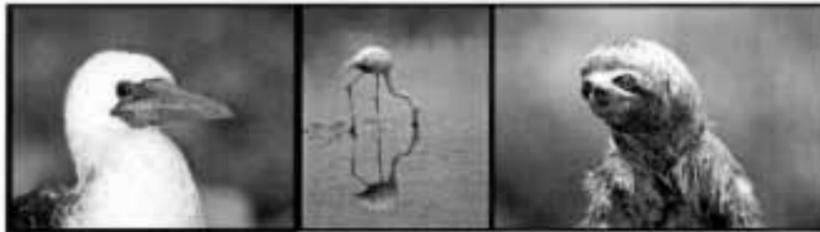
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A Portrait of Jerry Sullivan

By Karen Furnweger

Jerry Sullivan's friends and colleagues all remembered his calm manner, sunny outlook on life, devilish sense of humor, generous spirit, extraordinary skills as a birder and naturalist, gift for graceful language, deep, resonant voice and hearty laugh, and lasting impact on both the Chicago Wilderness environment and the people who work to conserve it. Many slipped into the present tense as they spoke of him, one shed tears. Together, they reveal a joyful man who not only worked and excelled at what he loved, but kindled a similar passion — for our local nature — in others.



Jerry Sullivan stops to read Peterson's Guide to Wildflowers while hiking and birding at Pere Marquette State Park.

Judy Pollock, CAS board member and president of the Bird Conservation Network, regularly saved the "Field and Street" columns. In response to the news of Sullivan's death, she said, "It was remarkable how many people went on the Internet and posted these little files [of Sullivan's columns] that they'd pulled out of their drawers. I also have those files. It made me realize how important Jerry was as a chronicler of our efforts, the efforts of citizens interested in nature."

"One of the things Jerry did with the columns was create community," said Laurel Ross, who has been active in area

environmental efforts for two decades. "It was really important for all of us doing conservation work to read what others were doing in the same realm. That sense of community led to a lot of things we're doing in the region now."

Michael Lenehan, executive editor of the Reader, said, "Jerry had a whole constituency, a whole bunch of people who thought of the Reader as a little bit more their paper because he was addressing their issues. And for the general readership, his was one of those voices that you wouldn't read anywhere else."

Jim Landing, a long-time birder and officer in Fort Dearborn Audubon, saw

Sullivan regularly when both served on the CAS board, but more frequently Landing bumped into him birding at Montrose Point. "He had a dog, Sandy, that he brought to Montrose," Landing said, "so a lot of my outdoors time was spent walking along with him while he was walking his dog. One day Jerry spotted a groove-billed ani - that's an extremely rare bird in Illinois. Another time I was at Olive Park when I bumped into Jerry, and he said he had sighted a female house finch. Two or three of us walked over and, by god, there it was. It was the first record for Illinois. His capacity to identify strange and unusual

things was very high."

For all its mountainous majesty, the Pacific Northwest did not appeal to Sullivan. "Jerry was real Chicago," said Carol Fialkowski, who knew Sullivan for more than 20 years. "I said to somebody that, in the world of natural history, he's kind of the Mike Royko." Laurel Ross of the Nature Conservancy added, "He used to call every month 'from exile' and complain about Seattle. He had three major complaints: One, there were no good ethnic restaurants in Seattle. Two, they don't have interesting politics. And three, they don't have real nature in Seattle. He really missed the nature that we have here at our fingertips."

"I hate point counts," said Judy Mellin. Mellin, a volunteer bird monitor with Poplar Creek Stewards in Hoffman Estates, often provided Sullivan with data for his reports on nesting birds in the forest preserves. For these scientific studies, Sullivan needed consistent data, and wanted volunteers to use the same method: point counts. During a point count, the birder stops at predetermined points on a transect and counts everything heard during a set period of time. "It's not a very fun kind of birding," according to Mellin. "But Jerry was able to convince you that what he wanted you to do was the best thing, whether you wanted to do it or not."

"Alan Anderson and I were in the oak woodland at Poplar Creek, and all of a sudden I heard a bird song. I looked up, and sitting 20 feet up in a huge oak tree was a male eastern bluebird. We had never had bluebirds in our oak woodland before." Bluebird populations plummeted as their native oak habitat was cut down, and the species only made a comeback through the installation of nest boxes. This sighting

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IN MEMORIAM — continued from page 1

Branch Restoration Project, he led tours of area prairies. "He got people to fall in love with these places," said Laurel Ross, former steward with North Branch.

Sullivan also was dedicated to nesting-bird studies. Alan Anderson, CAS research co-chair, said that Sullivan not only originated the special section in the *Compass* for the annual results of the Breeding Bird Atlas and Nesting Bird Census, but regularly joined Anderson in the field to collect data. In the early 1980s, Anderson said, "We were both introduced to nesting studies. We were really excited when we found our first nesting yellow-breasted chats at the Indiana Dunes."

Anderson continued, "I was mainly interested in what birds were nesting where, but Jerry got me interested in how the birds used the habitat, and from there, into habitat management and protection. You've got to manage the habitat for the birds to be successful."

Sullivan was always a strong advocate for restoring and managing pockets of prairies and savannas within forest preserves. His audience and influence broadened in 1995 when he got a position through the Cook County Forest Preserve District and the Nature Conservancy. His duties were an expanded version of his long-time volunteer activities: leading tours of the district's restoration sites and giving presentations on improving ecosystems through habitat management.

When a position as naturalist at Trailside Museum opened up, Sullivan became a permanent Forest Preserve District employee. In 2000, incoming superintendent of conservation Chris Merenowicz recognized that Sullivan's talents were better dedicated to the land-management program.

"We were wasting him feeding baby raccoons when he could be out talking to the public," said Merenowicz. "I came from a fisheries biology background, and I was not thinking about prairies. Land

management is one of the biggest issues the Forest Preserve District is working on right now. Jerry helped me get a better understanding of what we're trying to accomplish."

Sullivan joined the district at a "fractious" time, in the words of a colleague, when property owners near a number of restoration sites halted prairie burns and other critical management practices. With his calm and reasoned manner, Sullivan was the perfect liaison between community groups and the

“He was a peacekeeper, information provider, plant expert, bird expert and habitat expert.”

Forest Preserve staff.

"Jerry brought to the table something that not many people do," Merenowicz continued. "He was a peacekeeper, information provider, plant expert, bird expert and habitat expert. He could go into a room of people hostile to our efforts, calm them down, and get our point across without being confrontational. Jerry was always the mediator. He just knew how to handle things."

Joe Nevius, general superintendent of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, said, "I always felt lucky that we had him. His good-natured attitude rubbed off on everybody. And he could do everything. He was directly involved with five restoration sites in northwest Chicago, but he was familiar with all 60 restoration sites throughout the county."

Sullivan was as rooted in our region as a savanna

oak. But in 1993, he, Daniel and their daughter, Nora, moved to Seattle when Daniel got a job offer. Daniel said, "I was looking for something new, and I wanted to live where there were mountains."

"For some people, where they grow up is where they like it the best; others are nomads. Jerry was not a nomad," she said. "He wasn't happy in Seattle. After a year and a half, I said, if you can find something in Chicago, we can move back. That's when the project came up with the Nature Conservancy and the Forest Preserve District."

Daniel continued, "I'm really glad that we came back to Chicago and Jerry found a niche in which he could be appreciated. When you're freelancing, you don't get that many strokes." She added, "I don't think he really knew how good he was. Finally connecting with all the restoration efforts and having a lot of colleagues doing the same thing, having more of a clear following besides the Reader, really meant a lot to him. He felt he was *there*."

Thinking about Sullivan's impact on our environmental scene, Carol Fialkowski said "Jerry's contribution will be preserved because of his writing. It will be preserved in the people, especially the younger people that he's taught, and in his work with the Forest Preserve District. And it will be preserved in the people that we don't even know who have read his articles and been on walks with him. Can you imagine the hundreds of thousands of people whose lives he's touched? That's a pretty amazing and lasting effect."

In addition to his wife and daughter, Sullivan is survived by his mother, Bernice Sullivan; and a sister, Patricia Kaitchuck.

A memorial fund has been established to help support the work of Chicago Wilderness and to publish more of Sullivan's writings. Donations can be sent to Illinois Nature Conservancy, 8 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603, Attn: Jerry Sullivan Memorial.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUDUBON'S PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On Fridays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Refreshments served at 7:00 p.m.) at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. No pre-registration necessary. For more information, call (773) 539-6793.

April 13—Spring Migration Trends

Join Laura Rericha from the Cook County Forest Preserve District as she discusses spring migration trends in the Chicago area, and the bird banding work she's doing for the Forest Preserve District at Camp Sagawau.

May 11—Birds and Plants

Jim Landing will explain the Bird/Plant Productivity Index, the first integrated system developed to illustrate the relationship between birds and the plants they feed on. This index is under review by the Chicago Park District for possible dissemination to prospective landscape bidders. Jim will discuss its meaning and implications for birds, birders and birding.

MONTHLY WORKDAYS AT THE SKOKIE LAGOONS

Saturdays, March 10 and April 14, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for brush clearing. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot (east of the bridge). If you arrive late, look for a CAS sign near the parking lot directing you to the work site. For more information, call Jerry Garden at (773) 545-4632.

WEEKLY BIRD WALKS

Monday, March 26 at 8:00 a.m.

This is Paul Douglas' birthday. Join us for this guided birding tour of the Paul Douglas Nature Sanctuary (Wooded Island). Meet at the Darrow Bridge just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Your guide is Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 a.m.

Wooded Island Bird Walk with Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 a.m.

Wooded Island Bird Walk with Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

Every Wednesday in April & May at 7:00 a.m.

Wooded Island bird walks. Meet at the Darrow Bridge. Your Audubon guide is Doug Anderson

SATURDAY BIRD WALKS

Every Saturday in April and May at 8:00 a.m. at Wooded Island with Doug Anderson

Every Saturday in April and May at 8:00 a.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski

Walks are led by Audubon guides. Bring binoculars and field guides. Call the Nature Center for more information (773) 744-5472.

FIELD TRIPS/OWL COUNT/EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4, 2001, sunset to dawn. The 13th COOK COUNTY OWL COUNT

Join us once again in surveying the owls of our metropolitan area. All that's needed is a tape recording of our local screech and great horned owls and a sense of adventure. If you have an area you'd like to cover let us know. If you want to participate but don't know how, we will match you with a potential area or with a group that is already covering an area.

We will provide Forest Preserve permits to each group. This will allow each group to be on Forest Preserve property during the late evening, night, and early morning hours. Participants from previous years will receive a mailing with details. New owlers can sign up by calling Stephen or Christine Lee at (708)

485-8197. Our e-mail address is stephenc@interaccess.com

Friday, March 9, 2001. Chicago Audubon Society ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, 6-10 p.m.

Audubon honors four environmental leaders. For reservations, call Mary or Tony Mullen at (708) 456-5300. All full dinners—\$25.

Saturday, March 10. 6am to 6 pm. FIELD TRIP TO THE SAVANNA ARMY DEPOT

Offered by CAS and the Field Museum. In early spring more bald eagles can be seen along the Mississippi River in Illinois than anywhere south of Alaska. The vast acreage and diverse habitats of this area provide good opportunities for seeing other species. We expect to see winter visitors, resident birds (possibly Turkey and Horned Lark) as well as early spring migrants, including a number of duck species.

Dress for the weather (layered clothes are best for the warmer bus or colder outdoor temperatures) and bring a lunch, beverage, snacks, binoculars, field guide and spotting scope, if you have one. The bus trip to Savanna is approximately 3 hours.

Cost: \$50 members (Field Museum and CAS), \$60 non-members. Call the Field Museum to register at (312) 665-7518.

WOODCOCK COURTING FLIGHTS — SUNSET

Wednesday, March 21 and Saturday, March 24, 2001

Sunday, April 1 and Saturday, April 7, 2001

You don't have to go far to see the high-flying courtship of this unusual looking bird. Join us at sunset (6:30 - 7:30 depending on the date) at Wolf Road Prairie (31st St. and Wolf Rd. in Westchester). We have had very good

luck in the past 7 years in seeing the woodcock flights on the Prairie. This year these trips will be co-sponsored by Save the Prairie Society. For exact times call Stephen or Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197 a day or two before the trips. e-mail: stephenc@interaccess.com.

FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Chicago Audubon will again be sponsoring a booth at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier from March 10-18. We need volunteers to help out at the booth, especially on the weekend and in the evenings. The purpose of the booth is to spread the word about Chicago Audubon and the environment. At the booth, we will be handing out information, offering specials on memberships, and selling a few items. If you can help out, you will receive free admission to the show (parking is not covered, however). Hours are from 10-8 every day except Sundays when the hours are 10-6.

The following time slots have been set up for volunteering: 10-1:30; 1:30-5:00; and 5-8. If you would like to help, please call the office at (773) 539-6793 with your first choice of day and time slot, and a second choice if possible. You can also e-mail your first and second choices to chicago_audubon@juno.com

Saturday, April 21

Earth Day Celebration at Chicago Park District locations. Call Chris Lee for details (708) 485-8197.

Saturday, April 28 at 8:00 a.m. CAMP SAGAWAU

Early spring migrants, birding and bird banding with Chris and Stephen Lee (708) 485-8197 or stephenc@interaccess.com

Become a Friend of Chicago Audubon Society Today!



Membership Application

Audubon is a conservation organization with a focus on birds, wildlife and habitat

Membership helps support Audubon's conservation mission. So join today, extend your membership or give a gift membership to someone else. As a member, you receive a one-year subscription to AUDUBON magazine and the COMPASS newsletter, and an ongoing list of field trips and programs offered for your participation. First-time members can join for \$20; current members can renew for \$35. When you enroll, indicate the address where you would like your subscription mailed.

By phone: Call (800) 274-4201. Be sure to mention the Chicago Audubon Society chapter code: G58, 7XCH.

By mail: Enclose this form and a check for \$20 or \$35 payable to the National Audubon Society.

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G58, 7XCH

Portrait of Jerry Sullivan continued from page 3

was a hopeful sign of re-colonization. "It was the single most amazing sight I've had in all the years I've been birding. I turned to Alan and said that if it weren't for Jerry and his point count, we never would have seen this. Every time I go to that spot, I will think of Jerry. And the importance of carefully collected data," she added.

Sullivan was a man of many talents: he performed with comedy improvisation groups and sang in nightclubs. Jane Balaban, a volunteer for the North Branch Restoration Project, remembered his music. "At the North Branch, we have an annual potluck dinner to celebrate the year's work. One of the fun things we've always done is gather around the piano and sing. Jerry was there, and I have a wonderful picture of this big guy with a red beard, looking like a lumberjack, belting out in a bass voice, 'You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman.'"

"He was just fun to be around," said Alan Anderson. "I can't remember any time when it wasn't fun to be around Jerry."