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“Rick Blom’s Tongue-in-Cheek Dictionary of Birding Terms”

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Cover: Eirik A. T. "Rick" Blom. Photographed by Bill Thompson, III (former Editor and Co-Publisher, *Bird Watcher's Digest*) at Bill's farm in Whipple, Ohio, circa 1999–2000.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Eirik Adam Tecumseh “Rick” Blom was my best birding friend. Besides being an accomplished birder, he was a prolific reader and writer. Rick’s birding accomplishments were many: Project Coordinator for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, Co-Chief Consultant for the *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (1st and 2nd Editions), Editor of *Birding*, Mid-Atlantic Region Co-Editor for *American Birds*, Contributing Editor for *Bird Watcher’s Digest* (Blom on Birds, Quick Takes, Species Profile, Book Notes), Researcher and Writer for *The BWD Skimmer* and *Backyard Bird News*, and Adjunct Faculty at The Johns Hopkins University (continuing education birdwatching courses).

Maryland Ornithological Society member Sue Ricciardi reminded me that before Rick passed away in 2002, he had been working on a tongue-in-cheek dictionary of birding terms. Sue had a draft paper copy in her possession. Since a paper copy would not be the easiest format with which to work, I began investigating whether any digital drafts existed. Fortuitously, I tracked down a digital copy that Rick had transferred to his lifelong friend Steve Sapperstein. (Note: A few of the dictionary terms were previously published in *Bird Watcher’s Digest*.)

Except for minor grammatical edits, Rick’s “dictionary-in-progress” is reproduced here as it was written. Demonstrating Rick’s wry sense of humor, the entries are cynical, irreverent, sarcastic, opinionated, and sometimes risqué and politically incorrect. I have arbitrarily rated the dictionary PG-13. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. The definitions stated in the tongue-in-cheek dictionary do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. With these reader caveats in mind, please accept Rick’s work-in-progress as a revisit to an earlier era.

I thank Douglas E. Gill and my wife Marcia R. Watson for their helpful input.

Photos of Rick follow on the succeeding page.

Eugene J. Scarpulla
Editor

[*Note: The summary reports for the 2018–2019 Christmas Bird Counts, the 2019 Mid-winter Bird Counts, and the 2019 Fort Smallwood Park spring raptor migration that would normally be published in the fall issue of Maryland Birdlife, will instead be published in the spring 2020 issue.*]



Rick at 19 months, December 1948.



Rick as a bearded young man.



Rick at a wedding, age 33.



Rick laughing with family.



Rick and daughter Jessie, 1984.



Rick at Jessie's high school graduation, June 2000.

Thanks are extended to Rick's daughter Jessie Reeder, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Department of English, General Literature, and Rhetoric, Binghamton University, State University of New York, Binghamton, New York) for providing the photographs.