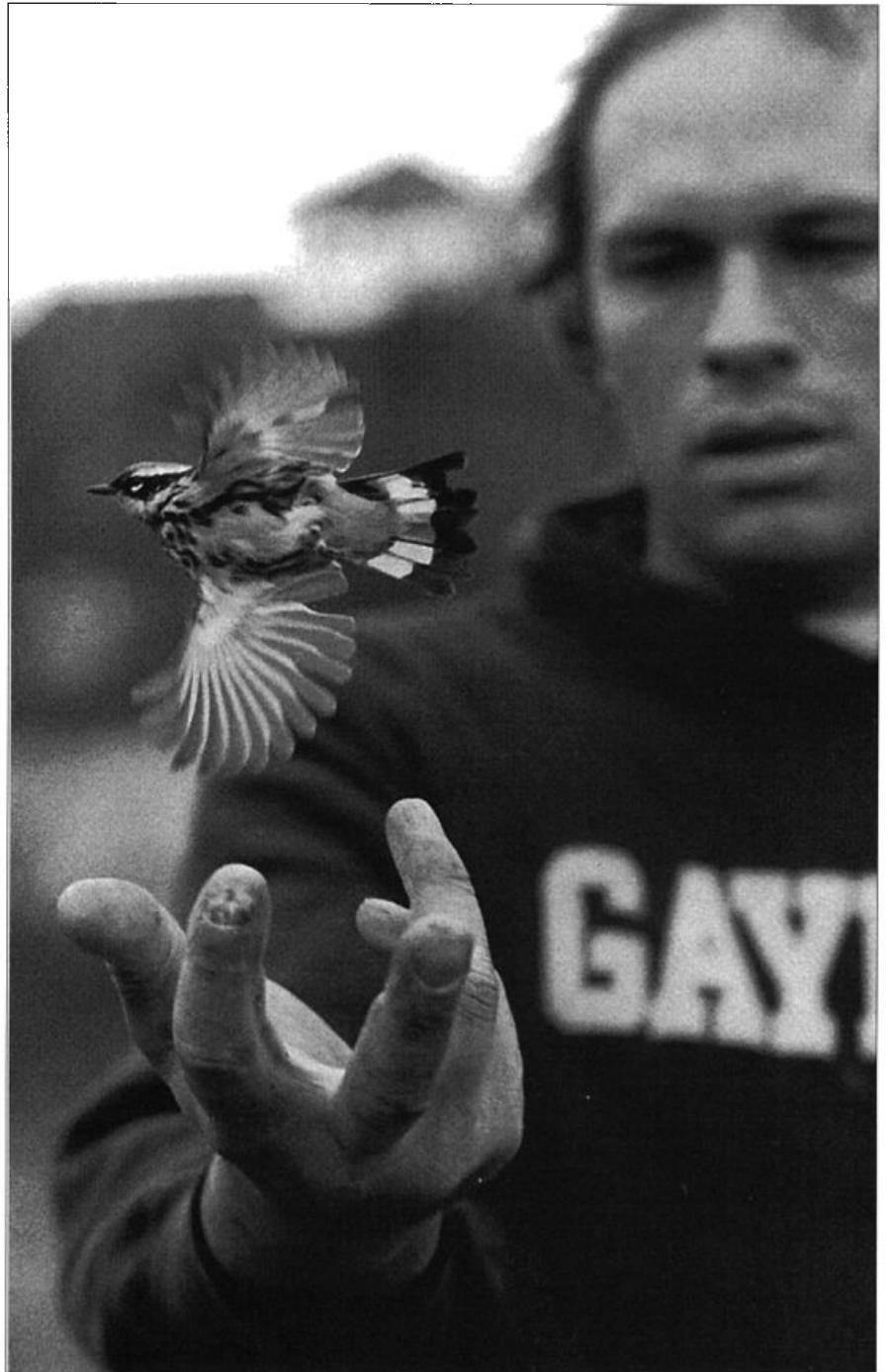


IN MEMORIAM

James Garrett Granlund 5 February 1957–20 September 2005

On 20 September 2005, Jim Granlund, Editor for the Western Great Lakes Region of this journal since 1992, taught his usual classes at Comstock High School, east of the town of Kalamazoo, Michigan. That evening, he went to a health club to exercise, as he often did. As he completed exercising, his heart failed, he collapsed and could not be revived. Jim was 48 years old.

It falls on me, in memorializing Jim, to introduce him to readers who never had the opportunity to know him. One's first impression upon meeting Jim was that this is a friendly guy, a big friendly guy, into whose hand one's own hand disappeared. On closer acquaintance, other qualities came to the fore, chief among them an uncommon generosity. Once you knew Jim, things that belonged to him also belonged to you. I can remember on numerous occasions having to just about force him to accept my share of money for gasoline after a day in the field. This generosity extended to giving of time, and his many contributions to Michigan birding and ornithology were a result of the depth of his generosity. Too, Jim's general competence in the small and big things of life inspired confidence in all who knew him. From changing a tire in the rain on a Big Day to producing a professional quality portfolio of butterfly photographs in 2005 to nursing his injured Newfoundland dog back to health, Jim's versatility was ever apparent. His marvelous argumentativeness was another feature of his personality. We defer to the comments of Jim's good friend and predecessor as editor Dave Powell: "Never ones to avoid an argument, Jim and I would often take differing viewpoints, but moments after the end of even the most heated discussions, Jim was there with a laugh and a smile. I don't think I have ever known a person to hold so few grudges." Jim could argue contrary positions in rather quick



succession—an expression both of his great spirit and his love of debate.

Jim grew up in Gaylord in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, where his love of the north country was born. He attended college at Northern Michigan University, studying chemistry and biology. After graduation, he moved to Kalamazoo in 1980, completing his education at Western Michigan University and beginning a career of teaching high school. The birding community in Kalamazoo was vigorous at that time, centered at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, where Ray Adams would soon be initiating the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas project. Another Kalamazoo resident, Dave Powell, was among the state's most active birders. As Jim became absorbed in birding, it was his nature to seek and accept responsibility and to exert every effort to see that things were done correctly.

A measure of the extent of Jim's involvement on the Michigan scene can be gleaned from his biographical sketch in the 1991 *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Michigan*, which lists the following activities: compiler of the Michigan Bird Survey since 1987, secretary of the Michigan Bird Records Committee, Chairperson of the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Research Committee, and Curator of the Kalamazoo Nature Center avian collection. To these can be added his work on the Atlas itself, to which he contributed much field work and several species accounts, and on the book *The Birds of Michigan*, published in 1994, which was taking shape at that time and of which he was to be the principal author.

Of these various efforts, the closest to his heart was his involvement with the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO). In addition to many years of service on the WPBO Board, on which he supervised employee record-keeping, Jim was editor and frequent writer for the WPBO newsletter for many years, volunteer raptor and waterbird counter on many occasions, and compiler of the WPBO Christmas Bird Count. To raise money for the Observatory, he participated in birdathons and led some of WPBO's winter tours. Many people saw their first Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls on these tours, and a few lucky people once got to see a Boreal Owl on a tour Jim led. In a less official capacity, he was a regular visitor in chases of the startling rarities that frequently show up at the Point. His wife Cheryl has been the long-time manager of the WPBO gift shop. Few can match Jim's length of service to WPBO, and no one comes close to the depth of his contributions to the organization.

During the decade of the 1990s, Jim's level of institutional activities diminished somewhat with the addition of two daughters to his family. He traded his post as one of the compilers of the Michigan bird survey for that of Regional Editor for *American Birds* in 1992, when Dave Powell moved to California. He, Dave, and myself formed the nucleus of groups that went on three overseas birding trips during the decade, to Ecuador, Malaysia, and Africa, journeys that were immensely enjoyable and eye-opening. Jim greatly looked forward to the arrival of each new volume of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. In spite of the attraction of exotic regions, Jim's favorite style of birding was probably the lakewatch, most often at WPBO. Few surpassed him in the ability to identify the distant loons and ducks migrating past the point—often at great distance and in bad light—and few more enjoyed disputing the identification of those distant specks.

Also in the 1990s, along with myself, Jim developed an interest in butterflies. He realized that just as wandering bird species regularly find their way to Whitefish Point, the site also had the potential to host vagrant butterflies. On 18 August 2001, he photographed a Fune-real Duskywing at that location, an addition to the Michigan state butterfly list.

In 2003, Jim accepted another important responsibility that earned the appreciation his birding peers. The journal *Michigan Birds and Natural History* had fallen behind in its publishing schedule, and vigorous intervention was needed

to keep it going. Though perhaps feeling some reluctance at accepting this difficult task, Jim applied great energy to the job, writing some articles and encouraging others to contribute. At the same time, he skillfully dealt with such issues as financing the journal, choosing an appropriate printing company, and locating good photography and artwork for the journal.

The passing of this big rugged man has been an especially terrible shock for his family and his friends. So long a fixture of Michigan birding, Jim seemed indestructible, tireless, larger than life. In June of 2002, he was in a head-on automobile collision and broke many of the large bones in his body. Visiting him in the hospital, I saw that his cheerfulness had not failed him even there. I remember the first time after the accident that I saw him on an outing, walking with a cane and enjoying an unprecedented birding event for Michigan: a Swallow-tailed Kite and two Mississippi Kites foraging over an orchard near his home. A year later, his recovery was essentially complete. Jim, we are in equal measure deeply grateful to have known you and deeply saddened at your passing.

—Jack Reinoehl

Contributions to a memorial fund honoring the memory of Jim Granlund may be sent to Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, 16914 North Whitefish Point Road, Paradise, Michigan 49768. Checks should be made payable to WPBO/MAS, with "Granlund Memorial" in the memo space. ☉

