

IN MEMORIUM: ROBERT J. GOODRICH, 1926-1999

This issue of *Bird Observer* is dedicated to the memory of Bob Goodrich, who passed away after a long illness at his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in September 1999. In the Berkshires there was no one more knowledgeable about things avian than Bob Goodrich, a Berkshire native. He graduated from Pittsfield High School and from the former Berkshire Business College, serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later working for the U.S. Postal Service for 28 years. Before that he had worked as an accountant.

Bob possessed what appeared to us mere mortals as a photographic memory — a memory that could quote diagnostic plumage subtleties of various races of Song Sparrow, and then cite the specific journal article from which he had gleaned the information. Bob was intimately acquainted with the original literature, while also being a consummate field naturalist.

Bob preferred to bird alone or with small groups of friends, and he did so virtually every day (although he was a guru on many of Bartlett Hendricks' well-attended annual waterfowl counts in which he participated). If he wasn't scouring flocks of gulls at the Berkshire lakes, examining each one in the hope of finding a rarity, he was holding down the traditional hawkwatching site with Edna Dunbar above Berry Pond in Pittsfield State Forest. We at Berkshire Sanctuaries enjoyed receiving his occasional reports of unusual sightings at our Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, where he also spent countless hours. Bob was a walking encyclopedia of ornithology. And he always seemed to see a lot more than anyone else did.

Bob was also a private man, but he enjoyed sharing his copious knowledge with those who shared his passion for birds. He acted as mentor to many birders, and he was always a treat to bump into while out in the field. One always came away learning something new about birds after a conversation with him. Bob Goodrich's quiet yet passionate enthusiasm about the natural world, especially birds, and his scholarly grasp of this complex subject is greatly missed.

— René Laubach

