

IN MEMORIAM

JERRY KUMERY (1934-2007)

Birder, nature photographer and world traveler Jerry Kumery, 73, died September 16, 2007. A generous, gracious and humble man, Jerry provided professional photographs and programs to organizations and publications including Save the Prairie Society, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Illinois Ornithological Society, Chicago Wilderness and the National Audubon Society, among many others. Birders knew Jerry who lived with his wife, Jackie, in Brookfield, Illinois, as a conservationist, humorist and a fine artist. Here are some memories.

Beauty of birds

I feel very lucky to have seen so many of Jerry's amazing photos. My favorites were in Churchill where every photo Jerry crafted caught the bird in perfect plumage and perfect light showing the birds in various mottled plumages. He was on a quest to reveal the amazing beauty of birds to the rest of us and he was wonderfully successful at it.

— Jody Zamirowski
Glen Ellyn

Messy warbler

Two springs ago there was a fall-out day at Montrose (Cook County), and there was a mystery warbler in one of the large locust trees across from the Magic Hedge. It was quite plain but had orange around the mouth. Birders were calling other birders to come to see the bird. No one knew what it was. Later that evening Jerry Kumery posted a photo on IBET, the Illinois birding list serve. He had gone home, looked through his photos, found some pictures of the bird, and realized that it was a Tennessee Warbler with nectar around its mouth. His post reported the identification and commented, "Someone hand that bird a napkin!"

— Rena Wish Cohen



World traveler Jerry Kumery took this photo of a church in Iceland during one of his many nature tours with his wife, Jackie.

Jerry Kumery shared his passion for birds through photography. Here is a portrait of a Harlequin Duck he took in March 2007 on the lakefront in Chicago.



Legacy

Jerry's photos are the heart of several of the City of Chicago's bird-related outreach and policy pieces. He shared them with us with great generosity and good humor. We will miss working with him as a collaborator on our bird-related efforts, but his legacy is with us in the Chicago Bird Agenda, the Chicago Region Bird Trail Guide, and the soon-to-be printed Chicago bird habitat design guidelines. He will be dearly missed.

— Sarah Beazley
Project Coordinator
Chicago Department of Environment;
and Joyce Coffee