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Jim Enderson



OVERHEARD:

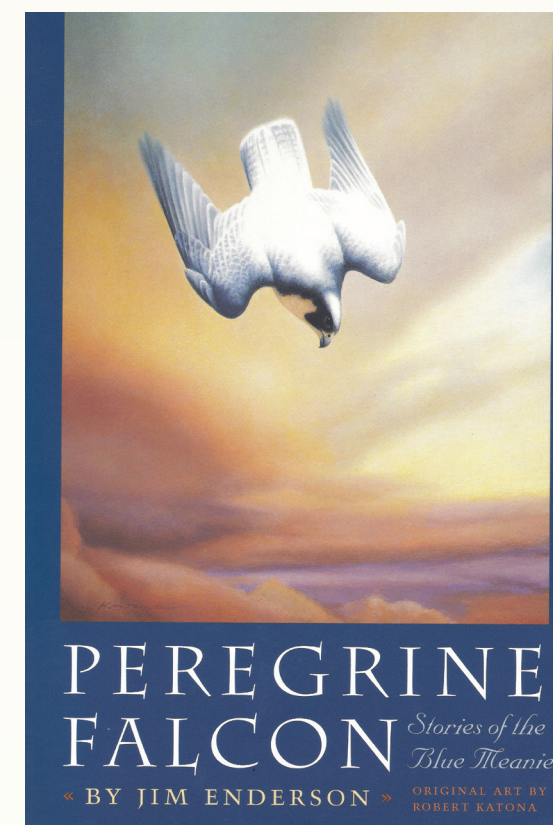
“As Prof. Jim Enderson guided members of one of his ecology classes onto waiting buses following a tour of the Peregrine Fund facilities at the World Center for Birds of Prey, he asked them to stop and carefully look around them, saying: *“I don’t care what Copernicus said, THIS is the center of the universe!”*”

James Harris Enderson, son of Harris and Marjorie Enderson, was born in Sioux City, Iowa on November 3, 1936. He passed away on January 10, 2017 in the Hospice Unit at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs at the age of 80. Jim graduated from Joliet Township High School in 1954 and received his B.S. in Biology Teacher Training and a M.S. in Zoology from the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1959. He continued his education at the University of Wyoming where he earned a Ph.D. His thesis was on the ecology of the prairie falcon. In 1962, Jim joined the Zoology Department at Colorado College at the age of 25. He taught anatomy, physiology, ecology, vertebrate zoology, and the flora of Colorado. He became an Associate Professor in 1968, Professor in 1975, and in the 1980s was chair of the Biology Department for several years.

In 1969, he spent a sabbatical leave at Cornell University under a National Science Foundation Fellowship. His field work beyond the western U.S. was in Alaska, the Northwest Territories, Greenland, Scotland, and Zimbabwe. In the 1990s, his students worked on wintering falcons on the Texas Gulf Coast. Jim published more than sixty scientific papers on falcon ecology. He was an early board member of The Peregrine Fund, a group responsible for the restoration of peregrines and other raptors. He was a founding member of the North American Falconers Association, was appointed to several government committees, and was a leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Peregrine Recovery Team.

In 1987, Jim was honored by The North American Raptor Breeders Association for the first successful breeding of the anatum peregrine in captivity from temperate North America. He received other awards from the Raptor Research Foundation; one in 1993 for captive propagation and reintroduction, and in 2000 for his contributions to the understanding of raptor ecology and natural history. In 2004, Jim was awarded the Gresham Riley Award from Colorado College for teaching and scholarship, which he cherished. In that same year, Jim co-authored a Colorado Division of Wildlife monograph on peregrines; then, in 2005, Texas Press published his book, *Peregrine Falcon, Stories of the Blue Meanie*, which is about his life and times with the peregrines. Lastly, in 2013, he co-authored a book with Tom Cade and Clayton M. White entitled *Peregrine Falcons of the World*.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Enderson, son Ritt Enderson (Angie); daughter Anne Toroxel (Mike); a sister, Joan Silliman (Dan); Betty’s daughters, Carrie Rains and Cathy Becker (Randy); grandchildren, Amy and Kate Toroxel, Alec and Emma Enderson, Brooke Morgan (Matt), Blake Rains, Hannah, Hollie, and Hope Becker; nieces, nephews, and many friends and students.



Jim's concern for endangered species extended beyond science and falconry and is reflected in his skills as an artist.



Jim with Meanie and Gadwall, 2008



Among his many other awards, Jim **was honored by the North American Raptor Breeders Association** for the first successful breeding of the anatum peregrine in captivity.

