This year, ornithology lost one of its giants, Edward H. “Jed” Burtt, Jr. Although challenged from birth by osteogenesis imperfecta, a complex genetic disorder that made him of short stature, caused frequent broken bones, and resulted in defective heart valves, Jed nevertheless had a huge and lasting impact on ornithology and ornithologists that will long endure.

Jed’s love of birds was a lifelong passion. Jed made a papier mâché duck when he was three, and he won a birdhouse-making contest in the first grade. He began publishing in *Audubon Field Notes* while he was a high school student. As an undergraduate at Bowdoin College, he wrote an honors thesis on the “Population dynamics of Leach’s Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*).” He completed a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin during which he studied parent-chick individual recognition in Barn (*Hirundo rustica*) and Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*). For his PhD dissertation, he studied coloration in wood warblers. During his 37-year tenure as a college professor at Ohio Wesleyan University, he regularly taught ornithology, a course he clearly loved and enjoyed sharing with an enthusiastic following of students.

Jed had an insatiable curiosity about birds. Although he taught at a small liberal arts college, he published more than 70 articles. What is even more amazing than his productivity is the variety of species and topics he covered. In addition to his thesis work, he published papers on Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularius*), Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Swallow-tailed