

famous BIRDERS

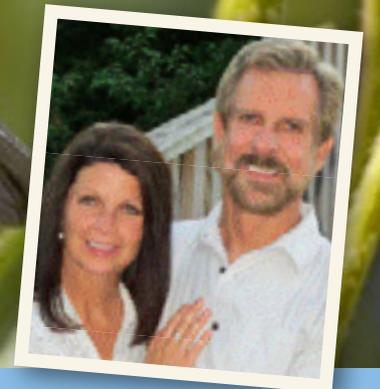
By Ann Schmauss

birding advice from the pros

Alongside every great bird man, there's a great bird woman. OK, not always. But for the birding pairs here, it's absolutely true. Meet these famous duos—and get their top tips for bringing more birds to your place.



george & kit harrison



kenn & kimberly kaufman

Readers of this magazine know George's "Glad You Asked" feature, but they may not know that he was one of the founding editors of *Birds & Blooms*. He says his interest in all things avian began when his parents pushed his crib against a window so he could watch the birds. Growing up, he went all over the country with his dad, a wildlife writer

and photographer. He followed in his dad's footsteps, and now he says he can't imagine doing anything else.

GEORGE'S OTHER HALF: Kit Harrison has been with George for 36 years. She edits all his writing. Together, they've produced 13 books and have worked on six PBS specials. Take a look at their top tips...

“Plant cover. Feeders are very important, but if you don't have natural cover, preferably native, at all levels, you won't have much bird variety. The best plants provide both food and cover, so think about options that also produce berries, seed or nectar. —GEORGE”

Make sure you wear the right gear. A few years ago I discovered insect-repellent clothing. It really works. —KIT

Kenn has been interested in birds since age 6. At 16, he left high school and hitchhiked across the country in a quest to identify as many birds as possible in one year. He found an amazing 666 of them; his book *Kingbird Highway* chronicles the adventure. Today he has his own field guide series and is one of the top pros in North America. But for someone who's seen every bird on the continent but one,

the whiskered auklet, he's surprisingly unconcerned with numbers. He just loves birding, no matter what it is.

KENN'S OTHER HALF: Kimberly Kaufman is also a birding professional, working as executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Ohio. She's always had a passion for birds and the outdoors and, like Kenn, writes for *Birds & Blooms*. They offer up this advice...

“Identifying birds can be learned with a little practice. Ask yourself how you'd identify a common bird if it had no markings or color. How is the bird sitting? What's its shape? How is it moving and behaving? Studying birds you already know will help you to identify more unusual birds when they do show up. —KENN”

Share your love of birds with family and friends. The joy that birds bring to our lives is such an amazing gift. Don't keep it to yourself! —KIMBERLY

INDIGO BUNTING, RICHARD DAY / DAYBREAK IMAGERY



ADVICE FROM BIRDERS.

Use the tips provided by these famous birders to attract and see fliers like cedar waxwings (pictured here) and indigo buntings (previous page).

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jim & nancy carpenter

donald & lillian stokes

Jim opened the first Wild Birds Unlimited store in Indianapolis more than 30 years ago. The franchise company now consists of more than 270 independently owned stores, each devoted to backyard birders. As a kid, Jim excitedly watched hummingbirds at his grandmother's home in rural Indiana. Joining an Audubon

group in college rekindled that boyhood interest.

JIM'S OTHER HALF: Nancy Carpenter, a former teacher, has applied many of her classroom skills to help Jim expand their business. Nancy has worked in many areas of the company. While she is a backyard bird enthusiast, Jim says she's not "crazy like I am." See what you learn...

“Everyone has a different feeding situation. For some, a big hopper feeder is best. For others, it might be better to put a little food in a tray feeder each day when it's time to watch the birds. To attract a wide variety of birds, feed diverse food in a variety of feeders. —JIM”

Take care of your birds. To keep them from flying into the glass and injuring themselves, hang ribbons in front of the windows so they flutter in the wind. —NANCY

You can't talk about Donald Stokes without mentioning Lillian at the same time. They just might be America's best-known birding couple. Together they've written 32 bird books and have hosted several PBS and DIY Network series on the subject—and they say they couldn't have

done any of it alone. They just naturally go together. Lillian met Don more than 30 years ago, when she took his birding class, and they've been together ever since. They now live on 48 acres in New Hampshire, where they have identified 195 species of birds. Get their tips...

“Use binoculars to watch your feeder birds, and don't underestimate what you can learn from birds there. For instance, if you watch consistently and closely, it's possible to see goldfinches' entire molting process when they visit your feeder. —DON”

Pull out all the stops in your backyard. Try everything—different foods in different feeders in different places. Provide plenty of perching spots by propping up large dead tree limbs near your feeders where all sorts of birds can easily perch. —LILLIAN

CEGAR WAXWING, RICHARD DAY / DAYBREAK IMAGERY