



Jeff Richter's journey with film and camera began almost 20 years ago with a walk through Tom Mangelson's gallery in Jackson, Wyoming, that inspired him to take up the camera and teach himself the art and craft of nature photography. Jeff has had hundreds of images appearing in print since then. Sierra Club, Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, NorthWord Press, Brown Trout, Willow Creek, *Wisconsin Trails Magazine*, *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* and LoonWatch are among the publishers and organizations that have used Jeff's images.

In 2001, Jeff won an I.R.M.A. Award from the International Regional Magazine Association for his photo essay on albino deer. In 2002, he placed two finalists in the BBC/British Gas International Photographer of the Year awards. Long-time publishers of *Wisconsin Trails* magazine, Howard and Nancy Mead, have called Jeff the best nature photographer in the state.

Wisconsin Public Radio host Larry Mueller has been trumpeting his admiration for Jeff's images for many years.

Jeff Richter is the photographer, author and publisher most recently of *Pure Superior: Lake Superior Photographs by Jeff Richter* (2009). His 2007 book, *White Deer: Ghosts of the Forest*, has attracted nation-wide attention after a Wisconsin Public Television *InWisconsin* segment on the book began to circulate through the internet. *Seasons of the North*, Jeff's first book, is in its fifth printing. Jeff works exclusively with film, and remains a stalwart against the credibility erosion brought by computer-aided manipulations of digital photography.

The Joy of Birds: Feathers in Focus Exhibit – Artist's Statement – Jeff Richter

Birds are visual poetry, music on the wing, gems that play the heavens. They sail into our hearts, addict us, charm us and thrill our daily lives with their daring acts of survival. How can something the size of a hummingbird fly to the equator and back? How can birds fly unerringly through the blackest of nights to a wetland, field or forest full of life – sustaining nourishment? Living mysteries.

For me birds are pure visual art. Whether I make close-up images portraying the intricate beauty and color of feathers, or images interpreting bird's relationship with their environment, or images attempting to capture the dynamics of flight and flock, it all makes me glad to have eyes with which to see. Birds are perfect, elusive and a soul-satisfying challenge to expose on film in a meaningful way. A challenge I relish and perhaps in another life I hope to join in the art of feathered flight