

Wildlife art Collectors stalk birds of prey

By Corinne Abatt
Staff writer

Pat Hriczak (pronounced rit-zak) said she moved her Prints & Carvings (wildlife art) gallery from Ann Arbor to Muirwood Square, Grand River and Drake, Farmington Hills, last year "to be near my customers." The fact that Hriczak finds more of her customers close to a large metropolitan area is a clue to what's happened to wildlife art in the last 10 years. Awareness of and appreciation for this art form has spread from sportsmen to the public at large.

And gliding in on the tailfeathers of this recognition are more artists specializing in wildlife art.

Carvers who once made functional fish and bird decoys as hunting and fishing lures, find carving decorative decoys for collectors far more lucrative. And artists who once did paintings and prints as a sideline are now professionals with respectable incomes from their work.

Hriczak's husband, John, a duck hunter who used to make his own decoys, now uses plastic ones and carves decorative ones for the gallery.

"There is so much more to wildlife art than deer and pheasant and ducks," Hriczak said, "and the quality of the art is improving so much, and the process of making prints is so much improved."

She attends wildlife shows in many states to find material for the gallery. South Carolina, Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as Michigan, for example. She said the annual wildlife art show in Charleston, S.C., "literally takes over the whole town."

Tastes have changed, too. "Some people collect just a certain species, eagles, grouse or just the ducks. We've always had a lot of ducks. Song birds have been just a standby. Moose are popular now. We have a lot of people who are very interested in eagles and birds of prey. Robert Bateman, John Seerey-Lester, Ron Parker, their birds of prey and eagles sell out as soon as they come in. Mario Fernandez of Minnesota, his eagles and birds of prey sell out immediately."

Fernandez, like many other of the top wildlife artists, may have 25 or 30 limited-edition prints (in large editions) on the market at any one time. Once the entire edition is sold out, the print tends to become even more valuable.

"I have no idea why birds of prey are so popular," Hriczak said. "It seems more men like them. And wolves, they love wolves. Grouse are popular too."

She said the bidding at the auctions for the prints is often fierce, that owls and raccoons attract many buyers and collectors. "Ducks are still going, but not as strong as they were. It varies from one part of the country to another. We're conservative here."

She personally loves prints by David Maass, but she added, "I ran out of room a long time ago."

She and her husband do a lot of traveling and searching to find artists who meet their standards of quality and who are able to produce work steadily as needed by the gallery.



Pat Hriczak has a selection of decoys her husband John carved and painted in her Prints & Carvings gallery in Farmington Hills. At right is one of the popular wolf prints. This one is titled "The Gathering" by John Seerey-Lester.



She promises to have carvings of song birds by Dune Larson, a university professor from Alabama, and a collection of fish decoys in the gallery soon. She will continue to carry duck decoys by Capt. Harry Jones of Agerdeen, Md., a substantial selection of duck and trout stamp prints and a wide assortment of wildlife prints of all kinds.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.



"Anasazi Nest Builder II" by Ted Baylock is a dramatic example of the eagle prints which many collectors favor.

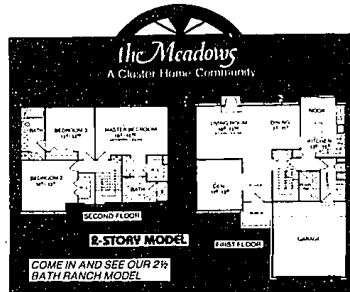
Staff photos by Randy Borst

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.



It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS



S P A C I O U S

INSIDE & OUT

FROM \$145,400

- 2 CAR ATTACHED GARAGE
- FULL BASEMENT
- FIREPLACE
- 2,000 SQUARE FT. APPROX.
- FIRST FLOOR LAUNDRY
- LUXURIOUS MASTER BEDROOM

553-2060

BALLY 1-6 • CLOSED THURSDAY

LOCATED AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF 13 MILE AND FARMINGTON RD. • FARMINGTON HILLS



You can't have everything at Hillpointe of West Bloomfield

What you can have:

- Country-quiet location
- Nature trails, jogging areas
- Nearby West Bloomfield shops, restaurants, entertainment
- Charming private lake
- Complete privacy and security
- Wood decks facing the lake
- Walkout basements available
- Attached 2-car garages
- Private entry courtyards and patios
- Two natural masonry fireplaces
- Cathedral ceilings and wet bars
- G.E. Kitchen appliances
- Kohler plumbing fixtures
- First floor laundry rooms
- Sound conditioned walls
- Central air conditioning
- Energy efficient furnaces
- Insulation R30 in ceilings, R16 in walls
- Wood casement windows
- Wood sliding doors
- Extra deep basements
- Security systems
- Exterior decorative and security lighting
- Quality wood interior trim
- Ceramic tile or hardwood foyer floors
- Ceramic tile baths, sunken tub in master suite
- Quality wood or Formica cabinets and vanities
- Marble vanity top, ceramic floor in powder rooms
- Special bonus program in effect!

What you can't:

- Clamor
- Commotion
- Congestion

60 DAY OCCUPANCY

Now showing daily, Saturday & Sunday 1-6 p.m., closed Thursday. Visit our delectable models on this rolling, heavily wooded site located off Pontiac Trail, 1 mile west of Orchard Lake Rd. Phone 681-6633. Priced from \$239,900 to \$309,900.

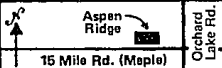


BUILT BY ESTABLISHED DEVELOPMENT CO. • BROKERS' INQUIRIES INVITED

Tri-Mount PRIME LOCATIONS IN WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESENTING CONDOS

Aspen^{OF} Ridge

SENSIBLY PRICED FROM \$124,000 TO \$135,000
INCLUDES SUPER AMENITIES



TRI-MOUNT DEVELOPMENT EVERYDAY 1-6 (CLOSED THURS.)

737-2380

SOME AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

FINAL PHASE NOW OPEN



2 & 3 bedroom detached condominiums featuring from 2,000 to 3,200 square feet of sumptuous living space, some with additional walk-out levels, including:

- Truly opulent master suites with roman step tubs, double vanities, dressing areas, double wardrobes
- Lavishly large eatroom/living rooms that have soaring 10 foot or cathedral ceilings with fireplaces and wet bars
- State-of-the-art island kitchens, oversized breakfast rooms and adjoining patio or balcony
- Enumerable rich architectural detailing and custom features

Over 130 acres of rolling terrain, wooded ravines and ponds and resort-like amenities—all enclosed and entered through a 24-hour monitored gatehouse—make the Manor Homes utterly irresistible.

Only 16 detached condominium home sites remain. Come see why. Sales office is open 12:00 to 6:00. Entry is off Drake Road between Maple and Walnut Roads.

For more information, call (313) 661-1750.

The MANOR HOMES
At Aldingbrooke

IN WEST BLOOMFIELD