

Bard Prentiss was born in Elmira NY in 1938 and spent the bulk of the last 69 years in Central New York. He moved to Dryden in 1964, with his wife Gina and two of an eventual four children, to take a job teaching junior high art in Ithaca. In 1970 he was offered a job teaching art and design in the department of art and art history at SUNY Cortland. In 1972 he received an MA from Cornell University. He remained at Cortland until retirement in 1994, chairing that department from 1980- 1991.

Two librarian parents with a strong interest in nature and the outdoors were all the catalyst needed to initiate his lifelong passion for plants, butterflies, mammals, birds and other things natural. This interest in nature has led him to spend a lifetime in the woods, fields, fens and swamps of the area, drawing, photographing, hunting, fishing, studying and just experiencing the richness of the environs of the Town of Dryden and Central New York. This long time intimacy with the wild places in the town should serve to inform his work on the Conservation Board.

Other relevant activities include representing the Village of Dryden on the Tompkins County EMC through much of the 1980s. Memberships include joining the Cayuga Bird Club in 1990, where he served as president for two years in the late 90s and more recently as a club director. In 1999 he was invited to become the Regional Coordinator for region 3 of the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas project. This position led to an appointment on the Atlas Steering Committee and as the Art Coordinator for the upcoming Atlas publication.