



the BIRD'S EYE

The newsletter of Oglebay Institute's Junior Nature Camp
2nd Week 2008



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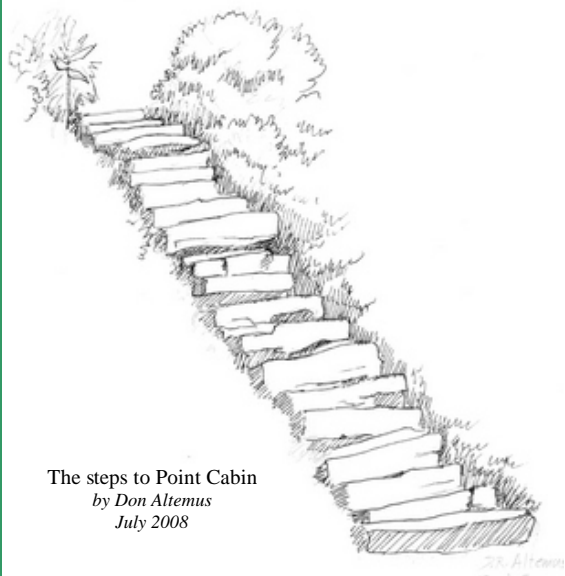
Don Altemus donates original Bird's Eye artwork

The masthead above appeared in the Fall 1988 edition of the Bird's Eye. Don recently made available the original artwork for the masthead to the current BE Staff. It was scanned and will now be the official masthead henceforth.

The bird illustrated above is a Winter Wren. It was the favorite bird Martha Darrah Kulp. The Fall 1980 addition contained Martha's obituary. Don's illustration was a fitting tribute to Martha and it will now live on.

For those of you who might not know, Martha was then camp director Billie Altemus' "right-hand woman". The two of them could often be seen on the porch of Point Cabin talking earnestly about camp business.

We miss them both. -Ed.



The steps to Point Cabin
by Don Altemus
July 2008

From the JNC Dictionary

fob

v. fobulation

1. To lie flat on back.
2. To assume a resting position while prone.
3. Slang: Fobulitious
 - a. Used to describe an enjoyable fobulation

v. fobbing

1. Actively engaged in fobulation

Camp Bird List

July 20th through August 1st

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Acadian Flycatcher | 31. House Wren |
| 2. American Crow | 32. Indigo Bunting |
| 3. American Goldfinch | 33. Mallard |
| 4. American Redstart | 34. Mourning Dove |
| 5. American Robin | 35. Northern Cardinal |
| 6. Baltimore Oriole | 36. Northern Flicker |
| 7. Barn Swallow | 37. Northern Oriole |
| 8. Barred Owl | 38. Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| 9. Belted Kingfisher | 39. Red-eyed Vireo |
| 10. Black and White Warbler | 40. Red-shouldered Hawk |
| 11. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 41. Red-tailed Hawk |
| 12. Blue Jay | 42. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 13. Brown-headed Cowbird | 43. Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| 14. Canada Goose | 44. Rufous-sided Towhee |
| 15. Carolina Chickadee | 45. Scarlet Tanager |
| 16. Carolina Wren | 46. Screech Owl |
| 17. Cedar Waxwing | 47. Solitary Sandpiper |
| 18. Chimney Swift | 48. Song Sparrow |
| 19. Chipping Sparrow | 49. Tree Swallow |
| 20. Common Yellowthroat | 50. Tufted Titmouse |
| 21. Coopers Hawk | 51. Turkey Vulture |
| 22. Downy Woodpecker | 52. Warbling Vireo |
| 23. Eastern Bluebird | 53. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 24. Eastern Phoebe | 54. White-eyed Vireo |
| 25. Eastern Wood-Pewee | 55. Wild Turkey |
| 26. Field Sparrow | 56. Wood Thrush |
| 27. Gray Catbird | 57. Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| 28. Great Blue Heron | 58. Yellow-throated Vireo |
| 29. Great Crested Flycatcher | 59. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 30. Hairy Woodpecker | 60. Yellow Warbler |

Morning Sessions

Week 1:

Non-Flowering Plants: Greg Park
 Nocturnal Critters: Dave Sapienza
 Impermanent Art: Jon Altemus
 Stream Study: Connor Fox

Week 2:

Flowering Plants:
 Greg Park/Bill Beatty
 Making Contact:
 Ted and Ellen Rybeck
 Nature Mozaics: Jess Davis
 Fur and Fangs: Steve Rice

Afternoon Sessions

Week 1:

Monday - Raptor ID: Jon Altemus
 Tuesday - GPS Study: Brad Blaine
 Wednesday - Caddisflies: Kathy Stout
 Thursday - Canoe Trip : All day
 Friday - Watercolors:
 Don and Jon Altemus

Week 2:

Monday - Dragonflies: Sue Olcott
 Tuesday - Live Raptors: WVRRC Staff
 Wednesday - Recycling:
 Tammy Bonar
 Thursday - Adventure Day: All day
 Friday - C.I.T. Sessions

Tom the Toad
Submitted by Lenny Muni

Here is the original song followed by the verses contributed by this year's Junior Nature Campers. Simply substitute their verse for the verse in the original song.

O Tom the Toad, O Tom the Toad, Why are you lying on the road?
 O Tom the Toad, O Tom the Toad, Why are you lying on the road?
 You did not see the car ahead.
 Now you're all marked with tire tread.
 O Tom the Toad, O Tom the Toad, Why are you lying on the road?



You did not see that fast red car.
 And now you can't play your guitar.
 -Jon Altemus

You used to hop through the marsh.
 But now you're on the road all squashed.
 -Ross Levelle

Those headlights were pretty bright.
 And now you head for the light.
 -Morgan Lund-Goldstein

You did not see that banana peel.
 They you heard a tire squeal.
 -Josh Hughes

You are dead and you're a toad.
 And you are dead because you're dead
 -Olivia Hayes

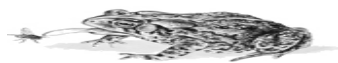
You used to be so very funny.
 But then you "croaked".....hey that was punny.
 -Jessica Repep

You did not see Olivia.
 And now you're in oblivia.
 Erin Jorden

You did not see the big red car.
 And now you're one with the tar.
 -Josh Hughes

You did not see the big red truck.
 Now you're just a pile of muck.
 -Matthew Dingess

You were a really awesome toad.
 But now you are a piece of road.
 -Jack Krivit



The Origin of Franken Vole
by Elliot Guerra-Blackmer

The original Franken vole was constructed from bones that were found in owl pellets by two campers (Elliot Guerra-Blackmer and Olivia Hayes) last week. If any one would like to assemble there own creation, owl pellets can be found at the edge of the woods near the Winterized Lodge.

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**Nature Observation**

*By Katie Hall*

On Saturday, July 19th , before Camp, Katie Hall , her mom, camp cook Kim Henderson and her husband John found a great big moth. We identified it as a Polyphemus Moth.

**Finding Work in a National Park**

*By Steve Rice*

There are numerous opportunities for young adults and especially students to work in National Parks- and the diversity of jobs might surprise you. I got started working for one of the concessionaires in Yellowstone and the same company (Xanterra) operates in many large parks. These tend to be jobs like waiter, kitchen help, and room attendant but they give you the opportunity to explore a park every weekend. The jobs are plentiful and easy to get- visit Xanterra's website for details. Try for a tipped position like waiter if the salary is important to you.

While working as a waiter, I also began volunteering for the National Park Service in Yellowstone.

You'll need to do some research to find a volunteer position, but there are many cool opportunities.

Several organizations like the Student Conservation Association may be able to match you to an interesting job.

Finally, the Federal government is the single largest employer in the United States and offers thousands of conservation-oriented summer jobs.

Entry level jobs include naturalist, trail crew, fee collector, and biological technician.

The government promotes student hire through its Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) and Student Career Employment Program (SCEP).

Specifically ask the Personnel Office of your local park if they have any jobs they're filling under these hiring authorities.

If you're interested in a park farther from home, visit [USAJOBS.gov](http://USAJOBS.gov) and enter the park or job that interests you as a keyword.

Good luck and feel free to contact me at [Steve\\_Rice@nps.gov](mailto:Steve_Rice@nps.gov) if you have any questions.

**Bird-eyed Night mouse.**

A nocturnal, arboreal solitary rodent that lives in the mind of Jack Krivit.

*Rendering by: Jack Krivit*



**Camp Roster**

## WEEK 1

1. Raine Acri
2. Riley Bartsch
3. Brenna Bioni
4. Stephen Board
5. Taylor Burgess
6. Jeremiah Campion
7. Hannah Ceo
8. Denise Costin
9. Sydney Craig
10. Matthew Dingess
11. Sam Files
12. Donald Forman
13. Natalie Gainer
14. Michael Gentile
15. Deanna Glasgow
16. Stephanie Grindley
17. Elliot Guerra-Blackmer
18. Noah Hathaway
19. Ben Hawkins
20. Olivia Hayes
21. Emilee Henry
22. Jonathan Hostottle
23. Blake Humphrey
24. Anna Humphrey
25. Erin Jordan
26. Hunter Keller
27. Gabriel Khoury
28. Logan Klug
29. Jack Krivit
30. Jake Lazarus
31. Jett Lazarus
32. Julia Levelle
33. Ross Levelle
34. Levi Lorenzo
35. Morgan Lund-Goldstein
36. Madeline Madison
37. Ian Baker Mashburn
38. Julia Miles
39. Mason Miles
40. Carrie Morris
41. Keith Nardozzi
42. Dominick Nardozzi
43. Alex Parkison
44. Emma Piotrowski
45. Nicholas Pirrong
46. Maddie Pyles
47. Alexi Pyles
48. Nathaniel Rabuzzi
49. Aleah Railing
50. Bryon Rardin, Jr.
51. Matthew Rardin
52. Ethan Reed
53. Sam Rybeck
54. Gabe Rybeck
55. Kailyn Sapienza
56. Samatha Spoonhour
57. Megan Starrett
58. Reilly Steuernagel
59. Diana Tappert
60. Jack Tappert
61. Ben Taylor
62. Briella Taylor
63. Shannon Teed
64. Abby Woodward

## WEEK 2

1. Raine Acri
2. Ian Baker Mashburn
3. Brenna Bioni
4. Christopher Blackwell
5. Megan Bleifus
6. Stephen Board
7. Kenny Burgess
8. Taylor Burgess
9. Jeremiah Campion
10. Mazie Cheeseborough
11. Sydney Craig
12. Nathan Dawe
13. Matthew Dingess
14. Abigail Drach
15. Emily Fluharty
16. Natalie Gainer
17. Michael Gentile
18. Stephanie Grindley
19. Elliot Guerra-Blackmer
20. Jasmine Haas
21. Timothy Hartong
22. Olivia Hayes
23. Brooke Hennen
24. Emilee Henry
25. Zoe Hickman
26. Heather Hill
27. Jasmine Huff
28. Anna Humphrey
29. Hunter Keller
30. Logan Klug
31. Jack Krivit
32. Ross Levelle
33. Morgan Lund-Goldstein
34. Rose McGonigle
35. Julia Miles
36. Mason Miles
37. Carrie Morris
38. Kristine Mueller
39. Dominick Nardozzi
40. Keith Nardozzi
41. Alex Parkison
42. Nicholas Pirrong
43. Nathaniel Rabuzzi
44. Aleah Railing
45. Ethan Reed
46. Charlotte Reuben
47. Abe Rybeck
48. Emma Rybeck
49. Gabe Rybeck
50. Mia Rybeck
51. Sam Rybeck
52. Shoshana Rybeck
53. Kailyn Sapienza
54. Leo Simon
55. Perry Simon
56. Samatha Spoonhour
57. Megan Starrett
58. Diana Tappert
59. Jack Tappert
60. Ben Taylor
61. Shannon Teed
62. Carly Thaw
63. Abbie Titus
64. Isabella Winters
65. Abby Woodward

**Camp Staff and CITs****DIRECTOR**

Jeffrey Altemus

**CIT DIRECTOR**

Lenny Muni

**SENIOR NATURALIST**

Greg Park

**NATURALIST**

David Sapienza

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Natasha Diamond

**NURSE**

Lois Huggins

**CITs**

Martin Beal

Christina Faust

Tony Francis

Ry Garlow

Kate Hall

Katy Hannah

Josh Hughes

Isaac Jones

Sharif Khan

Duncan Mapes

Stuart Mapes

Charlie Meyers

Josh Parkison

Nick Rabuzzi

Jessica Repep

Naomi Rybeck

Nicole Scott

Catherine Tappert

**Unit Counselors**

Cory Altemus

Jessica Davis

Connor Fox

Jake Francis

Chris Hall

Kelsey Jones

Erica McGrath

Ali Prager

Ben Scott (Life Guard)

**Volunteers**

Jon Altemus

Ellen Brodsky

Jessica Lee

Steve Rice

Ted Rybeck

Brent Whorls

**Kitchen & Dining Staff**

Kim Henderson

Anita Kaul

Leela Kaul

Jim Denham

Ben Davis

**Photos & WEBster**

Mike Breiding

**Birds-Eye Staff**

Mike Breiding

Christine Files

James Tiu

**CAMP SCHEDULE**

7:00 A.M. RISE AND SHINE !

7:30 Bird Walk and Flag Raising

8:30 Breakfast

9:30 Unit Chores

10:15 Morning Sessions

12:30 Lunch

1:30 F.O.B. (Flat On Back, rest)

2:30 Afternoon Program

4:00 Free Time, Swimming, Recreation  
Boy's Shower, Special Programs

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Free Time, Girl's Shower

8:00 Vespers

8:30 Snacks

8:45 Campfire

10:30 LIGHTS OUT!

## Revolution

By Olivia Hayes

### Chapter 3

"Good boy," Hornet sneered. "Now prove just how good of a boy you are and sniff out those vigilantes for me, will you?"

"But I have no vigilantes, Commander Hornet. I neffer did," Gustav said calmly.

"I know what I saw, soldier!" Hornet yelled.

"Und I know vat I saw. No von entered dis bunker. Perhaps hyu eyes are not as sharp as dey vonce ver," Gustav said with a hint of contempt.

"My eyes don't lie, private. But maybe yours do, so why don't you be a good little commie and do as your superiors tell you. Check the bunker now!" Hornet screeched.

Gustav glared at Hornet, but did as he asked and reached his head under the bunk bed. But instead of flushing Terri and Grey out, he whispered a warning to them.

"Go to de beck vall. Dere hyu will see a metal plate dot has been nailed down. Menny of de nails have come loose. Push it aside. Behind it will be a hole just large enuff for hyu to sqveese out. From dere, keep hyu becks to the vall on de outside. I will come to get hyu after Hornet is gone. Vateffer hyu do, do not stray from de vall!" Gustav whispered quickly.

Terri and Grey did as they were told and managed to squeeze their way out of the hole just as they heard Hornet yell again.

"What the heck are you doing under there you useless bag of meat?!" he said.

"Dere is notink in de bunker, sir. If emnying vas under dere, it iz gone now," Gustav murmured.

"I've got my eyes on you, Commie. I don't miss a thing around here. You'll be sure to know that Edward will be hearing about this!" Hornet said, slamming the door on his way out.

After a few hours, Gustav felt safe letting the pair of 'vigilantes' back inside. He explained to them a lot of what had just happened. It turned out that Edward was the mysterious leader of the rebel army, and that he wasn't exactly the fearsome beast that Hornet had made him out to be. It was just that having to lead a constantly dwindling army against a nearly unstoppable foe took its toll on even the most levelheaded person. The large building in the center of the lot was the former Forest, or the area where human scientists had performed their experiments. Now it contained Edward's quarters and served as a high point for lookouts like Hornet. However, Gustav mentioned that Terri and Grey's existence was a mystery, because the forest had been a place where the human scientists kept stock of nonsentient animals. No sentient had lived there for many years. Still, it seemed that Gustav wasn't quite telling them everything he knew.

"Lord Edward, I have some interesting news," Hornet said as he entered a dark chamber within the central building.

"What did you find, Hornet?" asked a soft voice from behind a desk. It sounded less than curious.

"I have reason to believe that we've found Lita's children," said Hornet urgently.

"Really? Where was this?" said the soft voice with piqued interest.

"I saw what looked like a small red fox enter Gustav and Blizzard's bunker just a minute ago. When I entered, there was no sign of it left," Hornet explained.

"Was the raccoon with it?" asked the voice.

"No sir, but if it's still alive it's probably still with the fox," Hornet replied. "What do you want me to do about it?"

"Wait, for now. I have never doubted your sight before, but I must be sure. After all these years, I do wonder if Lita's innocents are still alive," said the voice softly.

"Yes, my lord," said Hornet, backing out of the room.

A black shape shifted in the darkness. Lita's children, eh? he thought. This should be fun.

Terri and Grey slept soundly in their bunk that night, even after the day's excitement. Suddenly, Grey awoke to a rustling sound in the covers. A white head peeked out from under the sheets. Fangs glittered in the dim light as the creature reared it's head, and squinted yellow eyes glared up at him.

"Snake!" he screamed.

### Chapter 4

Terri awoke with a start as Grey scrambled behind her, cowering in fear. The snake's head whipped back and forth between its two possible victims. Its fangs seemed to glow at the pair, its lips drawn back as it hissed viciously. Terri leapt up to act a shield for Grey (now sobbing in a fetal position) and bared her teeth in a frightening snarl. Her tail puffed up to its fullest, making her look huge. The tiny snake did not back down, but instead stretched its neck out so far that it merely balanced on the very tip of its tail.

Perhaps it was the hissing or growling that awoke Gustav, or maybe it was the very tension in the air. Gustav knew that tension well from being a former soldier of the New Soviet Union (and now a rebel fighter) so he immediately jumped into action.

However, when he saw what was going on he quickly relaxed.

"Now vat do hyu tink hyu are doingk, Blizzard? Dese two are our allies, hyu silly little snake!" Gustav said fatherly.

The snake was immediately calmed by Gustav's voice, and slithered out of the bed and onto the Horse-Pig's head. He snuggled into the coarse fur and hissed contentedly.

"What the heck, Gustav! Why are you cuddling it?!" Terri asked angrily, her tail still puffed.

"Dis iz my roommate, Blizzard. He has been on a top secret spy mission for Edvard. He must have returned just now," Gustav answered calmly.

"Well, he ought to apologize for scaring Grey like that!" Terri growled.

In response, Blizzard slithered back up the bed and nuzzled her flank. He then did the same to Grey, making the already frightened raccoon whimper.

"Hey, get off of him! Can't you see you're scaring him?!" Terri snarled, pushing the snake away to hug her friend.

"Hey, he was just apologizing for scaring hyu! Dun yell at him. He doesn't talk much, so dot's just his vay. He's just not used to intruders, dot's all," Gustav explained. "He's not a threat to hyu, he's not efen venomous. Just let him make a fresh start vith hyu."

Terri stared down into unblinking, saddened yellow eyes. Suddenly they narrowed into slits and closed, making her worry that Blizzard was angry with her again. However, she soon noticed that the snake's tiny mouth had pushed into a warm smile, his eyes closed in a 'hi there!' sort of way. His black-tipped tail wagged slowly back and forth.

"Well, he does seem friendly..." she said, letting Blizzard slither up her arm. "You want to pet him, Grey?"

Grey reluctantly stretched out a trembling paw. Blizzard gently snuggled it, and Grey's fear began to disperse. Soon, he was letting the little snake coil around his neck. Blizzard was unable to reach all the way around, but he liked the warmth. Both Grey and Blizzard fell asleep like that.

The next morning three of the animals woke up to eat breakfast. Gustav had left earlier that morning, being one of the larger animals who carted supplies and ammunition to the front lines. He'd left a note behind to explain so that Blizzard wouldn't have to.

"Dear comrades, I am off to the front lines early this morning. Don't worry, I haven't been forced by Edward to fight just yet. I'm delivering a load of rifle shells. Oh, and I forgot to tell you earlier about what happens on the front lines. Soldiers at the very front must act as bullet shields for the real fighters behind them. Sincerely, Gustav."

Terri and Grey quivered at the thought of all the innocent animals that had to sacrifice themselves to protect their fellows. Grey began to cry and fell into Terri's arms. Blizzard wrapped around his neck comfortingly.

Later that day, when the tears had stopped, Blizzard had been summoned by Edward to bring news from his recent mission. Terri and Grey had been left alone in the bunker, and began to talk. They talked about all that had happened recently. They talked about the forest, and about their former caretaker Lita. They spoke of their doubts about Gustav, Blizzard, and Hornet. They even speculated on who Edward might be. Soon they ran out of things to talk about, and a quiet pause ensued. Then Terri spouted momentous news.

"I think I want to join the army."

### Chapter 5

"Are you crazy?!" Grey yelled back.

Neither of the two animals remember exactly what was said after that. All anyone can remember is that there was a fight. At first, they merely debated why or why not. Terri wanted to go because she believed that they should fight for what was right. Grey reminded her of what they had learned of the goings-on on the front lines. Then insults were exchanged, getting worse by the minute. Terri then stormed out of the bunker, tossing final harsh words over her shoulder. Grey was left sobbing in the corner.

Standing outside, Terri waited for Hornet to notice her. He wasted no time in coming down to greet her.

"About time you showed yourself!" he yelled.

"I want to join you," she said bluntly.

"Good girl. That was just what I wanted to hear. Come with me, I'll take you to the armory," he sneered.

A few hours later, Gustav and Blizzard returned home to find Terri gone and Grey in tears.

"Vat happened to hyu?" Gustav asked urgently.

"Terri left to join the army and I couldn't do anything to stop her," Grey said through sobs.

"She did vat now?!" Gustav asked, his eyes widening. "Oh, dis is bad. All dot Lita vorked for!"

"You know Lita?" Grey asked, startled.

"Yes. I vas hopingk dot hyu neffer vould hear of dis, but I'm afraid I must tell hyu. Hyu caretaker vonce held de same position dot Hornet holds now, as de closest person to Edvard. However, Lita had her eyes set on vat might happen after de var vas over. She vanted to have innocents to lead the sentients to a new home in the former forest. Hyu two vere dose innocents. Hyu neffer knew of var or violence, und hyu care for all living creatures de same. Hyu vould teach de new vorld, und bring it into a new age. However, Edvard disagreed. He said dot effryvone must be ready to fight. Lita vould not lissen, und ran avay vith hyu two almost after hyu vere born. If Terri iz to join Edvard, den ve are in big trouble," he replied.

"She's not going to join the army!" Grey yelled, and bolted out the door. Gustav and Blizzard ran after him, but they could not catch up. Grey ran straight into Edward's base.

Grey slowly made his way toward a central office. Edward's name adorned the door in gold. He walked into the dark light. There he saw the small figure of a crow, who sat by a darkened window and looked out.

"I've been expecting you, Grey," said the crow. He turned around and gave him a kind smile.

"You know my name?" Grey managed to squeak out.

"Of course. My name is Edward. What is it that you want?" Edward said.

"I want you to get rid of Terri as a soldier. Put me in her place instead!" Grey pleaded.

"Why would you want me to do that?" Edward asked calmly.

"Because I can't live without her. If I have a choice between living without her and dying on the front lines, I choose death!" Grey said.

"You are a brave little creature, but your words are true. Very well. Go out to meet her on her way to the front lines. Tell her to run, and that no one will ever have known she existed." Edward said with a smile. Grey did as he was told and ran.

Grey caught up with Terri very quickly. She was on foot, and Grey was much faster when he ran. Grey noticed with sorrow that she had a gun slung over her arm.

"What do you want?" Terri said maliciously.

"I want that gun, and I want you to get as much distance from here as possible. I'm taking your place," he said.

"What? Why?" Terri asked.

"Because if I have to live without you, I might as well die instead. You were always stronger, anyway. If anyone should get to live, it should be you," he answered.

"No, you were always stronger. You're proving that now. And I can't live without you, either," she said with a smile. "However, you were already easy to control. So I'm telling you, and you always listen, run away with me. I'm not saying it will be easy, but I'm saying that it'll be better than all the fighting," she said, putting down the gun.

"You're not going without us, are you?" said a strange voice, which sounded like wind rustling through leaves. Terri and Grey turned around to see Gustav and Blizzard coming up behind them. Blizzard was the one who had spoken.

"Wouldn't dream of it!" Grey called to them after the initial shock.

"Goot. If ve go now, ve could go to de mountains past de old forest. Dere ve should be safe. Dere ve could build a new home," Gustav said.

Without another word, Terri and Grey hopped up on Gustav's back, Blizzard slithering under his helmet. The four animals went off into uncharted lands, away from Edward and Hornet and the war, to build a new life in freedom.

## The End