2600 East Division #78
Mt. Vernon WA 98274
February 25 2000
Email: bradford@fidalgo.net

Dear family –

The bird was away its usual six months, but it must feel at home with the handful of other robins, which over-wintered here. The house sparrows are busy examining nesting sites. The snow geese and swans are still here.

We are glad for all the news of everybody. Considering which decade of our lives we are in, I guess we are all in pretty fair shape! We're glad Lynette's skin cancer was taken care of. We talked with Helen & Jerry last night. We know Helen will have a great time in Costa Rica. Should expand her bird list considerably.

News of us: Winnie still as busy as ever with her half-dozen volunteer activities. At the moment she is helping seniors with tax returns. Her adult day-care center continues to thrive. We both exercise regularly at the "Y".

I was back in Brasil in October and November at a village where I had worked two years earlier. It was interesting to see two years' growth on the teak plantations. And I liked the tropical storms where the rain is driven sideways by violent winds. Some of the subsistent farmers are still struggling to make ends meet in difficult circumstances: poor roads, poor transportation, and undependable markets, but they are optimistic and like their independent life-style. We enjoyed visiting again. I always find the local schoolteachers and students are much interested in conservation, and we had some good meetings with them.

Last week I was in Hawaii to consult with John Roberts (former roommate at Yale). He's now a retired ophthalmologist. He gave me some encouraging words for the continuing improvement in my double vision that began in August. I also had three days visiting Forrest on Maui. That island is interesting and would take a lot of time to explore properly.

We enjoy the pictures in the RR.

See you in August!