

FRANK W. McLAUGHLIN 1906-1977

I first met Frank after he had retired as the executive director of the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Frank was certainly a self-made man. He worked at RCA in Camden, gave lectures at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, worked as an Audubon Society photographer and lecturer, and served as the director of the New Jersey Audubon Society. He became a highly respected naturalist, helped eliminate the use of pole traps, and fought for the preservation of parks and open areas.

It was in the Spring of 1971 and I had just seen a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the South Cape May meadow and was eager to show someone. I knew from the membership list in *Cassinia* that a fellow member of the DVOC lived nearby. I went directly to Frank's house and introduced myself. We went to see the bird. Two months later, I phoned about a Sandwich Tern at North Cape May. From that time on we came to see more and more of each other as birding companions.

Before I met Frank my interest in the world of nature was limited solely to birds. As a result of a friendship with Frank, I now enjoy a much broader interest in many aspects of the natural world. While he was introducing me to the wildflowers, I could understand why he was so good with children when he was with New Jersey Audubon. He would name every flower we saw as we walked along the old trails. After the first dozen or so I would forget the names of the earlier ones; Frank was as patient with me as he would have been with a group of elementary school children.

Frank also introduced many members of the DVOC to the beauty of the Pine Barrens. I shared his disappointment when we went into Quaker Bridge to look for *Arethusa* and found only eight plants, whereas twenty-five years earlier he had seen dozens there.

Frank always held strong opinions and spoke out against various evils as he saw them, such as inadequate laws and haphazard development, while dedicating himself to saving open land. His basic philosophy regarding wildlife conservation was never to give your opponent an inch, never leave a loophole, and ask for the whole pie.

Everyone who knew Frank has a richer life because of him.

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