



Photographed by Donald S. Heintzelman on July 4, 1965 at Cedar Island, N.J.

JOSEPH A. JACOBS

1917-1977

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Joe Jacobs interest in Nature first developed while he was a Boy Scout along with Larry Corn, a neighbor, as a close companion. Together they spent many weekends exploring the New Jersey Pine Barrens, learning about plants and birds. When a request came from the Biological Survey to the Scouting Organization for volunteers to band raptors, Joe and Larry offered their services. Bands were supplied by the Survey.

Noting in BIRD LORE, the forerunner of AUDUBON MAGAZINE, that the editor for the Philadelphia Region in the seasonal reports lived nearby, the two boys visited Julian Potter. The result was a lifelong friendship, introduction to the DVOC and many trips guided by Joe and Larry to the Pine Barrens, in company with Potter, Fletcher Street and Harvey Moore.

During World War II Joe worked at the Trumpy Shipyard where he met Dan Batezel, whose family had a seashore cottage in Avalon, N.J. Two loves grew out of his visits there, the first for Dan's sister Winifred, whom he later married, and for the Ospreys that inhabited the island. He now had his own permit and added young Ospreys to his banding operations. When the war ended he established himself as a builder.

Joe had an inquiring mind. For years he studied the nesting Ospreys and Bald Eagles in Southern New Jersey and by sending addled eggs to the Patuxent Research Center helped to establish the effect of DDT on the breeding failure of raptors.

On his regular trips to Salem and Cumberland counties he was often accompanied by Dick Miller, who not only instructed him in nest finding but taught him the art of using tree climbers, and, later by Dale Coman and other friends. Methods were devised, generally unsuccessful, for capturing and banding adult Turkey Vultures and shelters were made to encourage nesting. His labors were more rewarding in the construction of nesting platforms for Ospreys to replace trees that suffered from real estate development. At times the birds would take over while he was leaving the site. Some of the most interesting and informative sessions of the DVOC occurred at the times Joe periodically reported on his activities.

His talents were utilized as a director of The New Jersey Audubon Society and as a Trustee and Secretary of The Wetlands Institute. He was president of the DVOC for the years 1970-1971, was a member of The American Ornithologists' Union, The Wilson Ornithological Society and The Eastern Bird Banding Association. He was generous in his support of many worthwhile causes. In time he earned the reputation of being the best home builder in his area. His skill was also recognized by the birds. A martin house he erected in my backyard was occupied within a few days, whereas one I built remained untenanted over fifteen years.

Joe held strong, well formed opinions but was without prejudice. There was no doubt where he stood on controversial subjects. He died June 24, 1977, while banding young Ospreys. Notes on the days' work had been carefully recorded and in his hand was an Osprey egg. Winifred, two sons and a daughter survive him.

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