FOREWORD

It is a great pleasure and a special honor to write this foreword to *Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Audubon Society*. John M. “Frosty” Anderson was one of the National Audubon Society’s great “living legends.” I had the privilege of knowing Frosty for over two decades and of working with him on behalf of birds and other wildlife and their habitat. No one has done more for wildlife than this modest man who had the best sense of humor of anyone I’ve known.

Frosty served as the manager of the nation’s oldest duck club, the Winous Point Duck Club on the southwest corner of Lake Erie. It was here that the National Audubon Society found him and hired him away to serve as senior vice president for all of our sanctuaries—a position he held with great distinction until his retirement.

Frosty’s experience, common sense, and good judgment combined to make him an exceptional conservation leader. One of the reasons for Frosty’s success was his rare ability to take a strong position for what he knew to be right and still retain the respect of those who opposed him.

It is widely known that Guy Bradley was the first wildlife warden of the National Audubon Society to be murdered while trying to protect great and snowy egrets from plume hunters. It is less known that two other Audubon wardens met the same fate before protection of birds and other wildlife was taken seriously by the general public.

As Frosty so well documents in *Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Audubon Society*, each species of wildlife requires a unique combination of plants, climate, soil, and water to survive. Under Frosty's supervision, the Everglade kite population in Florida, faced with extinction in the 1960s, has been restored to safe levels. The brown pelican, completely extirpated in the Pelican State, Louisiana, and reduced to a few struggling pairs along the Texas coast in the 1960s, is now a common sight throughout the Gulf Coast wetlands. Audubon's protection of the reddish egret and roseate spoonbill has removed them from the endangered species category. The wild whooping crane population at last count was 182. While still an endangered species, 4 or 5 individuals stop in the spring at the Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska, along with about 110,000 sandhill cranes, approximately 25 percent of the North American population.

In 1953 the roar of chain saws was heard throughout the world's last remnant of virgin cypress swamp near Naples, Florida, in which the endangered wood stork nested. That the ancient trees and storks are still there is due to the establishment of National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Wildlife Sanctuary. Under wise management, Corkscrew Swamp has become one of our nation's most popular natural areas, as well as an outstanding educational facility.

Along with ecosystem preservation and restoration, education has played a dominant role in our sanctuary management program. To meet the requirements of what it takes to be an Audubon sanctuary manager, one must be an outstanding wildlife ecologist, an experienced wildlife enforcement agent, research scientist, and teacher.

Keeping suitable habitat available for birds and other wildlife, from Maine to California and from Texas to North Dakota, requires the right men and women in the right places at the right time. The plants and animals on Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries speak well for the personnel in charge of them.

In *Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Audubon Society*, a rather intricate character is revealed. The author's casual tone does not disguise his profound love for wildlife. He can be playful in reference to "flat-faced fowl," "hootie owls," and "winged vermin," yet he is deeply penetrating in his plea for protection and management of predators. He manages to tease his readers while being very intense about his favorite subjects: wildlife and wildlife managers on National Audubon Society Sanctuaries.

I know you will enjoy *Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Audubon Society* and meeting Audubon's incomparable Frosty Anderson.

Donal C. O'Brien Jr.
Chairman of the Board
National Audubon Society

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