

Hi! Even as you read this the Sanct. is at it's Springtime best. Due to the "Hurry Up" weather we are a full three weeks ahead of ourselves. The grass trails are emerald, leaves are at their tenderest green. Some of the late ones look like hand covered buttons still!. In the open spaces the sere grasses of winter are being pulled, one by one, and woven into bicentennial nests. It was in March that the winds brought down last year's stoutest nests, opening up prime building sites for this year's crop of home-makers. Alongside the forest trails all sorts of things are up,--the Solomon seals, both false and true! violets and ferns are eye-catching. There are thousands of seedlings in unidentifiable stages. In a few days their second leaves will be up. Even the flagpole is up!

Our angular Barn is being softened by green fuzz. You do realize, don't you, that a shingled Barn IS New England? Other sections of the country have stone; logs, fitted or chinked; slats, or clapboards and lapped boards, (Pronounced clabbud and labbud!). As you approach Drury Ct. cast your eyes upon the shadbush in full bloom. There is something about the feathery flowers and grey-green leaves against the green-gray shingles that is French. While down the trails, junipers, straight and tall are--well, that's Italian!

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All kinds of interesting birds are arriving daily--or passing through. The Canada geese, who linger in the Fall, don't even glance down as they speed northward! Indigo Buntings stopped a while to rest and eat. Catbirds have arrived for the season as have the herons. Soon the wood thrush will start their orchestrations in the forest. And those of us who are lucky will see the courtship flights of humming birds. As someone said, "a stately minuet, not horizontal across a ball room floor, but vertical, through the air". Tiny hummingbirds come up from South America. From the South Pole the Artic Terns will make their annual flight to the North Pole--a round trip of 22, 000 miles a year. (Do you have trouble getting to Fall River?)

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The most pathetic birds on the island are pheasants. There are not enough hens to pair with the cocks! In response to the request for a pheasant sighting, there were only three calls from those of you who saw a cock with 3 hens. None saw more. And one of those calls came from as far way as the Ocean Drive. There was knowledge of Sanct. neighbours eating pheasants (against the law to kill a pheasant outside of legal period, and against the law to kill them in anyway other than shooting). Now the truth is known that a strong hunt club put the political muscle on, and got the shooting rules relaxed so that hunters were allowed to kill one hen a day during the hunting season! Now pheasants are very smart birds. In the hunting season roosters are no where to be seen, but hens, knowing that they are protected, are all over the map. Last year they were almost wiped out. They are needed in the food chain. So if you can possibly afford it write to the following: (P.Cs are less costly)

James Chadwick Chief of Wildlife Management

Charles Allen]

James Myer] both of Wildlife Management

address of all three: Dept. Of Natural Resources, Veterans' Memorial B"LD"G
Providence R.I. 02903 Tell them that hens are endangered

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part of wildlife here on Aquidneck Island. Tell them to cease and desist in the culling (nice word for killing) of female pheasants. As long as nature provides a natural culling in the form of encephalitis (sleeping sickness) which our pheasants suffered from 2 years ago, we do not need an artificial culling.

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Do you know what some ants did when faced with a blob of jelly that fell from a peanut butter sandwich? They gathered bits and pieces of dead grass and leaves, piled them up on the jelly and waited for the sun to melt the goo, then carried the sweet soaked bits back to the colony!

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Poe is back in prison. He was "helping" people unplant their gardens. Now there are those neighbours who love Poe and there are those who don't, so it was deemed wise to incarcerate him. It just might be that Fearless Leader will save his life by keeping him in the sirie that is rapidly taking shape behind the goose pen. Poe's jail is in the loft. Unlimited visiting hours. Raw chicken necks as gifts are welcome. (Or anything else that comes to hand!) Maybe Poe was trying to tell the gardeners something--within hours of his capture in the deplanted garden, the temp. had dropped to the lowest point on that date--April 12--in 72 years!

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Teddie, the Koala bear who made Australia's airline famous ("I hate Qantas") is dead of a kidney infection, and old age, in the San Diego Zoo. He was the only male Koala in the USA. Years ago a picture of a koala in the arms of the then President, Teddie Roosevelt, inspired a toy manufacturer to make some plush bears. With the permission of the President, they were called Teddie Bears. One can only wonder at the billions of button-eyed fuzzy toys that have been made since! A survey shows that a great many adults keep their Teddies all their lives long. Hopefully the adults have stopped sleeping with them before Social Security sets in.

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In a practice run, a race horse, "Diablo" broke his leg, even as did Ruffian and Prince Thon Art. This horse broke his hind leg and so could not kick his cast. He will go to stud instead of being "put down" (Another nice way to say "killed"). It seems that humans are breeding racers with too long bones to be good--a longer stride, heh? A race horse weighs about a ton. With evolution, horses run on what is the equal of a finger or toe. This means that about 500 pounds comes down on a tippy toe with each step. Suppose a fourth of your weight came down on your big toe with each step? And then suppose you had to race! In the specialized breeding of animals, man has done some thoughtless things. The long low dogs, like bassetts and dachunts, animals have been bred who can scratch no part of themselves except their elbows! Isn't that mean!

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Dutch Quiana, a horribly hot and buggy part of the world, used to belong to Great Britain. England bartered it away 300 years ago for a tiny island called Manhattan. Last November Dutch Quiana became an independent country called "Seranam". Whether Seranam or Manhattan is better off today is a moot question. As their nation achieved independence one half of the Seranamese were seeking jobs elsewhere in the world.

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This year, our 200th, it might be wise to ponder on our founding fathers. Our news media have pointed out to us that they were mortal. Too bad so few have

stressed that those mortals pledged their "lives, their fortunes and their honor" in the fight for freedom. Some lost their lives, mere lost their fortunes, but not one even compromised his honour.

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ACHTUNG!

ATTENCION!

ATTENZIONE!

ATTENTION!

The Sanctuary needs your laudable infusions of philanthropy-----
On Sunday, June 27th at noon, the Sanct. will be host to the cadets from the eight smallest Tall Ships (About 80 men age 15-18). We have the gift of buses to get the men back & forth from Town, but we shall need your help in making a go of it. Do you have a charcoal bar-b-que to loan? Will you simply donate it for use on the 27th or will you preside as Chef over your own pit? Will you bring utensils & charcoal etc? If you can do none of the above will you give a pound or more of either ground beef or hot dogs/ buns/ butter/ mustard/ relish/ coke/ ice cream/cones? We'll need chopped onions, piccalilly and sauerkraut too. Call 847-4967 after 3 & before 7 p.m., and tell what, in the kindness of your heart, you wish to do.

With 80 fellows we shall need 40 girls each with 3 bath towels!!! We plan a swim at 3rd for everyone. An all American picknick at the Sanct. Each girl to loan a towel to two cadets and use one herself. The food and the cooks from adult membership or young ones who will toil over hot stoves, or scoop ice cream/cokes. We need: record/tape players and the best of our present dance music. (Young people from Europe would, we feel, rather dance 1976 USA style than 1776!.) Altho' if our musical group will, we'd like to have a go at square and country style stuff, huh? (That will be 120 young people plus the workers. The Sanct. has a freezer, so food can be bought and brought ahead of the crush of traffic. It should be a ball! So call! Hooter will be astonished.

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The "Oh dear" department; The White House egg roll this Easter was with plastic eggs.

A group of scientists, doctors, lawyers and priests is meeting to come up with a new definition for the state of death. The push is on to use the brain waves as the indicator. But an outstanding brain specialist in EEG reading says he gets "brain waves" from a mound of lime jello! If you've noticed that the dairy products are lasting longer than they used to, its because they are receiving "ultra-pasteurization". In other words they are rendered virtually sterile. If you keep them refrigerated it will taken longer for them to rot! Gone are the days when one got sour cream/milk for cooking!

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Bicentennial hits and pieces -

The British officers had such fancy wigs and hairdos--all coiffed and powdered, that when they met, and tipped their hats as gentlemen should, it created a to-do in the hair-do. Thus the military salute was born.

It used to be spelled Cantucke, can you guess what it is now?

Benjamin Franklin said "I am happy to have acquired the habit of the Pursuit of happiness". He also said, "He who falls in love with himself has no rivals"

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Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson. You find the present tense and the past perfect--pluperfect even.

Coming Events

We have two fine art exhibits appearing this Spring at the Sanctuary:

Sunday, May 23rd through June 6th, Paintings and drawings by

Melen Ritchie Hegmauer on the theme of nature.

Saturday, June 19th through the 21st, William A. Hoffman will exhibit

silk screen printings of birds and wildlife.

The exhibits open at 1:00 pm and the public is invited.

~~The Norman Bird
A Flyer~~



MR. & MRS. GEORGE SZPINALSKI
664 THIRD BEACH RD.
MIDDLETOWN, R.I. 02840

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NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY SUMMER CAMP
PROGRAM

Nature Day Camp for students aged 6-12.

Six one week sessions from: 9:00 to 12:00, Monday thru Friday

Session 1 June 28th to July 2nd
* Session 2 July 6th to July 9th
* Session 3 July 12th to July 16th
* Session 4 July 19th to July 23rd
Session 5 July 26th to July 30th
Session 6 Aug. 2nd to Aug. 6th

* During these sessions we will have classes for children entering Kindergarten.

COST : Members \$15.00 per session Non-Members \$20.00
Except for session 2 which is \$12.00 members, \$15.00 non-members.

A two week study of sea, beach and shore for ages 11 - 15 starting
July 12th thru July 23rd, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

COST: Members \$50.00 Non-members \$75.00

REGISTRATION BY MAIL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AGE _____

SESSION 1. _____

SEA STUDY _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

All checks payable to : Norman Bird Sanctuary