



## The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME NO. 14 ISSUE 1

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### Owling

Winter 1993

A shadow moves across the trail into the darkened tree branches. Stars shimmer through the boughs as a phantom form takes shape. In the distance, the call of a Great Horned Owl drifts on the cold, calm winds of a wintery night. I stand motionless, as frozen as the January earth, and listen and look as clouds of my exhaling breath drifts upward toward the perching great bird. This is owling!

Owling, for me, is more than a walk in the woods on a cold winter night with recorded sounds of owls and binoculars in hand. For me, owling is a quest. It's often a fruitless quest but a quest none-the-less. Owling is an awakening of the senses, of the soul and of the soaring spirit. Without owls and wintery nights, life would be so "hum-drum".

The owls we are most inclined to hear at the Norman Bird Sanctuary during the winter are "eared or "horned"

owls; the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and the Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*). It may just be a matter of time though, before we hear the call of a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). Sanctuary Director Larry Taft, responding to an excited hikers story, literally found a Barred Owl at his feet on the new Gray Craig trail. But that is another story!

The Great Horned Owl is our largest resident owl. It weighs about four pounds and is approximately 25" in height. It's a ferocious hunter, taking anything it can kill. Voles, squirrels, rabbits and yes, even the smelly skunk are likely prey. Great Horned Owls are very territorial and will kill other owls within their range. The NBS staff found a carcass of a Barn Owl not far from the water tower outside the barn. We can only speculate how it died, but evidence leans toward the Great Horned Owl as the attacker.

The smaller Screech Owl is half the weight and only 10" tall. Though not as formidable as the larger Great Horned Owl, it is still a bold hunter. Smaller prey such as mice, voles, small birds, moths and caterpillars are its primary diet. Discovering the Screech Owl's haunts is the fun part of owling.

Learning to be a good owl caller takes practice.

There is as much skill involved in calling owls as there is luck. Well, maybe there is more luck involved! I like to go owling by myself. It's not just because I

can move more quietly when alone but because I can make a complete fool of myself trying to make the territorial call of the Great Horned Owl- Hoo, hoo-oo, hoo, hoo (Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds). Can you imagine what a Great

Horned Owl must be feeling when it hears the sound of my voice flying through the night sky in the deep dark woods?

The best time of year to hear and look for Great Horned Owls is during the months of December through March. Territory is first established by the male. Once this occurs, the female is called for courting and mating, usually beginning about the same time as Valentine's Day. Is this the origin of lovers day? When nesting begins, (Continued on page 2)

### Inside:

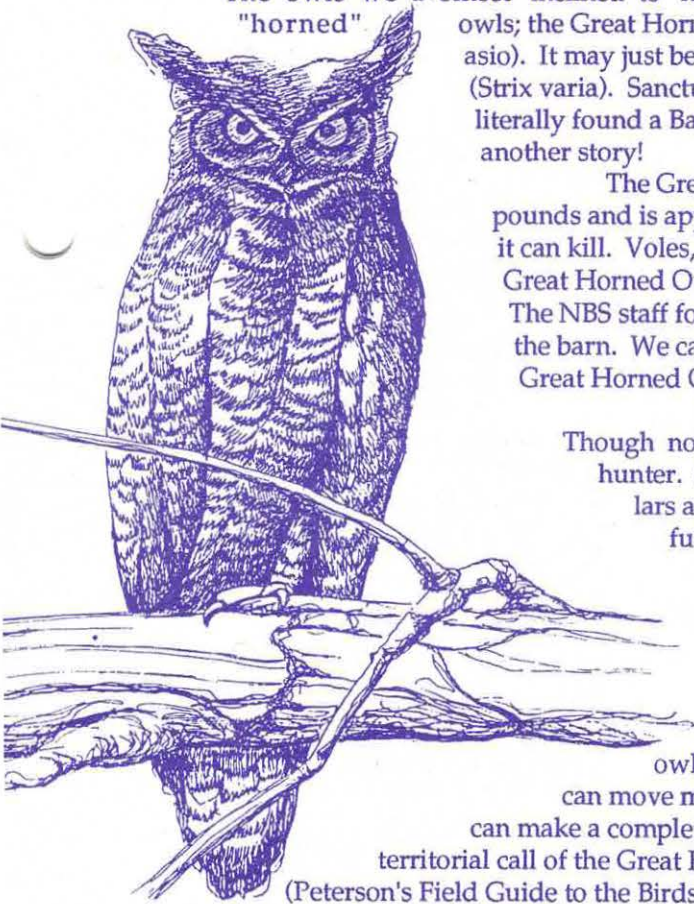
\* Winter and Early Spring Programs for children and adults

\* Nature Journaling with Clare Walker Leslie

\* Winter Bird Seed Sale

\* NBS Nature Store: Look What's Coming !

\* Director's Notes: Call for Volunteer Rangers





the owls' calls almost cease entirely. This behavior is to prevent crows and raccoons from discovering the nest.

From dusk to dawn the owls will call though more so during the early evening and early morning. The male call is deep and resonates 4 to 5 times. The female is lower pitched 6 to 8 times, Hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo-oo, hoo-oo (Peterson's).

If you think you sound funny trying to call Great Horned Owls just try calling Screech owls. It's really a "hoot"! Screech owls do not hoot or even screech. Screech owls "whinny" or "wail" in a truly haunting manner. Think of a horse whinny only in a higher pitch, ending this with a wail. Now you have your screech owl call! Hopefully, a Screech Owl will respond. It may be difficult to hear though, through the laughter of your fellow owlers. Anyway, give it a try. Screech Owls might be called about the same time of the year and hour as the Great Horned Owl. It is best to call the Screech Owl first if you're owling. The call of a Great Horned will scare off the smaller Screech Owl.

Owling, a night time activity, takes some day time preparation. Any good naturalist or detective bases his or her conclusions on clues or signs. Look for clues of owl activity during the day and you may know where to go at night.

Look beneath the tall oaks and the red maples or under the boughs of the red cedars for owl pellets. A pellet is the coughed up, undigested remains of any vertebrate that may have been eaten by an owl or hawk. The pellet casting is regurgitated about 12 hours after the owl has eaten (Eastern Birds of Prey) and may contain fur, bones and feathers. Sometimes entire skulls have been found in the pellet. You can identify what the owl had for dinner! Finding pellets will help clue you in on potential owling sites. Another sign to look for during the day is "white wash"

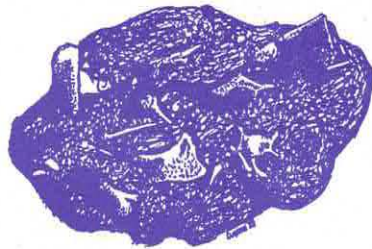
dropping on the ground and tree limbs. Also, listen for the mobbing behavior of crows as they come upon a roosting owl.

Owling takes some time and a little patience. Remember, you may not always see or hear owls. If you're willing to participate you should dress in layers for warmth. Warm boots are an essential. There is nothing more uncomfortable than cold feet. Bring binoculars if you have them. They may help to bring an owl into view. A flashlight with a red filter over it may be of help at times, though, I prefer my own night vision. It will generally take about 10-15 minutes to adjust to the dark. After a half hour in the dark, we can see almost as well as most nocturnal animals. Bring a tape recorder with owl calls or call them yourself.

Hike to the area you believe owls frequent. Be prepared to spend some time near this spot. Rather than blundering through the woods for owls, it is best to let the owls come to you.

Nineteenth century naturalist and philosopher Henry David Thoreau, while living close to the land at Walden Pond said "....I rejoice that there are owls." Like Mr. Thoreau, we can rejoice that owls fly freely at the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

- Hap Morgan



Owl Pellet

### Wish List for Donations:

- SE or SE 30 Macintosh Computer
  - A paste-up waxer
  - A fax machine
  - A pair of walkie talkies
- Chicken necks and /or window fatalities for our hawks and owls
- Stale cereal or bread

## Director's Notes

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is part of a vast open space area which includes the Sachuest Point Wildlife Refuge, Gardiner and Nelson Ponds, Gray Craig, and the two town beaches. Together these parcels form a "supersanctuary" of just under 1000 acres.

A year ago this month, we completed a 3 year campaign to preserve the natural values of this area through the purchase of land and conservation easements at Gray Craig, and thus began managing sections of that property for wildlife habitat and public access.

Concerned with the protection and management with this contiguous open space area, I met with Assistant Refuge Manager Dave Houghton and Enforcement Officer Tim Hill of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) this Fall. Discussion was focused on the process of coordinating efforts and resources for more effective management between the 450 acre Norman Bird Sanctuary and the 250 acre Sachuest Point Refuge. Activities that could be enhanced by a cooperative effort include enforcement, habitat management, public education and land preservation.

What USFW has to offer is technical expertise and resources in habitat management and enforcement. What NBS has to offer is community involvement and educational programs. Future projects may include jointly sponsored nature walks and lectures, cooperative agreements in enforcement, volunteer projects, natural history surveys, wetland restoration, exotic vegetation control and land acquisition. The first joint effort will be the organization of a Volunteer Ranger program to assist with visitor information, safety and natural history surveys. Details of this program are listed under the Volunteer column of this newsletter.

By looking beyond our own property boundaries (which wildlife doesn't recognize) and working toward managing aspects of the greater "supersanctuary" as a whole, we can achieve the best results for our efforts and limited resources.

Have a great Winter Season,

Larry



## Public Programs ■■■■■■

**Sunday Morning Bird Walks** will be discontinued during the months of January and February. Please join us for Spring migration walks beginning Sunday, February 28 at 8 am

### **Winter Birding on Aquidneck Island's Coast\***

Sunday, afternoon Jan. 24 1-4 pm

Whether you've been a bird watcher for years, or are just starting as a beginner, this minicourse may be right for you. The Sanctuary's Executive Director, Larry Taft will teach about the identification and behaviors of many of the sea ducks, shore birds, and bird's of prey that visit the island's coast each winter. The session will be an hour long presentation using slides and stuffed specimens followed by a two hour exploration of the coastline and ponds nearby. Please dress warmly, and bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them.

Fee: \$12 (\$8 NBS members)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

### **Winter Weeds\***

Saturday, Feb. 6 1-3 pm

The cold and snow of winter usually means the end to most flowering plants. In place of the greens and vibrant flower colors, we now have the brown skeletal remains of winter weeds. But don't despair! There is skill and fun involved with learning to identify the many standing stalks. We will explore the forest and field habitats looking for weeds and seeds. Field guides will help us to distinguish the unique and numerous winter weeds. Please dress for the weather.

Fee: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 12

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

An Evening Discussion...

### **Aquidneck Island Land Trust: Our Island Community and Land Preservation**

Tues. eve. February 23 7 pm

Kathy Irving, President of Aquidneck Island Land Trust (AILT) will address the future of Aquidneck Island's open space and the conservation of our island's natural resources. The unique character and quality of life, the beauty of our island and our farming heritage must be protected for future generations.

Also during this hour discussion, Paul Martellino, AILT Vice President will demonstrate how the Land Trust's Residential Habitat Program can naturally be a part of your neighborhood. A residential habitat is our urban and suburban neighborhoods. Our living landscape, complete with native plants and animals, is a place we can all personally work with toward the future preservation of our island home. Please join us.

Fee: \$4 (\$2 NBS members and AILT members)

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

### **Animal Architecture: Identification and Habitat\***

Saturday, March 13 1-3 pm

After leaves have fallen from shrubs and trees, the winter season is the easiest time to see bird nests, squirrel nests, and cold weather shelters of animals. The Red Fox's den, the Paper Wasp's hive or the covered bird nest of the Whitefooted Mouse are all examples of these wonderful structures. How often have you seen a nest in a shrub, or hole in the ground and wondered what architect chose that particular site? How do animals build, and why do they use particular materials over others? Identifying the animal architecture of our area will give us insight into the natural history of our local wildlife. Come to this "animal open house"! Hands-on homes will be used as examples.

Fee: \$6 (\$4 NBS members)

Limit: 12

Pre-registration and pre-payment required



### **Woodcock Walk**

Saturday, March 20 5:30 pm

Spring is the courtship time of the aerial artist, the woodcock. The habitat of this ground nesting bird are fields and shrubby growth. In the early evening sky of late winter and early spring, woodcocks come alive with whirling dances and whistles. Come join us on a walk through the woodcock habitat to celebrate Spring and the seasonal ritual of woodcock courtship.

Fee: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 12

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

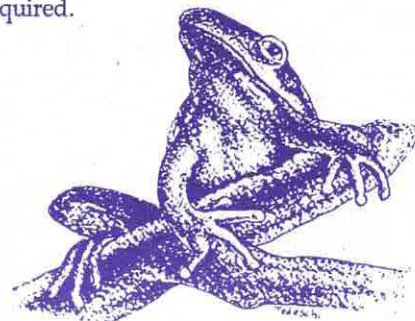
### **Herps in Our Neighborhood\***

Thursday eve. March 25 7 pm

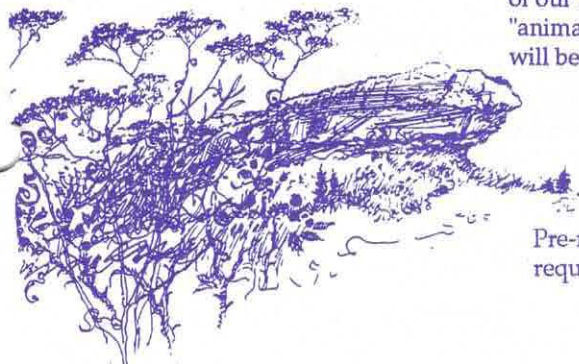
Chris Raithel, a biologist for The Rhode Island Natural Heritage Project of D.E.M.'s Fish and Wildlife will lead this discussion with slides on the reptiles and amphibians of R.I, otherwise known collectively as "herps". Afterward, if the night is "right" (warm, or even drizzling), the group will venture out to find herps as they migrate to their vernal mating pools. Older children are welcome accompanied by an adult. Wear clothes for venturing i.e. boots, or sturdy shoes, and bring flashlights.

Fee: \$4 (\$2 NBS members)

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required.



\* Those programs marked with an asterisk may use specific field guides all of which are available through the NBS store. Please call for more information.





## More Public Programs ■ ■

### Baskets, Wreaths, and Swags with Sharon Culberson

Seasonal wreaths, baskets and swags are offered through the Sanctuary by Sharon Culberson of Hilltop Gardens in Tiverton, R.I. Sharon shares her inspiration and expertise in the making of these natural crafts from her love of growing herbs and vegetables on her organic farm. We are delighted to offer these classes for those who are experienced, as well as for those of you just beginning to learn. As always, we are open to suggestions for other natural craft classes and ventures in the future. **Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all classes.**

#### Tote Basket

Saturday January 23 & 30 1-5pm

This basket is a great carry-all for your essentials. A variation on a flat bottomed basket, this basket's bottom will be woven in a closed weave. It's height is 19" and 12" wide. Shaker tape will be provided for the making of a flexible handle.

Fee: \$24 (\$19 NBS members). Limit 12

#### Egg Basket

Saturday, April 3 1-5 pm

This is a small version of the classic egg basic, used for none other than...! Sharon will teach a variation of this beginner basket for those who would like a bit more challenge. Spring colors such as lavender, and pastel pinks and greens will add to its charm. Older children, ages 10 or more are welcome to join.

Fee: \$18 (\$16 NBS members) Limit: 12



#### Heart Wreath for Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 7 1-3 pm

Create a simple but elegant wreath from horticultural sea lavender\*, dried baby roses, and fanciful ribbons. Give it to the one you love, or keep it as a special gift to yourself. Older children (ages 12 and above) are welcome to participate.

Fee: \$20 (\$16 NBS members) Limit: 8

\* Horticultural Sea Lavender has been grown on a farm. Native Sea Lavender (*Limonium carolinianum*), which grows in salt marshes, is a protected R.I. plant and should not be collected.

#### Star Quilt Basket

Saturday, February 20 and 27 1-5 pm

For those of you with some basketmaking experience, this southwestern-inspired design will be crafted in a twill weave. Earth tone colors of terra cotta, and sage green will be among the accents from which to choose. This is a beautiful basket to keep open on display for sheer enjoyment of the design!

Fee: \$25 (\$21 NBS members). Limit: 12



#### Twig Swags for Spring

Saturday, March 27 1-3 pm

Design an arch with native budded twigs and branches to hang above a door or on a wall. Decorate your creation with seed pods, berries, cones, and dried flowers. Bring pliers.

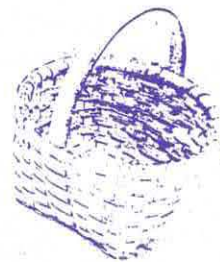
Fee: \$25 (\$21 NBS members). Limit 8

#### Williamsburg Basket

Saturday, May 1 & 8 1-4 pm

This is a new design offered by Sharon for those beginning, or experienced. A practical basket, with a 10" square bottom, it has handles that flare out toward the top. Use this basket for your garden goodies, as it is quite sturdy.

Fee: \$25 (\$22 NBS members) Limit: 12



**For program registration,  
please use form on page 5**

### Community Garden Meeting

Sunday, March 28 1 pm

The Sanctuary has approximately 35 garden plots in both 200 and 400 square-foot sizes. These plots are available to members who wish to have an organic vegetable garden on the refuge. Any current member who is interested in having a garden plot for the 1993 season should attend this meeting. Returning gardeners must also attend in order to retain the plots used last year. During the meeting, the Sanctuary's garden policy will be reviewed, the call for a volunteer "Garden Committee" will be requested, and then plots will be assigned. Composting and organic gardening literature will be available for loan. There will be a \$10.00 deposit required (refundable at the end of the season) per 400 foot space. For more information, call 846-2577.



## Winter/ Early Spring Program Registration

Please complete and return with payment for program registration. If you need more space for additional registrants, please copy this form.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Grade : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Age : (if child) \_\_\_\_\_  
Town : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home : \_\_\_\_\_ Work : \_\_\_\_\_



	Program Title	Date(s)	Program Fee
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

Total Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Authorization Emergency Form

For children ages 16 and under attending NBS programs for 3 hour duration or more, parents must complete the following. Two siblings can use the same form as long as there are no special needs for either child:

Child's name : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) where we can reach you during program hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor or Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medications/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver: In the event that I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give my permission to the Norman Bird Sanctuary's staff or medical personnel to take emergency measures as necessary.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### NBS membership:

To become a member or to renew membership, please check appropriate category and include dues in the registration check.

☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Indiv. (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30) ☐ Contributing (\$35)  
☐ Sustaining (\$50) ☐ Institution (\$100) ☐ Patron (\$100)  
☐ Supporting (\$250) ☐ Benefactor (\$500) ☐ Life (\$1000)

Please make checks payable to Norman Bird Sanctuary.

Send to: NBS  
583 Third Beach Road  
Middletown, R.I. 02840

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



## NBS SHOP SQUAWK .....

The Sanctuary store has been buzzing\* with activity thanks to volunteers Christine Thomas and Morag Charmatz. In keeping with our philosophy of selling educational, as well as environmentally friendly

items, we have been working on ideas for new products to sell, advertising, displaying of merchandise and the physical layout of the store itself. We hope you will stop in during the coming months to see the new changes!!

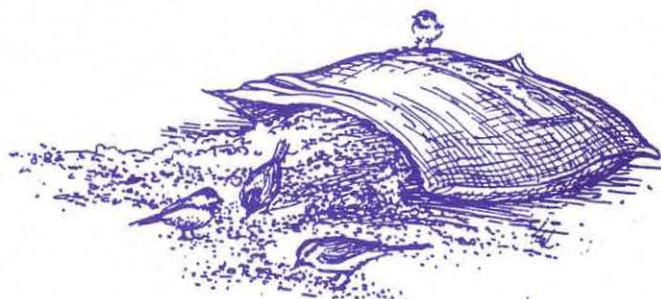


### BURT'S BEES

\*Come in to see our new line of Burt's Bee Products- bee skeps, garden salves, beeswax candles, and lip balm.

### Norman Bird Sanctuary Mid-Winter Bird Seed Sale

For pick-up on Saturday, February 13 and  
Sunday, February 14 from 10 am-3 pm 1993



Throughout this weekend, the NBS store will have bird feeders and accessories for sale. Restock your shelves for the rest of the Winter and early Spring season. Feed the birds and at the same time, support the programs at the Sanctuary. You can help further by purchasing a feeder at our store! (Members receive an additional 10% discount on all new feeders and accessories in stock, for a total of 20% discount this weekend only!)

To order: Fill out the order form below and mail it with payment to the Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 02840. Orders must be received by **Friday, January 29, 1993**. Please plan to pick up your seed on Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14, 1993.

Please cut along here and send this form in to us!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Type of Seed	Price per Bag	Amount
_____	Black Oil Sunflower Seed- 25 lbs	\$ 7.85	_____
_____	Black Oil Sunflower Seed- 50 lbs	\$ 14.75	_____
_____	SongMaker mixed Seed- 25 lbs	\$ 6.50	_____
_____	SongMaker mixed Seed- 50 lbs	\$ 12.25	_____
_____	Thistle Seed- 5 lbs	\$ 6.00	_____

TOTAL BIRD SEED FEES: \_\_\_\_\_  
(R.I. Sales Tax included)

Please make checks payable to Norman Bird Sanctuary.

Send to: NBS

583 Third Beach Road  
Middletown, R.I. 02840

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



## Special Program for families or adults ■■■■■

### Saturday Morning Nature Hikes

Saturday morns. Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6 and 13 10 am-12 pm

Our Saturday morning nature hikes are a great way to start your weekend. During the hikes, we will be walking along the NBS trails through fields, forests, rocky ridges, ponds and streams and perhaps, if it's warm, a visit to our salt marsh. The winter months may seem quiet and empty, but it is the time of year for subtle and often undetected discoveries. Red Fox, Cottontail rabbits, Whitefooted mice, the night hunting Great Horned Owl and many other animals all leave signs and clues of their secretive habits. So let's go for a hike! Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes or boots.

Fee: \$2 (Free for NBS members)  
Limit: 15  
Pre-registration is suggested.



## SPECIAL in May 1993...

### Nature Journaling: Writing and Drawing to Connect Yourself and Children To Nature with Clare Walker Leslie

Tuesday, May 4 5:30-8:30 pm

People today may be spending less time outdoors, yet this has nothing to do with lack of desire. Sometimes, there are no longer the same opportunities adults had as kids. "Nature Journaling" has met with great success in both elementary, high school, and adult educational settings as a simple method of engaging students, both young and old, in observing nature in their schoolyards, nature centers, or their own backyards. Come learn techniques for drawing and writing about nature by setting up your first nature journal. Bring a "bag supper", drawing pad or notebook, and pencils or pens.\* Dress for spending most of the workshop outside. Educators and other interested adults, as well as children age 10 and older are welcomed. No previous drawing experience is necessary. Clare will bring her books for sale and for signing after the workshop. A truly inspirational artist and motivating class!

Fee: \$30 (\$25 NBS members) (Early Bird Special: Register and pre-pay by April 4 and get \$2 off your fee !)  
Limited to 15 adults or children age 10 and older.

\* If you would like the NBS to supply you with a bound drawing notebook and a drawing pen or pencil, please place your order with your registration. A materials fee of \$15 will be added to your class fee.

**Clare Walker Leslie** is an artist, naturalist and educator. She received her B.A. degree in art history at Carlton College, Minnesota. She is a well-known wildlife artist who has studied drawing and painting in the U.S. and abroad. She teaches nature drawing and natural history in numerous nature centers, schools, colleges, and art associations throughout the country. She is the author of Nature Drawing: A Tool for Learning, The Art of Field Sketching, A Naturalist's Sketchbook, and Nature All Year Long. She lives with her husband and two children in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Granville, Vermont.

"You have taught me to see nature more carefully and more lovingly. I may never be terrific at drawing but now I have another way of connecting with nature". - a letter from a student

### Owl Prowl

Friday eve., Jan. 22 7-8:30 pm

Join us on our night of owling at the NBS. Owls begin to call more frequently this time of year, defending territory, courting and mating. Inside at the NBS, we will learn about the identification and habits of our local owls. Outside, we will walk the dark and quiet trails calling for the mysterious night hunter. Dress warmly.

Fee: \$6 (\$5 NBS members) per person  
\$12 (\$10 NBS members) per family

Limit: 12

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

\*If the weather does not cooperate for the prowling, (i.e. strong winds and or rain) we will cancel until the following week, January 29. Call NBS before 5 pm if unsure.

### Fish Tails, Whales, and Snails at Sachuest Point

Saturday, Feb. 27 10-11 am

Listen to fishy "tales" while touching the real "tails" of some of Rhode Island's sea creatures in this hour long presentation for children and their families. George Klein from the R.I. Fishermen and Whale Museum will bring an assortment of goodies from the deep to share with all. This special presentation will be held at Sachuest Point Wildlife Refuge.

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 25 children and adults

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required.



Oct. 6 10:10 am  
chilly, sunny, bit windy  
hear: distant geese

### Birds of Prey with Wild Again

Sun. Jan. 17 1 pm at Sachuest Point Wildlife Refuge

Birds of Prey, such as hawks, owls, and eagles have been persecuted in America for almost a century. Many species were almost eradicated due to the pesticide, DDT. During this program, you can take a close look at this special group of birds, their habits and adaptations with the help of some live birds and props. This program is presented by **Wild Again**, a non-profit organization from Massachusetts, whose primary mission is the treatment, rehabilitation, and release of native wildlife. Held in the comfortable auditorium of Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, adults and children accompanied by adults are welcome for this hour-long presentation.

Fee: \$6 (\$4 NBS members) per person  
\$14 (\$10 NBS members) per family  
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



## Children's Programs ■ ■ ■

For Preschoolers ages 3 and 4 with a parent...

### Preschoolers with Parents

#### Nature Hour

Wednesday afternoons 1-2 pm

Join Marilyn Lyell, NBS Parent Volunteer as she teaches both children and parents about nature in the Winter and Spring seasons. Hikes, crafts, stories, and snack will all be included in these popular hour long classes. Registration by session only. Children must be at least three years old to participate. Both parent and child should dress warmly. Limit: 10 child/parent pairs

For preschoolers ages 4 and 5...

### Fledglings

Wednesday mornings. 9:30 -11 am

An exciting hour and a half awaits those children who are old enough to come on their own to NBS. Parent Teacher Volunteer, Mary Beth Hunte will lead the children on hikes, create crafts, tell stories, and share a "thematic" snack as well. Children must be at least four years of age to participate. Dress warmly. Limited to 8.

### Winter Session for both Preschool and Fledgling classes:

Jan. 20: "Tricky Tracks"  
Jan. 27: "Voles, Moles and Mice"  
Feb. 3: "Are You Sleeping?"  
Feb. 10: "Hearts in Nature"

### Early Spring Session for both Preschool and Fledgling classes:

February 24: "Sly as a Fox"  
March 3: "It's Raining, It's Snowing"  
March 10: "Let's Recycle"  
March 17: "Color Me Green"

### Late Spring Session for both Preschool and Fledgling classes

April 21: "A-Round the Earth"  
April 28: "Healthy Plants"  
May 5: "Mom and Me"  
May 12: "Meet Little Joe"

Fee per session: \$16 (\$14 NBS members)

**Please Note:** Our Nature hours are very popular. In order to register your child, we need payment at the same time. Please make sure you specify which session you would like to register for.

**For registration, please use form on page 5**

For children in grades K-4...

### Winter Vacation Week for public schools

Tues. - Fri. February 16-19  
9:30 am-12:30 pm



### Spring Vacation for public schools

Tues. - Fri. April 13- 16  
9:30 am-12:30 pm



Choose your vacation week to spend in nature! We are offering these weeks of hiking, crafts, stories, and games. We will explore the Winter season of tracks and snow (we hope!), and the Spring season of green and nests. A mid-morning energy snack will be served. Dress for the weather.

Fee for each vacation week: \$40 (\$36 NBS members)  
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

For boys and girls in grades K-6...

### Animal Caretaker for a Day

Any week day except Mon. 3:30-5 pm

Are you an animal lover, but too young to volunteer? Find out how to care for some of our NBS resident animals during a special "apprenticeship day" with an older volunteer and staff member. Learn about what each animal needs every day and see them up close. Dress for the weather and wear working clothes. Come alone, with a parent, or with a friend.

Fee: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)  
All proceeds will go into the "Henny Penny Fund for animals"  
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

### Native American Stories and Craft

Thursday afternoon Feb. 25 3:30-5 pm

Ruth Goldstein, NBS Educational Intern will share some special winter stories and a craft with children in grades K-4. An afterschool treat on a wintery day! A snack will be served.

Fee: \$6 (\$4 NBS members)  
Limit: 10  
Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

For girls and boys in grade K-4...

### Nature Club

Saturday mornings. March 27, April 3, 10, and 17 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

What could be more exciting for the "budding" young naturalist than joining the Spring session of Saturday morning Nature Club. The four parts of Nature Club will focus on a different nature theme each week. Hiking, nature study, crafts, games and songs will help bring to life the fun of exploring the outdoors. We'll listen for the return of migrating birds and look for the green of new plant growth. This sure beats sitting at home on a Saturday morning! Please dress for the weather. A mid-morning energy snack will be served.

Fee: \$40 (\$36 NBS members)

Limit: 10

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required



### In the Garden...

Join the "Children's Garden Club!"

For a membership fee of \$8, you can come each month and learn to plan, and plant vegetables, herbs and flowers in our children's garden. Members of the club will receive their own sun hat to decorate, a trowel and a membership card to personalize and carry. Children will be supervised by Sharon Culbertson and other members of the Children's Garden Committee. Participants should dress for the weather. We will meet on the last Wednesday of each month in the afternoons, from 3:30-4:30 pm, afterschool:

Jan. 27: Garden planning:

"What, where, and how?"

Feb. 24: Laying out the Garden:  
"Naming the Beds"

March 31: Bed Preparation:  
"Getting Dirty"

April 28: 1st Planting:  
"Peas, Lettuce and Spuds"

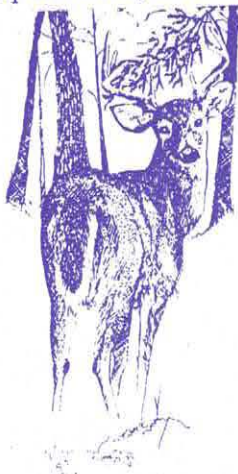
May 26: 2nd Planting:  
"Toms, Peps, and Corn"

June: TBA- "Garden Harvest Party" for family and friends



## Animal Pause .....

This Fall was relatively quiet regarding any injured animals, thankfully. We did have an unfortunate situation when a Barred Owl was found injured on our new Gray Craig trail. It died in transit back to our barn and is now being looked at by DEM for possible poisoning, or injury from a car. Who would poison such a beautiful creature? No one intentionally. However, after eating a few poisoned mice or rats, owls can "biologically magnify" the poison's effect, making it lethal. Barred Owls are usually creatures of heavy swamp and forest, so we never before have had one documented on the Sanctuary



refuge. This individual could have been migrating through the area.

Numerous deer sightings on the island have been recorded for the Fall. Most, including a beautiful buck were owned by the Gray Craig estate and had escaped their enclosure. One was reported to have been bigger than a White Tailed Deer, our island's indignant species. The caller said it looked more like a caribou. Anyone out there raising reindeer for Santa?!

We've also had numerous calls regarding white pheasants that seemed to have escaped from a farm or an estate. Not having heard from their owner who may have lost them, we assume these birds can make it in the wild because they are not easy to catch. They have been reported on Tuckerman Avenue, the Aquidneck Industrial Park, and on Catherine Street. Hap even saw one over in Jamestown!

Little Bea, our chicken, Tansy and Yarrow our "baaaad" sheep, Oreo, our rabbit, Alexis, Hooter, Cooper, and Sachuset, our hawks and owl, and Little Joe and Boxer, our turtles all send their thanks for the donations made to the Henny Penny fund for animals. The funds have bought new signs for the flight cages and have helped offset some of the costs of maintaining these animals.

Many Thanks and a fond farewell to volunteer Forster Peabody who has retired as an NBS Animal Caretaker after volunteering 156 hours over the past 2 and a half years. At the age of 15, Forster is moving on to other interests which include working on an old car that he hopes to have operating and ready to drive by the time he turns 16. Asked which NBS animal he liked taking care of the most, he stated, "Hooter, the owl because of his clapping beak and hissing at feeding time". Best of luck to such a dedicated volunteer!



## Volunteers and Donations .....

Once again, it was a busy Fall season for volunteer help at the Sanctuary. And, once again, we cannot thank you enough for all your great efforts and donations.

### Harvest Fair Volunteers

General Chair: Ann Damon; Country Store: Sharon Pelletier and Kathy Finn; Gates: Ray Rogers; Publicity: Leslie Murphy and Laura Hart; Auction: Phil Rondina and Phil Rondina II; Arts & Crafts: Sanne Hodges and Fran Holmes; Children's games: Polly Bradley and Kelly Regan; Civic Exhibits: Candy Powell; Clean-up: David and Jane Steele; Entertainment: Bonnie Williams; Field Games: Peter Damon and Larry Allen; Food Tent: Betsy deLeiris; General Games: Rachel Cooney; Home & Garden: Ginny Purviance, Jocelyn Sherman; Parking: Alan Libby; Raffle: Fran Babcock; Signs: Peggy Hughes and Janet Jacobs; Tickets: Penny Anson; Treasurer: Paul Raducha; Gardens and Trails: Sharon Culberson, Glenna, Nolan, and Neal Macaffrey, and St George's students Lindsey Gregory and Charles Rose.

Mailings and Office work: Fran Holmes, Kim Richardson, Chris Barry, Marjorie Ward, Betsy deLeiris, Helene Pritchard, Susan Logler, Leona Sullivan, Bob Janiesch, Linda Everitt, Sandy Ottillie and Micrographix.

Education: Mary Beth Hunte, Marilyn Lyell, Bobbi Lamont, Pam and Eric Zabel, Sharon Culberson, Mrs. Merher, Jane Barber, Sandy Ottillie, Susan Logler, Kim Richardson, and Jenny Morgan

For our successful Fall Night Hikes, we thank members and volunteers of the Newport Children's Theater; Linda Franklin, Lori and Martin Bradburn, Jon Buser, Matt Barabe, Ian Chase, Justin Brierley, Linda Vars, Sara DiBari, Jordan Barry, Alexander Casagrande, Emily Rinde-Thorsen, Megan Franklin, Lindsley Boyer, Sarah Snyder, Samantha Logler, Elizabeth Mack, Mary Regan, Angela Silvia, Elizabeth Elson, Ken Dolbashian, and Barbara Baum.

Volunteers and Donations for the animals: Matt Oakley, Landon Merrill, Laura Poulin, Rachel Wood, Jennifer Dowell, Dick Sadler, Laura Mazuroski, Forster Peabody, Emily Leslie, Hera tar, Mike and Karen Kosinski, Laura Oakley, Kay Kosinski, Keith Winsten and the Roger Williams Park Zoo, Frank Neri, Eileen Lloyd, Donald Derolf, Sally Rehm, John Koskie, Bob Burnett, Nancy Adams, Clement's Market, The Wright family, The Logler family, Steve Spurr, Mrs. Gizzi and Mrs. Gales's first grade students at Aquidneck School, The Sears family, and Tom and Sam Richter.

### In Memory of Doris Webster

A donation was given by the Admission Office at RISD.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Refuge Ranger

The Norman Bird Sanctuary in cooperation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service is seeking to form a volunteer Ranger corps, whose job will be to hike the trails of both the Norman Bird Sanctuary and Sachuest Point Refuge to assist with visitor information and safety, natural history surveys, trail maintenance and public education regarding the rules and regulations of both refuges.

The program will kick off with a "Chowda" lunch on Saturday January 16th, at 12 noon, at the Sachuest Point Visitor Center where the details of the program will be discussed, followed by a Harlequin Walk along the Sakonnet River. This will then be followed by a training session scheduled for Saturday, February 20.

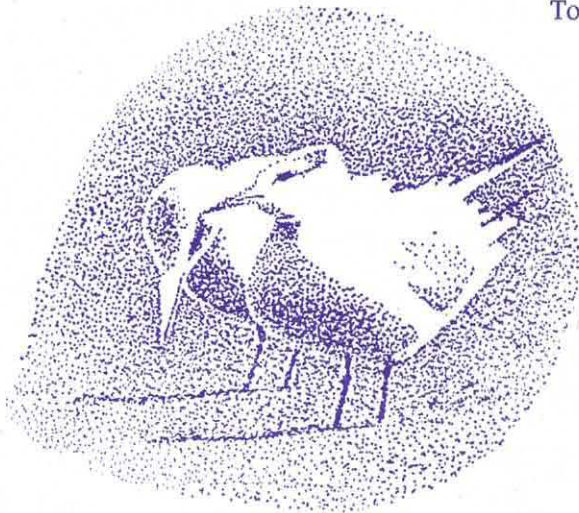
If you are interested in this program please contact the Sanctuary office for more information and an application.



Norman Bird Sanctuary  
583 Third Beach Road  
Middletown, R.I. 02840

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To Current Resident or



### Comings and Goings...

December days mark the last few moments of tying up loose projects, finishing holiday programs, and taking a few breathes of the early winter air. Soon, I will be leaving the Sanctuary to take a three month maternity break. I am very excited about this new "adventure" of parenthood, but I plan to resume some of my work here in mid April.

Meanwhile, a new face will await you when you visit the Sanctuary. We are pleased to have hired Ruth Goldstein as an Educational Intern. Ruth comes to us well recommended after having volunteered at the Nature Conservancy's Rhode Island office. As she finishes her masters degree in Environmental Studies at Brown University, she will be assisting the Sanctuary staff with school and public programs. With Ruth's expertise, we'll be able to carry out our busy Winter and Spring program schedule.

So, I leave you in good, caring hands and until Spring, I wish everyone a very peaceful season...

-Lisa

NBS Flyer Editor/Education Coordinator

### Community Calendar:

**January 25: Aquidneck Island Land Trust Poster and Essay Contest Awards** 6 pm. Open to the public. For more information call AILT at 846-2546

**February 6: Natural Organic Farmers**

**Association(NOFA) of R.I. 3rd Annual Winter Conference.** Open to all interested. Fee includes lunch. Register before 1/15 and get a reduced fee. Call Mike Hutchison 294-2868 for more information.

**Looking ahead...May 16: NBS Birds and Breakfast 1993** Homecooked breakfast, guided bird walks, handmade bird house contest. Call NBS for more information.

*The Norman Bird Flyer* is published quarterly by the Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit corporation organized to support the mission of the trusts established under the Will of Mabel Norman Cerio. Our mission: to preserve the 450 acre Norman Bird Sanctuary for the protection of animals and birds and for the enjoyment of the public; to assist the Trustee(s) in the overall management and development of the Sanctuary; to conduct programs for children and adults in environmental education and natural sciences; to work with individuals and groups in the region in the preservation of natural habitats and open space.

Trustee: Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank  
Board of Directors: Betsy deLeiris -Chair, Dickson Boenning -Vice Chairman, Paul Raducha-Treasurer, Charles Moore-Secretary, Larry Allen, Cheryl O'Neil Fisher, Thomas Gunzelman, Katherine Irving, Alan Libby, Candace Powell, Ray Rogers, Gay Sheffield, Jocelyn Sherman, and Julie Toland.

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Naturalist: Hap Morgan

Caretaker: Matt Benson

Secretary/Receptionist: Sue VanDerhoof

Educational Intern: Ruth Goldstein

Address: 583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 02840 (401) 846-2577

Winter/Early Spring Hours: 9 am- 5 pm Tuesday - Sunday. Closed Mondays except for holidays. Please, no dogs, horses or bikes.

Graphics include works by Lucia deLeiris, Amy Wright and/or UMD Illustration students under the direction of Bob Barry.

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