



The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME NO. 8 ISSUE 2

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Awaiting the Swallows' Return

Spring 1987

BARN SWALLOWS (*Hirundo rustica*)

This Spring I expect the return of a pair of Barn Swallows that will nest in the rafters of the 18th century barn that houses the Sanctuary office and Museum. Last year this "pair" formed following the arrival of a single Barn Swallow that flew in through the front door. It was joined a few days later by 3 others. Since both sexes look alike, I couldn't tell at first which were male or female. After a day or two of confusion I started to observe a pattern in their activity. It looked as though one of the swallows had been singled out (this I assumed to be the female) and the other 3 (which I assumed to be males) took turns pursuing her, each demonstrating incredible skills in aeronautical acrobatics. Within days, only 2 swallows remained.

Once the pair was formed, they wasted no time building a nest. Every 2-3 minutes the couple flew in and out through the five inch opening I left on the second story window to fetch mud and straw.

When the eggs were laid, both partners took 15 minute shifts incubating them. During their breaks they went out to feed. At night the female stayed on the nest while the male perched nearby.

The pair's work really began on the second week when the eggs began to hatch. For three weeks they flew in and out through the window fetching insects for their young. I couldn't see how many young they had. They usually have 4-6. For the first 12 days they also carried away the young's fecal sacs. When the young grew big enough to reach over the side, I avoided walking directly under the nest.

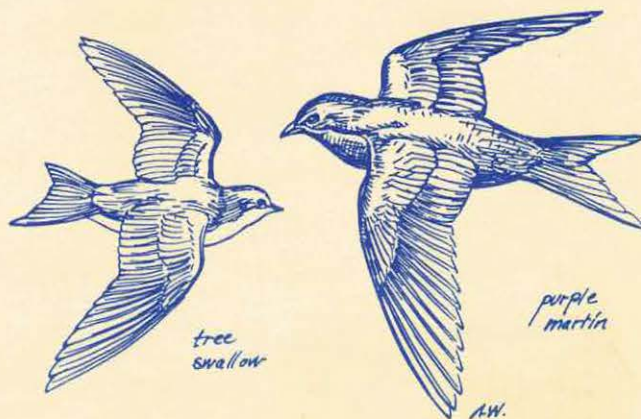
When the fledglings made the big leap out of the nest, they spent the following

week running about on the second floor of the barn strengthening their muscles in preparation to fly while their parent continued to feed them. (Note: this is the stage when many well-meaning people think they have found an "orphan" bird and take it away from the care of its parents). The second floor of the barn was cordoned off to avoid disrupting them. The next thing I knew, they were gone.

Originally cliff dwellers, Barn Swallows took readily to the open barns of old New England, and were a familiar and welcome sight to farmers who benefited from their voracious appetite for horseflies, houseflies and mosquitos. They are easily distinguishable from other swallows with



barn swallow



tree swallow

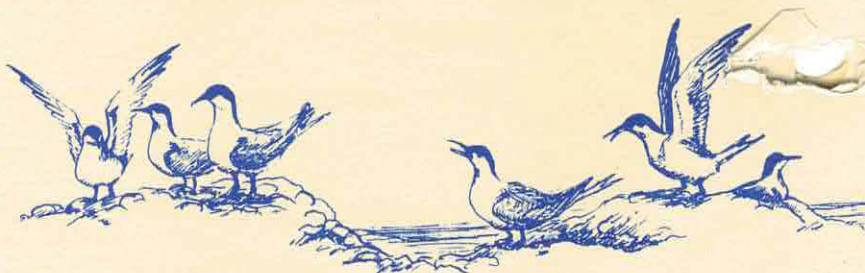
purple martin

A.W.

BIRD WALKS

Sunday mornings 8:00 a.m.

Please join us every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. for a guided bird walk. These hour long walks meander through various parts of the Sanctuary and are designed for all levels of "egg" pertise. Free and open to the public. Bird walks will be cancelled on rainy mornings.

HUNT RIVER CANOE TRIP

Saturday, April 25. 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Hunt River flood plain which encompasses the R.I. Audubon Society's Davis Refuge in North Kingstown, was designated a significant natural area in 1971. We'll observe this freshwater wetland by canoe, identifying birds and aquatic life along the way. No previous canoeing experience is needed for this trip, but swimming ability is a must. Children must be at least 8 years old and accompanied by a parent. We will meet at N.B.S. and carpool to and from the Hunt River.

Instructors: Delia Mohlie - R.I. Audubon Naturalist and Canoeist
Ted Mohlie - Veteran Canoeist
Lawrence Taft - N.B.S. Director

Fee: \$ 25.00 (\$20.00 NBS Members)

BIRD WATCHING FOR BEGINNERS

Three Wednesday Evening classes
April 15, 22, 29, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday Field trip, May 3.

Are you curious about the birdlife that surrounds you? Ever thought that "Someday" you were going to learn to identify the birds that visit your feeder or the ones you see along the fields and shore? Then this mini-course is just for you.

Held at the start of the spring migrating season, this 4-part course will help you enjoy birds more. You will begin to identify many of our local bird species and learn about their fascinating life histories.

Instructor: Lawrence Taft (NBS Director)
Fee: \$30.00 (\$20.00 NBS Members)
Pre-registration is required

STAR WALKS

May 1, 29, June 26 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a guided tour through the heavens with Bill O'Connell as your guide. Bring a blanket and binoculars if you have them. Call to confirm, if cloudy.

No Fee

THE GEOLOGY OF HANGING ROCK -
AN INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered how Aquidneck Island's most familiar landmark was formed? Hanging Rock has a long geological history. Take an informal walk with N.B.S. Naturalist, Hap Morgan to learn about the exciting geological process that made up this beautiful sanctuary.

Saturday, May 2 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3.00 (\$1.00 N.B.S. Members)



BIRDS and BREAKFAST
at the
NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

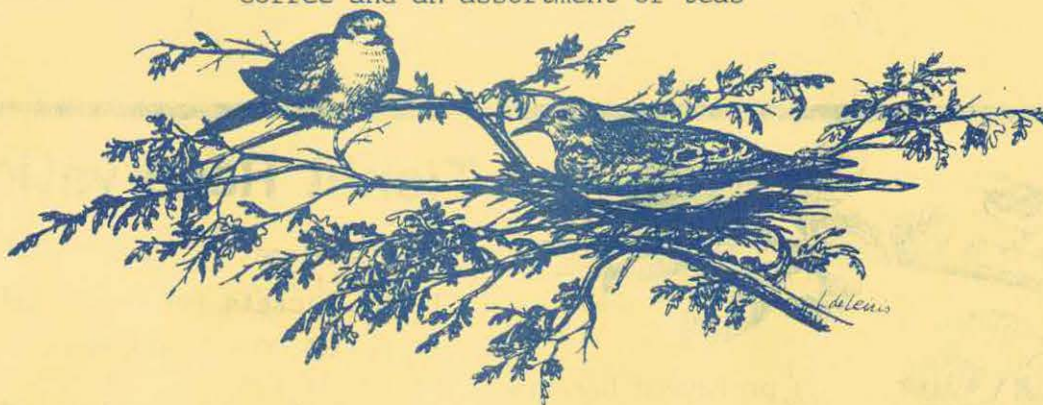
A spring morning of guided walks, slides, and
bird exhibits followed by a home cooked breakfast.

Sunday May 17, 1987

Walks will leave from the barn continuously
throughout the morning, beginning at 6:30.
Breakfast seatings at 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30.

BIRDS AND BREAKFAST MENU

A variety of breakfast casseroles
Homebaked muffins, breads, and coffeecakes
Scrambled eggs
Sausage
Pancakes
Juices
Fruit Salad
Coffee and an assortment of teas



All proceeds from Birds and Breakfast will go toward
projects for the conservation of local bird species
including the Barn Owl and the Tree swallow.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 846-2577



ORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
THIRD BEACH ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, R. I. 02840



W



Ticket Reservations

☐ Please send me ____ adult tickets and
____ childrens tickets for Birds and Breakfast

Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00

My preferred breakfast seating is :

____ 7:30 ____ 8:30 ____ 9:30 (1st and 2nd choice)

☐ I am unable to attend, but I would like to contribute _____
to benefit the Sanctuary's conservation projects.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

ograms

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BARN OWLS

esday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

The Barn Owl is a creature of the open countryside. It nests in old barns and in large dense trees. In Rhode Island the only known nesting sites for the owl are in Middletown and on Block Island.

Join us for a lecture by biologist, Chris Raithel and learn about the life history, and future outlook of the Barn Owl and find out how your efforts may help conserve this locally threatened species.

No Fee:

Pre-registration is required

ROCK CLIMBING WORKSHOP

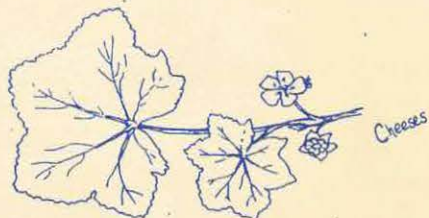
Saturday, June 6th 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Learn the basic rock climbing knots, the communication system used by the climber and the belayer and the safe use of rock-climbing equipment, then challenge yourself as you scale one of the sanctuary's edges.

(Must be at least 16 years old to participate)

Fee: \$12.00 (\$8.00 N.B.S. Members)

Pre-registration is required



HERB WALK - An introduction to wild medicinal herbs

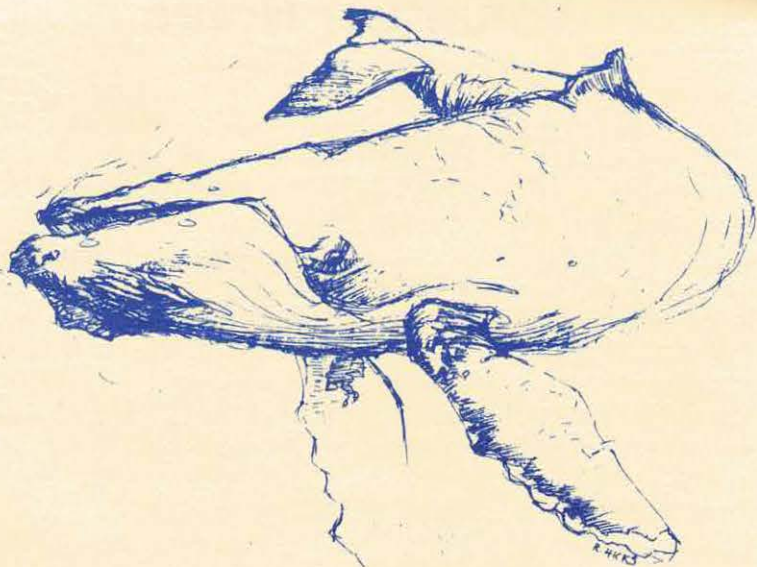
Wednesday, June 24 7:00 p.m.

Herbs have been a part of traditional folk medicine since the beginning of time. Naturalist / Herbalist Hap Morgan will lead a herb identification walk around the fields and woodland edges of the Norman Bird Sanctuary teaching how to identify wild herbs that can be used for simple home remedies.

Registration for the four part Herb Class, "Herbs and Natural Healing" for those interested will take place after the walk.

Fee: \$3.00 \$1.00 NBS Members)

Pre-registration is required.



WHALE WATCH (Lecture/ Field Trip)

Thursday, June 11 7:30 p.m. (Lecture)

Saturday, June 13, 8: a.m. (All Day Trip)

Join us for a lecture and slide show on the fascinating whales of the Northeast. Anne Garnett, marine mammal expedition leader and researcher aboard the R/V Regina Maris will introduce participants to the Humpback, Minke, Finback, Blue, and Kight Whales during this one hour program.

For those who'll be joining us on the Whale watch, Ann will prepare us for our voyage aboard the Dolphin operating out of Provincetown, Ma. She'll discuss behaviors to look for and identifying features of each species.

Our carpools will leave the sanctuary parking lot on Saturday morning to gather again in Provincetown for a picnic lunch, prior to the 1:30 boarding time. During the four hour boat trip, we'll spot whales on their northern feeding grounds and identify sea birds as well. The boat will return to port at 5:30 p.m.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and bring a bag lunch. Binoculars, cameras, and field guides are recommended. The trip will be cancelled if the weather is strongly inclement, and the fee for the trip will be refunded. Children should be at least 8 years old and must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$25.00 Whale watch and lecture
\$21.00 (Members N.B.S.)

\$ 7.00 Lecture only

\$ 4.00 (Members N.B.S.)

Pre-registration is required

Volunteer Notes

Spring means wake up time here at the sanctuary spring buds grow into leaves, vines, and shoots all eventually needing to be clipped, trimmed or weeded. If you have an hour or two to spare per week and are dying to get your hands dirty, we invite you to become one of our hardy garden or trail volunteers. We need individuals to help mulch, water, and weed our perennial beds, spruce up our herb garden, and clip our trails clear. No experience is necessary and any training will be provided. Call Lisa or Larry at the sanctuary and tell us you'd like to help!

Hats off (its Spring!) to the following volunteers for their support during this winter season:

- Charles Donald, Lorna and Phil Bornemeir for their time spent feeding, cleaning, and exercising our animals

- Dr. Cyril Allen, Newport Animal Hospital, and Dr. Patti D'Almeida for veterinary care and advice

- Bill O'Connell, Anne Truslow, and Gary MacDonald for public program assistance

- Linda Westerveldt, Jill Hall, Jackie Kettler for newsletter mailings

- and continued thanks to Amy Wright and Lucia DeLeiris for their superb newsletter artwork.

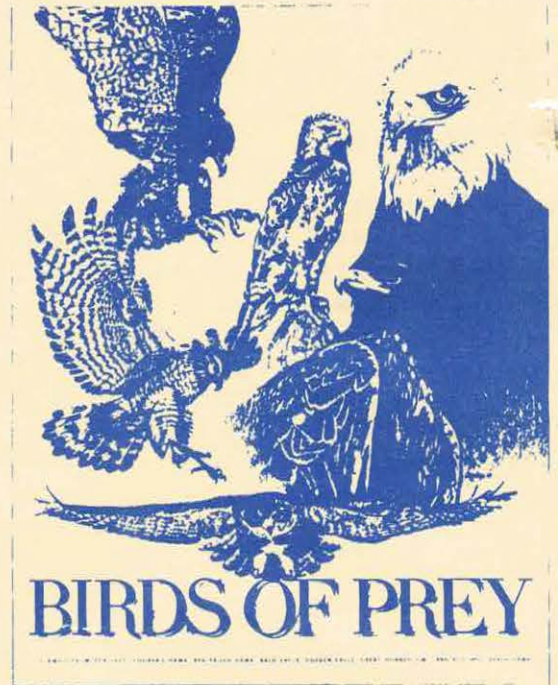
STONE WALL MAINTENANCE DAY

Sunday, May 3, 12 noon

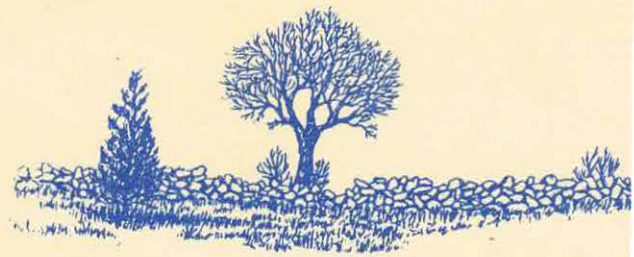
The stone walls here at the Sanctuary are part of its history and are badly in need of repair. We will be rebuilding sections of wall along Third Beach Road that have collapsed, cutting back the brush that has grown into them, picking up the litter along the borders and posting new border signs.

Wear heavy shoes and work gloves. Bring clippers and gravel rakes if you can.

The Sanctuary depends greatly on volunteer help. Call 846-2577 if you would like to participate.



" BIRDS OF PREY " is a magnificent rendering which portrays life like detail of a Cooper's Hawk, Red Tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Great Horn Owl, and a Red Shouldered Hawk. This limited edition 23½" x 18" print of 250, signed by artist Kandi Decker is \$25. All proceeds benefit the Roger Williams Park Zoo Docent Council which promotes education, conservation of wildlife, and the importance of our environment. To order call 785-9450, ext.48 or write to the Roger Williams Park Zoo Docent Council, Elmwood Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02905



" I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, to have my senses put in tune once more ".

John Burroughs

Summer Camps

Did you receive your 1987 Summer Camp brochure? If not please call the sanctuary office and we will send you one.

Herb Sale

Herbs are plants that can be used to enhance the taste of foods, create a pleasant summer drink or tea, aid in the healing of ailments, or provide decoration and fragrance for a room all with relatively little effort.

A three foot square plot of earth or even a window box can provide space for several useful herbs. Once in the ground, these plants require minimum attention. Many of the cooking herbs actually flourish when the tops are pinched back for use. Other herbs are good companion plants for vegetable gardens- attracting the pollinating bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies, and discouraging insect pests.

Just as the taste of native vegetables is more enjoyable than canned or frozen stock, home grown herbs are surprisingly flavorble and aromatic.

The plants offered by the Norman Bird Sanctuary are in 3½" pots and are grown organically by Seven Arrows Herb Farm in Attelboro, MA. Each cost \$1.75 and with every 10 plants purchased, an additional plant is yours free! Use the order form below, send it and your check to us by May 9, 1987. The order will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, May 23 from 12-3 p.m. Call us for an alternate pick-up date if you're planning to be away this holiday weekend. On Saturday, we will answer any questions you may have about your herbs and have hand out information available as well.

HERB ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____ NBS Member _____

Address _____ Town _____

***** \$1.75 per plant ***** organically grown ***** 3½" pots *****

# Culinary	# Landscape	# Edible Flowers	# Beverage
<input type="checkbox"/> Basil, Sweet	<input type="checkbox"/> Thyme, Woolly	<input type="checkbox"/> Nasturtium	<input type="checkbox"/> Catnip
<input type="checkbox"/> Basil, Purple Ruffles	<input type="checkbox"/> Thyme, Golden	<input type="checkbox"/> Calendula	<input type="checkbox"/> Catnip, Lemon
<input type="checkbox"/> Basil, Anise	<input type="checkbox"/> Thyme, Crimson	<input type="checkbox"/> Borage	<input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Verbena
<input type="checkbox"/> Basil, Spicy Globe	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamb's Ear		<input type="checkbox"/> Orangenmint
<input type="checkbox"/> Chives	<input type="checkbox"/> Roman Wormwood		<input type="checkbox"/> Applemint
<input type="checkbox"/> Chives, Garlic		# Medicinal	<input type="checkbox"/> Spearmint
<input type="checkbox"/> Marjoram, Sweet		<input type="checkbox"/> Comfrey	<input type="checkbox"/> Peppermint
<input type="checkbox"/> Oregano		<input type="checkbox"/> Coltsfoot	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parsley	# Fragrances	<input type="checkbox"/> Fennel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rosemary	<input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Balm	<input type="checkbox"/> Hyssop	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sage	<input type="checkbox"/> Bee Balm		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salad Burnett	<input type="checkbox"/> Lavender		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Sage, Pineapple		
<input type="checkbox"/> Thyme, English	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennyroyal, English		

* Many of the above herbs are both fragrant and culinary, or beverage and fragrant etc.

** For every 10 plants ordered, choose one FREE PLANT.

TOTAL # PLANTS _____

X \$1.75 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Free plant choice: _____

Spring Cleaning?

As the weather warms, people will be itching to tackle their stockpiled basements, attics and garages, throwing out "junk" which may be considered valuable to us. Below is a list of Spring items needed for our educational programs and animal maintenance. If you should find them, please send them our way.

- desk lamp
- a retired parachute
- clean rug scraps
- 5 - 10 gallon aquariums with covers
- propane camping stove
- hand crank ice cream maker
- popcorn popper
- Projection table
- Portable movie screen

The Norman Bird Flyer is published quarterly by the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit nature preserve established under the will of Mabel Norman Cerio.

Trustee: R.I. Hospital Trust National Bank

Advisory Committee: Norman Hall - Chairman, Lawrence Allen, Joyce Botelho, Christine Callahan, Patty Corgan, Ann Damon, Frances Holmes, Virginia Laughlin, Gary MacDonald, Julie Morris, Barry Murphy, Virginia Purviance, Barbara Sturtevant, Mark Vissman, George Warren.

Director: Lawrence Taft

Education Coordinator: Lisa Pritchard

Teacher/Naturalist - Caretaker: Hap Morgan

Secretary: Jean Ballantine

Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, Rhode Island. 02840 Telephone: (401) 847-2577



At the feeders

Redpolls, Rufus-sided Towhees and Goldfinches appeared amongst our regular feeders

Kestrels, Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks have been spotted trying to catch unsuspecting feeder birds. (They have to eat too!)

The Sanctuary suggests you feed the birds up until the first few weeks of May while the exhausted spring migrants fly through and the ground thaws.

Remember to fill your feeders! The birds depend on you once you start. Gradually taper off the quantity as May gets underway.



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, Rhode Island 02840

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02840
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Camp Schedule



Norman Bird Sanctuary Nature Day Camps

1987

June 29 - July 3

Nature Day Camp 1 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

July 6 - July 10

Nature Day Camp 2 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

July 13 - July 17

Nature Day Camp 3 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9:15-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge I 9-2:30 M-F.

July 20 - July 24

Nature Day Camp 4 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

July 27 - July 31

Nature Day Camp 5 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

August 3 - August 7

Nature Day Camp 6 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9:15-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge II 9-2:30 M-F.

August 10 - August 14

Nature Day Camp 7 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

August 17 - August 21

Nature Day Camp 8 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9:15-11:30 T,Th.

August 24 - August 28

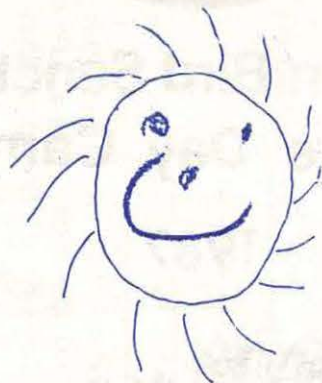
Nature Day Camp 9 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9:15-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge III 9-2:30 M-F.



Illustrations by:
Becky Kasdon, Nick Hill & Rachelle Cook

583 Third Beach Road • Middletown, Rhode Island 02840 • (401) 846-2577

Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camps



The Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camps of 1987 offer wonderful alternatives for children entering grades Preschool through seven. As in the past, we are offering a full day session for Nature Day campers and Summer Challengers, and half day programs for Preschoolers with an accompanying parent.

Our programs are created for children who are curious about nature and love to learn through exploration.

We are looking forward to a summer of fun and invite your child to join us !

Parents with Preschoolers

Open to girls and boys ages 3-5 and their parent or guardian

Designed to nurture positive feelings toward the natural world, parents and preschoolers can participate in each morning session through sensory exploration, nature stories and songs, and observations in the outside world. Each session will run for three weeks on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. One adult may be responsible for up to three children.

Session A: June 30, July 2,7,9,14,16

Session B: July 21,23,28,30, August 4,6

Session C: August 11,13,18,20,25,27

Time: 9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Fees: \$30 (\$12 each additional child)
\$25 NBS members
(\$10 each additional child)



Nature Day Camp

Open to girls and boys entering K-4 grades

Children will explore the 450 acres of the Norman Bird Sanctuary learning about animals and their habitats, creating natural material crafts, participating in confidence building and group spirited activities, and investigating ecological cycles of the field, pond, forest, ridges, marsh, and sea-shore. Enthusiastic college age staff will lead groups limited to ten children as they all learn how they fit into the marvelous web of life.

Session 1: June 29 - July 3
Session 2: July 6 - July 10
Session 3: July 13 - July 17
Session 4: July 20 - July 24
Session 5: July 27 - July 31
Session 6: August 3 - August 7
Session 7: August 10 - August 14
Session 8: August 17 - August 21
Session 9: August 24 - August 28

Time: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Fees: \$60 (\$50 NBS members)

* 10% discount for 2 or more children from the same family in the same session.

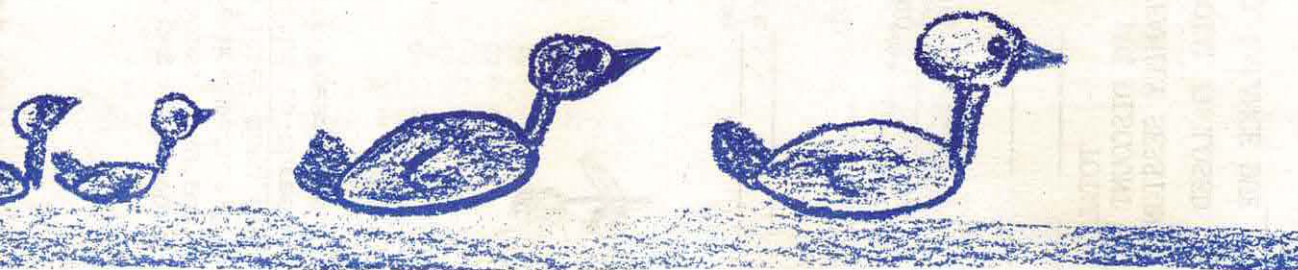
Summer Challenge

Open to all adventurous explorers entering 5-7 grades

This year, we are offering an action packed week for those who are willing to learn and participate in challenging activities. Campers will learn noncompetitive "new games", practice their problem solving and physical skills on the adventure course, climb and rappel the sanctuary's ridges, and camp under the stars in handmade hammocks. We will also spend time studying the relationships between plant and animal communities, exploring the diversity of local habitats, and cultivating the tastes of wild edibles. Teacher-Naturalists working with Summer Challenge participants are experienced outdoor leaders willing to share their expertise. Fees include camping food, hammock materials, and day trip costs. There will be no camp on the Fridays following the Thursday evening overnight.

Session I: July 13 - July 17
Session II: August 3 - August 7
Session III: August 24 - August 28

Time: 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Fees: \$75 (\$65 NBS members)



Registration

To register, please send this registration form with full payment or a \$20 per week deposit to reserve space for all summer camps. We cannot accept any phone registrations. Upon receiving the registration, we will send you a confirmation letter and an emergency medical form. Full payment with the completed medical form must be returned to us no later than two weeks before the registered week(s). Nature Day Camp participants will be limited to three weeks enrollment unless there are available spaces after June 22. Parents with Preschoolers and Summer Challenge participants are limited to one session.



Please make all checks out to the Norman Bird Sanctuary



Parent(s) _____ Telephone: Home _____
Work _____

Address _____ Town _____

Are you a Norman Bird Sanctuary member? Yes _____ No _____
Joining, check is enclosed _____
Entering _____

Names of Camper(s)	Age	Grade	Session	Fee
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Family membership is \$20 per year and includes Adult and Children program discounts, free admission to the sanctuary's hiking trails, and a subscription to the NBS Flyer newsletter.

TOTAL	_____
MINUS 10% DISCOUNT	_____
FOR SAME FAMILY SESSION	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____
TOTAL BALANCE DUE	_____