

Hi! Say "Happy Birthday, Norman Bird" We're 3 yrs. old this month! Issue #1 simply carried news of the Sanctuary to some 100 people. It was followed by cries of "Can't we join?" "Why didn't you ask for money?". Issue #2 asked for money on a membership-donation basis, and we've been asking ever since. Dues for '72 came in so slowly we dispaired and sent a Bill! One member objected. Enclosed is your bill for dues due, April 1973-74 --at least it shows what you gave last year. Top it if you can. Believe please, that expenses at the NBS have not been going down. This mailing is reaching between 800-1,000 members. So we grow.

We have gotten away from just news of the Sanct. It tends to be repetitious. Yellow school buses roll in, disgorge children, later they roll out again. Hopefully, the children have learned something! There is a constant stream of birds and animals. Revived, they too go away, back to the wild where they are happiest. The ones who stay with us are personalities. You know the good work they do in the teaching. You know that they are with us because, through man, they have been injured. Without our help they could not live. We try not to tell you of the sadnesses, but they do exist. A swan brought in dead, a ringneck dead, also a cardinal. All deaths due to collision with something man has for his comfort or convenience: cables, wires, cars or windows. Remember that poison you didn't want around the house? You sent it off with the trash. It went to the dump & was eaten by a seagull. Amid all the joy at the NBS there is deep sadness and anger too.

Life goes on! We have eggs under the incubators, for food for the summer crew-- nice fresh eggs coming up! We are to have the chicks of geese, guinea hens and quail. We tried to grow quail from egg some years ago, and failed miserably. When these baby chicks are grown they will be released on the land, hopefully to multiply. And we are going to have a visiting calf. (Projects for the children for the summer--just as Charles Lamb was a project last summer.)

One of the jobs of the NBS is to manage land for its best results. Land which our neighbours bought several years ago (to save it from developers) was badly managed for years before. Its brook has filled it with topsoil, as have old duck ponds on former farms. The result is that the field on the east side of 3rd Beach Rd. is a swamp. By the time you read this a wild duck pond will have been dredged, to drain the fields and to provide another nesting pond for wild ducks. (We had a windfall from The Trust). A walk will be fashioned near, but not too near the pond. This walk should be of interest to our older members who may have lost a bit of rubber from their bones. Most of our trails are hilly, as you know but this flat walk will not be segregated "For grey hair only".

The dam at Maple Swamp has taken a terrible beating. The highway department was

forced to reroute surface water. So many new houses on farm lands, all with blacktop drives! The new route for the rain water is into a brook that feeds into the swamp. The tremendous amount of water has forced the dam beyond its capacity, smashed it and the bridge across it. We shall sandbag the dam up to its old level and build a new bridge. (Someday we'll have a drive to rebuild the dam!)

Jethro, the worlds most famous wolf, and his partner Clem have been to Washington. There they have hobnobbed with politicians & picked up a few old pro tricks. Jethro was photographed kissing a baby! They are in Washington to help sponsor a bill HR 1271 which will require the Depart. of Interior to protect all wolves in the USA. There are only 350 greys in Minn., and 90 reds in La. Also, our photogenic friends are pushing House Joint Resolution 119 which seeks a treaty with Canada for an immediate cessation in the killing of wolves. Both Clem & Jethro have been guests at NBS. We all know them, love them, and have been kissed by them.

Scientists say that they can dicker with the hormones of cows so that they will produce litters of calves instead of single births, to meet the demand for beef in the USA. The gestation period of a cow is $9\frac{1}{2}$ months. A beef calf weighs about 70 lbs. at birth, and 1800 lbs before slaughtering, which explains the time lapse between the gleam in the bull's eye and the steak on your grill---roughly $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

A group of young Sanctuary members is putting on a statewide drive for new members. It is just great to know that there are those who love the Sanctuary so, that they give of their time, talents and money to put up such an effort. All members will receive a decal for their cars. It will do away with the ever present membership card.

Newport is having a paper pickup drive for paper recycling. By now, Newporters are aware of this worthwhile effort, and they know which day is pickup day for their area. A good thought: Middletowners and Portsmouthites might arrange with Newport friends to take their neatly tied papers to friends' homes on pickup day. Every bit helps! Speaking of recycling, at the start of our environmental effort it was thought that plastics would be about the easiest product to recycle. Not so. Any impurity in plastics recycles through with impurities. Mountains of plastics are growing on the dumps of our country. Try not to buy anything in plastic. Good luck!

Cystic fibrosis claims to be the No.1 killer of children. The truth is terrible. Child abuse and neglect kill more children in this country than all the diseases put together! We are not $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the year yet, and over 700 children have died of abuse in NYC alone. Remember Mouse Heaven (Issue #7) where there was no lack of goodies for mice--no fear, no want--everything a mouse

✓ could possibly want. What was the first sign of social unrest in Mouse Paradise?
The mice killed their young.

Has it ever occurred to you that since the invention of the wheel, its basic design has not been improved upon? Can it be that there are other designs so perfect in their concepts that they can not be improved on? (Democracy: changing within its plan, remains with its initial design intact!)

✓ Did you know that Teddy Roosevelt was a birder? He travelled to Great Britain and toured New Forest with Earl Grey, to learn the songs of English birds. That long walking tour led to the important Migratory Birds Treaty, which, in the 70 years since it was signed, has saved the lives of millions of birds, especially waterfowl, which migrate between nesting sites in the Arctic, Canada, USA and Central America, and back again twice a year. That Treaty has been the basis of many other Treaties to conserve wild life. Bully for you, Teddy!

Hardnosed Francophiles will not admit that US wines are as good as French. The vines have been cross bred with cuttings so often that they are the same. Climate makes a difference in the taste--seems cold climates produce a "foxy" flavour. But wines from southern NY or central California are all but indistinguishable. We have a way to go in age only--some vines in Spain are 2000 years old. But we are there with quality! Let's buy American! Do you know that some Banks in the wine districts allow loans so one may stock one's cellar or build a hedge against inflation?

✓ Twenty years ago no one could have imagined New England without Elms. Yet here we are, thanks to the beetle which carried the Dutch Elm Disease, without our elm trees. Can anyone imagine S. Florida without Coconut Palms? There is a "lethal yellowing" which is killing the palms in Ft. Lauderdale & Miami.

✓ Be careful how you treat bees if you find yourself in Indiana. A new law has been passed there--anyone upsetting hives or spraying to kill insects and incidentally bees, is liable to fine, imprisonment or both. Bravo, Indiana!

To celebrate our birthday we have a new mailing permit. We thank the Audubon Society of R.I., for arranging this nice gift for us.

Don't forget! Friday, April 27, 8:00PM in the "Ed Shed" A CEILIDH (Folk song festival) featuring Garret Warner.... and YOU. Bring your Musical Instruments, Friends, singing voices or original works, and of course the whole family. Put it on your calendar now!