

Hi! Spring on our loved Island is a contest between the warming sun and the cold ocean. The temp. of the water finally staggered up to the mid 40s, then one could say with conviction "Spring's Here!" But, before the month was over flowers were everywhere--2 to 3 weeks ahead of themselves. Violets, strawberry and buttercup flowers lifted one's spirits. In sheltered spots apple trees were in bloom. Catbirds were back by month's end. By mid-May the Whip-poor-wills were back as were the wood thrush. Do try to walk a woods trail between now & the end of June if only to hear the wood thrushes! Across sunny trails Spring Azures fly with rapid wing beats. Last year some of you said you'd never seen these butterflies. You have. Without realizing it, you thought a bit of sky had fallen! It rests with wings folded up so the underside shows gray, and measures $\frac{1}{2}$ " from joint to tip. In flight the blue wing spread measures 1" across. They flit close to the ground, rarely rising more than a foot from the earth.

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Nasturtium, the lamb is very happy with a companion of her own kind. Her endless bleating has stopped. Both of them invite pats on their woolly heads--gentle friendly creatures. Blossum (a'possum) has a cage at the entrance to Drury Ct. As she is a night creature, there is no sign of a living thing in the cage except empty dishes! Not all the pets are back from their winter outings, some are still on the school route. Dear old Wisteria Mood Indigo has a mouth infection--the same that she seems to have every winter. She has not eaten since Nov. last. If she doesn't eat soon it will be a worrisome thing. Medicine for the infection is put in her drinking water. Two baby Great Horned Owls (only their mother could have said "Aren't they beautiful!") were taken from their nest, inside an osprey nest in Westport. Great Horns eat both the egg and chick of ospreys, so these two future predators were moved to the Sanct. where, alas, we have no osprey! Mrs. Fearless Leader fed & cared for them until they no longer needed constant attention. Then they made their debut in the Barn-museum. By that time they had a few feathers & were growing handsome and handsomely. When they are fully grown they will be freed.

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The R.I. Red chicks are hatched & adorable. While they are so small they are in the office in a large box with food, water, heat and two stray mallard chicks. You have all been very kind to the mallards from Cerio Pond who seem to find the worms in the gutter on 3rd Beach Rd. more desirable than the worms near the Pond. Thank you for stopping & shoo-ing them back. (They came out onto the road again as soon as they could waddle back!) Life at Cerio Pond has not been peaceful. The Barn owls are after the ducks, and crows are after the owls! Now that a volunteer crew has built some nesting sites near the Pond perhaps the ducks will stop wandering & dropping eggs wherever nature dictates! The next generation of ducks will not be tame, thank goodness. No harm has ever come to those mallards, cared for by man from egg to self-sufficiency, they have been watched over by geese all winter! Now the geese are broody too!

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With the summer season coming on, the Sanct. is going to be too busy to fold, seal and address The Bird. We are of the opinion that you too, are going to be busy, if not at NBS, you will be in your gardens, in, or on, Narragansett Bay. So The Bird will come to you again when the Fall season starts.

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The school buses are rolling into the Sanct. right on schedule--some days four schools send their students! A group at St. George's students, boys & girls, are working out the last few weeks of their school days by doing projects at

The Sanctuary. A class in the old way of drying and mounting wild flowers has been another success. The star-gazers had a special treat--pictures taken by the rocket as it swept by Mars. We could get little or no publicity out on this show as it was known 24 hours in advance that the film would be available. The Wednesday Lunch-Lectures are small in attendance--in all honesty these go better in April than they do in May! The New Membership Drive goes forward slowly. It is a tedious task to address 6000 brochures. At present writing only 1000 have been mailed, but like the tortoise, slow & sure, the race will be won!

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Jacques Cousteau, noted explorer of the oceans says, "In 10 years there will be no fish to take out of the ocean". "We keep taking out & putting nothing back. It is a fact that if an area of the ocean no larger in size than Switzerland, were farmed & cultivated like the land, there would be more fish and other sea life than there is now." He says we're depleting & befouling the seas. He finds sympathy & concern, but very little action from the politicians. From them, we too still hear only "Oil" "Coal" & nuclear power. One article & one scientist have spoken up for hydrogen power. Oil from shale has been abandoned as it would take huge amounts of water to get oil. No one seemed to worry much about the mountains of sterile dust it would have left behind. (Hydrogen fusion looks Good.)

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Each US citizen generates 3-4 lbs. of trash a day--1000 lbs. a yr. or a national total in '73 of 130 million tons. If loaded garbage trucks were lined up, bumper to bumper, three abreast, the trash would stretch from NYC to Los Angeles! What is hopeful about all that trash is that 72% of it is cellulose--paper, yard waste, food & wood. (31%, 19%, 18%, 4%) From cellulose comes "Ethenol" Mix $\frac{1}{3}$ ethenol with $\frac{2}{3}$ gasoline and our cars etc. will run less expensively and more cleanly. This is being worked on by the Army.

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Consumer Report for May has many interesting articles. If you don't subscribe, the local library has copies. Fabric softeners don't really soften unless you have not rinsed all the soap out. All-cotton jeans are the better buy. (There's a shortage of indigo dye because of the popularity of jeans!) And there is no spray on the market that is not duplicated in an unspray version for greater savings and less danger to your health.

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Brooks Atkinson, former columnist wrote an article in The Smithsonian about the bluebirds in his garden. He ends by saying he needs them "they don't need me". He is wrong. They do need him, and you, and me, and hundreds more. They need us to build them houses in which to live. They used to nest in old fence posts. Such posts are being replaced with metal uprights that support wire fences. Their houses should be 6" deep with tiny $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes--big enough for bluebirds and too small for starlings! Starlings eat both eggs & chicks as well as other foods. If bluebirds at least had safe places to raise new families there would be more bluebirds. Do you realize that the starlings population has come from 170 birds that were released in Central Park some years back? Some kind people have started "Bluebird Walks"--lines of posts topped with 6" deep houses with $\frac{1}{2}$ " doors! Perhaps the Sanct. should use some dues for bluebird houses? Audubon said of bluebirds--"They carry Heaven on their backs".

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Why is it that birds pair off male and female, except for pheasants? They are like barnyard fowl, a rooster and his harem! A really ambitious pheasant cock will have as many as 8 wives. There is a good family feeling among the gals. Should some tragedy befall one of them, the rest take over the care of the newly hatched young. One summer day, The Bird saw a very nervous hen cluck 48

pheasant chicks across the road. They made it! She had her own brood of 12 and had taken on the care of three other orphaned broods.

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It's good to read that movie makers are banding together to prevent cruel and dreadful treatment of animals used in the making of films. It is true--if enough people make their voices heard, changes are brought about. But aren't we getting tired of protesting! In 1844 Margaret Fuller wrote, "Would that the simple maxime, honesty is the best policy, might be laid to heart; that a sense of the true aim of life might elevate the tone of politics and trade, til public and private honour became identical". The Bird would add that we all practice putting ourselves in the place of other living things before we move to do them harm.

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A few years ago there were only 40 musk ox in Alaska. They were moved to Univak Island to preserve the species. As there are now 700 musk ox on Univak, 100 have been taken back to Alaska. They represent an important new industry for the Eskimos, who will breed them for the luxurious wool. When animals are cared for by humans they become unafraid of man. All man wants of musk ox now are their woolly undercoats. They'll grow new ones next year!

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Coming Events

June 16 Father's Day Breakfast and hike for all the family at the Sanctuary. MENU: Juice, Eggs, Sticky Rolls and Coffee. COST: \$1.00 (from Dad!) per person, childred under 6 free. 9 a m
SCAVENGER HUNT with a grand prize. In case of rain there will be a movie in the Ed Shed. For reservations: Call Kathy Maringas at 683-3484.

Sept. 29 Our Annual Benefit Cocktail Party. As it will be right in the middle of The Cup Races, convivialities will commence late--7-ish. If you have house guests, it's a great way to entertain! Where else can you have cocktails and haute cuisine hors d'oeuvres--tatamount to supper, for ten bucks? You know the restaurants will be jammed. And your restaurant bill? If paid by check, would it be tax deductible?

Oct 5 and 6 The first annual real Down-home County Fair will be held at the Sanctuary.

We can promise two days of the kind of Fair you and your kids have always dreamed about. All of the old time events, contests and exhibits will be featured plus music and dancing. KEEP OCT 5 & 6 OPEN. If you'd like to get in on the real fun, planning a greased pig contest or a plowing contest, or cake judging or quilt exhibit, or any of a great big bunch of events, call Pat Hegnauer, 846-1308.

Or if you have something to sell that you have made or grown, a booth for the weekend will be only \$10.00. The rest of the profit is yours. JOIN THE FUN.

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Have a nice summer, and as Grantland Rice used to say, "Don't worry, don't hurry and don't forget to smell the flowers!" The Bird will be back before you eat your first mouthful of green tomato pie.

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Nature Day Camp for students ages 6-12

Six one week sessions from: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Monday thru Friday

Session 1 ----- June 24th - 28th
Session 2 ----- July 8th - 12th *
Session 3 ----- July 15th - 19th *
Session 4 ----- July 22nd - 26th
Session 5 ----- July 29th - Aug. 2nd
Session 6 ----- Aug. 5th - Aug. 9th

* During these sessions we will have Kindergarten
for 5 year olds.

COST: Members \$15.00 per session Non-members \$20.00

A two week study of sea, beach and shore for ages 11 - 15,
July 8th - 19th, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

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

A three week overnight Conservation Camp School for ages
13 - 15.

COST: \$300.00 July 1st thru July 20th
For information please inquire.

ALL REGISTRATION BY MAIL ONLY

Registration

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ AGE _____

SESSION 1 _____ Sea Study _____
2 _____
3 _____ Camp School _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

All checks payable to Norman Bird Sanctuary