



The Flyer

THE NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

NEWSLETTER

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The Mystery of the Winter Robin

As NBS members know, nature is endlessly complex, intriguing and inspiring. There is so much to sense and so much to wonder about, that one can spend a lifetime enthralled with its mysteries. As environmental educators, one of our primary aims is to encourage people of all backgrounds to notice and ask questions about what is happening in the natural world around them. Our role is to encourage their curiosity, provide a sounding board for their observations, and act as a resource for their personal investigations. Here at the Sanctuary, we receive hundreds of calls, e-mails and personal inquiries every year from people who have observed an interesting plant or animal, an interaction between species, or an unusual natural event that they are curious about.

Most natural history questions arise, as you would expect, when someone notices something in their own backyard that is different from their prior experience, or different from what is

popularly believed to be true. Often during a particular season or year, the same type of question will be asked by a number of observant people. Here at NBS, we are pleased to announce that the number one questions of the 2004/05 winter are "Why am I seeing huge flocks of robins in my neighborhood?" "Aren't robins supposed to go south for the winter?" "How can robins survive without worms?" "Is the presence of large numbers of robins a sign of global warming or other environmental disaster?" All excellent questions! Thank you for asking.

The American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, is the most familiar member of the thrush family in North America. State bird of Connecticut, Michigan, and Wisconsin, the robin is a familiar site in spring hopping around on the front lawn in search of insects and worms, building a grass and mud nest on or near the house, and singing its rich song in the early morning and twilight hours. Throughout the warm season, a pair of robins is the picture of domes-

ticity, raising two or three broods with both parents feeding the young and defending the territory. When the cold winter comes, we imagine them flying south to warmer climes for the duration of winter...something many of us would like to do.

Keep in mind, however, that the adaptation of migration is much more about food than cold temperatures. Different animal species have evolved to deal with the lack of food during the winter season in different ways. Those who eat only insects, flower nectar, summer blooms of krill, or other foods not available in winter, must migrate to where they can find those resources. Many of our summer birds, as well as species of bats, whales, sea turtles and insects migrate to specific wintering grounds south of here. Some animals fatten up in the autumn and remain in a state of dormancy for the season. Others are physiologi-

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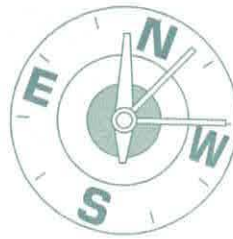
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Don't Miss Birds & Breakfast!





From the Director

The piping plovers are coming! The piping plovers are coming!

At least we hope they are and we need your help to monitor their arrival and nesting activity.

As many of you know, we have been very fortunate to have several piping plover pairs nesting on Third and Second Beach. What you may not know is that these small shorebirds need our help during the mating season. The Norman Bird Sanctuary is looking for volunteers to help us monitor piping plover activity on both Second and Third Beach. The Sanctuary, in collaboration with the Town of Middletown and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, hopes to monitor and protect nesting piping plovers on these two beaches.

Piping plovers are very small shorebirds whose pallid brown coloring perfectly matches the surrounding beach sand. During the summer, adults have orange legs and an orange bill with a black tip, a black band from eye to eye across the forehead, and a complete or incomplete single black band across the chest. Like other shorebirds the piping plover feeds in the inter-tidal zone running back in forth with the waves as it feeds.

Piping plovers breed on coastal beaches from the Canadian Maritimes to South Carolina. They return to their breeding sites in late March or early April. Interestingly, piping plovers tend to return to the same breeding grounds as the previous year, especially if they successfully raised their young. As soon as the males arrive on the breeding grounds they begin to set up territories and perform courtship displays. The male will make several nest depressions on the high beach close to the dunes. The female will inspect all of the nest depressions before eventually deciding on a final nest. Sometimes piping plovers will line their nests with bits of shell or small stones.

The female lays about four eggs which incubate for 25 days. Piping plover chicks are precocious and leave the nest in a matter of hours to begin feeding themselves at the waters edge. The parents remain on the beach with their young for about 30 days. In that time the young will learn to fly and become independent.

Many times piping plover pairs are not successful in rearing their chicks. High tides, predators, and interloping humans can disrupt a nest before the eggs hatch. If the pair does not hatch any eggs from their first attempt they will often re-nest in the same area and try again. These second and sometimes third attempts at nesting result in the young not fledging until late August.

So what can you do to help? Well, the Norman Bird Sanctuary needs your help locating piping plovers on Second and Third Beach. Once the birds have been spotted you can help us keep track of their activity and watch for signs of nesting behavior. We work with the Town and the USFWS to fence off sections of the beach where piping plovers are nesting. We erect wire exclosures around the nest to protect the eggs from predators.

If you are interested in birds, or nature, or just want an excuse to walk the beaches please call us at the Sanctuary. We will offer a volunteer training day in late March in conjunction with US Fish and Wildlife and hope to have a volunteer monitoring program up and running by April 1st.

I look forward to hearing from you and watching the piping plovers have another successful year.

Rob Cardeiro

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Education News

Sanctuary Welcomes Jill Pierce To Education Staff

by Megan Bradley

Many of the Norman Bird Sanctuary's favorite visitors are those that return each year for the warm summer months, and then fly away for the colder season.

Among them are tree swallows, orioles, and osprey. Another seasonal fixture at the Sanctuary has been Jill Pierce, who was a Teacher Naturalist at summer camp in 2002 and our Camp Director during the summer of 2004.

The Sanctuary is thrilled to announce that Jill will join the year-round Sanctuary staff in the newly created position of Environmental Education Coordinator. In her new position, Jill will continue many of the duties that were hers as Camp Director, including training and overseeing camp staff, talking to countless numbers of parents, and keeping smiles on the faces of sixty campers per week. In addition, Jill will now take on additional tasks such as hiring camp staff and offering her valuable assistance with camp registration. As Environmental Education Coordinator, Jill will also lend a hand with school programs and field trips this spring.

In many ways, Jill is a "Jack of all trades," and her many talents are what help her rise to the challenge of leading a successful summer camp. Jill began her journey at the Sanctuary during the summer of 2002, when she worked as a Teacher Naturalist. At that time, she was working on a degree in comparative literature at Brown University, which she completed in 2003. In fact, Jill was living in Paris for a semester abroad when she applied for the Teacher Naturalist position. She had worked with young people in the past, and was eager to do so again. The outdoor setting also appealed to Jill. She says, "The Teacher Naturalist job was a perfect way to combine a love of children, a burgeoning interest in education, and a passion for the outdoors."

Jill's experience working with young people is certainly not limited to her work here at the Sanctuary. While at Brown, she spent two years coordinating a

literacy mentoring program in the Providence public schools. In addition, Jill has spent years serving as a volunteer mentor. Currently, she acts as a mentor for two fifth-grade girls who speak English as a second language. All who know Jill admire her unique ability to connect with children who are seeking a positive role model, and her ability to

focus her many talents on whatever task is at hand.



Jill Pierce,
Environmental Education Coordinator

As Jill looks forward to the start of another season here at the Sanctuary, she shared some of her reflections on the time that she has already spent here. Her favorite memories of summer camp are centered on the very beginning and the very end of the week. Unlike many people, Jill loves Monday morning, at least at summer camp. As Camp Director, this is when Jill gets to meet all of the campers that are coming for the week, along with their parents. Jill also fondly recalls Friday afternoon gatherings, at which campers would share songs, skits, dances, or works of art that they made throughout the week. Jill

loved these gatherings because they gave the whole camp a chance to come together, and because the presentations showed the many ways that campers were absorbing ideas about environmental stewardship.

Jill has traveled the world, from India to Morocco, from Spain to Paris. The Norman Bird Sanctuary is delighted that Jill's travels landed her here. If you visit the Sanctuary in the winter, you still won't see a tree swallow whizzing above the field, or hear the song of an oriole, but you will see Jill working hard to inspire a budding generation of environmental stewards.





Education News

continued

Welcome to the OSEEC AmeriCorps Team of 2005!

The Ocean State Environmental Education Collaborative (OSEEC), a joint venture between NBS, Save the Bay, and Roger Williams Park, has initiated a second year of productive cooperation. Through this AmeriCorps project, the Sanctuary effectively doubles its education staff and is able to provide environmental education programs to more young people on Aquidneck Island and throughout the state. We would like to welcome Colleen Donovan, Meghann Deslaurier, and Bruce Hutchings to the staff of NBS. They will work with the Sanctuary staff on a daily basis, and participate in training sessions and community service projects with the full OSEEC AmeriCorps team for the entire year.

Who are these intrepid adventurers who are willing to contribute their time, expertise and energy for an entire year? (AmeriCorps members do get a small living allowance and earn an education award by completing 1700 hours of service). Meghann Deslaurier is a native of Charlestown who graduated from Salve Regina with a degree in Early Childhood Education, and is currently working towards a Masters degree in Early Childhood/Special Education. Meghann taught in a Head Start program for two years and is already planning to bring some of the NBS programs to her "kids" down in Charlestown. On the first day while the AmeriCorps members were learning to care for the Sanctuary's education animals, it became apparent that all of them are animal lovers. Meghann has three pets,

Sunny the bunny, Zoe the mutt, and Katy the cat. She's going to fit right in with the NBS staff! Bruce Hutchings is a native of Dartmouth, Massachusetts who recently graduated from Franklin Pierce College with a degree in

Environmental Sciences. He was the 'Recycling Manager for the Recycling Team' at school and is interested in sustainability and conservation biology. We plan to put those skills to work here at the Sanctuary! Most recently, he has had an insightful job working for SSTAR in Fall River, a support center for people recovering from drug and alcohol dependency. He grew up with a number of interesting pets including ducks, geese, rats, and our favorite...guinea pigs. Colleen Donovan, a native of Bristol, is an example of NBS at its best. She came to Sanctuary Summer Camp as a child! Colleen recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in zoology. Her favorite courses included evolutionary biology and animal behavior both of which will serve her well while teaching Sanctuary programs.



The 2005 AmeriCorps Team

Another animal lover, Colleen completed an internship this summer with the "Center for Wildlife" located near York, Maine, where she assisted wildlife rehabilitators with animal care and feeding. "Six hours a day of feeding baby birds was not unusual!" At home, Colleen cares for her dog Corey and her cat Kitty. Welcome AmeriCorps Team, we are very glad you are here!

The Mystery of the Winter Robin (continued from cover)

cally able to change their diet and stay near their breeding grounds for the winter, expanding their foraging range as needed. Others still, like the American Robin, modify their diet and their behavior, and migrate according to the winter food sources rather than to a specific area.

In the fall and winter, American Robins gather in large flocks that roost and forage together, feeding primarily on the berries of trees, shrubs, and vines. Flocking up has its advantages for finding food and avoiding predators....the more eyes, the safer they will be. Some of these flocks of robins will take advantage of more southern resources, some northern flocks will stay as far north as Canada, and some are pilfering your holly

berries right now. The robin who has claimed your yard as its nesting territory may be wintering in New Jersey, over in Jamestown or here at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Walking along the trails of the Sanctuary in winter, the berries of the hawthorn, multi-flora rose, bittersweet, privet, and black cherry are a banquet awaiting the next swarm of these beautiful red-breasted thrushes. So enjoy these hardy beasts that brighten our gray winter days and when they change their diet behavior once again you will know that spring has arrived!

P.S. The number two question of the winter: "What is that hawk who is eating the birds at my feeder?" Answer: Most likely a Cooper's Hawk or its smaller relative the Sharp-shinned Hawk.





Feature Article

Adults Enjoy Sanctuary Explorations Too!

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is not just for kids! All year long, adults participate in a wide variety of programs from natural history walks and talks to tai chi classes, herbal workshops to birding adventures. The Sanctuary staff would like to thank all the people who attended one or more classes this year, and encourage everyone to peruse the newsletter and our web site for upcoming events.

We also want to hear a big round of applause for all of the special guests who have offered adults talks, walks, workshops, and classes in 2004: Jay Manning who leads Sunday morning bird walks and bird van adventures with expertise and humor; Bill Saslow who often steps up to the birding plate early on Sunday mornings and always logs our success on the website; Hap and Clara Morgan who share their extensive knowledge of botany, herbal medicine and yoga; Ty Romijn who inspires us with his outdoor tai chi classes; Garry Plunkett who is a wealth of information on the natural world; Dr. Roger Goos who always has a crowd of fungi lovers on his annual mushroom walk; Virginia Brown who is the dragonfly queen of Rhode Island, and Suzanne Paton who works so hard to protect the endangered piping plover. Thank you all!

Winter Rarities Road Trip

It is not a secret that passionate birders are somewhat of a crazy lot! Despite the dark and dreary weather on January 8th, the Winter Rarities Road Trip was held for the third year in a row. A van of hardy souls, led by our fearless leader Jay Manning, left the Sanctuary parking lot at 7:30 a.m. in a light drizzle with high hopes, lots of layers, and a package of Oreos. Just down the road at Easton's Pond we spotted a stunning pair of Hooded Mergansers in the foggy light, swimming amongst a variety of waterfowl. Then at 40 miles per hour going over the Newport Bridge, a Peregrine Falcon was seen perched on a light pole....could it be there would be another on the old Jamestown Bridge? Yes!

Heading down Route 1 to avoid snow, we hit most of the birding hot spots in South County. The White Pelican was cooperative, but the King Eider could not be found amongst the huge rafts of Common Eider, Black Scoters and Surf Scoters. Like us, Common and Red-throated Loons, Common Golden-eyes, Bufflehead, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers were all out enjoying the

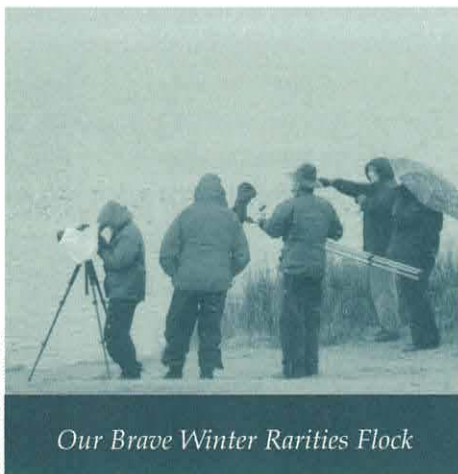


Photo: Bob Weaver

Our Brave Winter Rarities Flock

weather. Eastern Bluebirds glowed in the winter light, and the Red-shouldered Hawk was exactly where Rey Larsen said it would be. We gambled on the Lesser Black-backed Gull and lost, but were lucky enough to find three different shorebirds and ended up with a respectable list of 58 species for the day. Good humor, good company and great snacks....what more does a birdwatcher need? To see photos from the trip and the entire species list, log onto our website and click "Bird droppings".

If you are interested in learning more about birds or just enjoy birding with a group of people, join us for one of the Sanctuary's Sunday morning bird walks or trips in the bird van. We will be going to Plum Island this spring!

New England Grassland Talk

Frigid temperatures did not stop a dozen or more interested people from attending Garry Plunkett's talk on the history of New England grasslands and the various

strategies for the re-creation of native grass meadows in Rhode Island. Garry has an extensive knowledge of his subject, is engaging in his presentation, and has even created his own "one-acre meadow" in his backyard. His informative talk, held in the cozy atmosphere of the NBS Studio on the evening of January 27, was a lively mixture of discussion, question and answer, and slideshow. Listening to Garry's description of where native grasslands existed when Europeans first arrived, how the transformation of grassland species from native to non-native species took place, and the modern potential for native grassland restoration, we realized that he was actually describing "in a nutshell" the history of the Norman Bird Sanctuary property. Garry Plunkett is a very knowledgeable naturalist and active member of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society. This past fall he led a popular "Tree Talk & Walk" that we hope to repeat this coming year. He will also be leading an invasive species walk this summer....need to know more about all those vines in your backyard....join us!



Garry Plunkett at Home in his Backyard Meadow





Educational Programs

Sunday Morning Birdwatching

*Every other Sunday at 8:00 AM
March 20, April 3, 17, May 1,
May 15 is Birds & Breakfast!
May 29, June 12*

Spring migration brings a bountiful variety of bird species to our area! Warblers, orioles, swallows, herons, and hawks will chase away those winter blues. Put on your outdoor clothing, and footwear that will keep you dry, grab your binoculars, and join us in the Sanctuary parking lot at 8:00 AM for a couple of hours of birding around the local area.

Preschoolers with Parents

*Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Session E: March 30, April 6, 13, 20
Session F: April 27, May 4, 11, 18
Ages 3 - 5 years
\$30 Members, \$35 Non-members*

This series of four one-hour programs is an engaging and hands-on way to introduce your pre-school age child to the wonders of nature. We'll explore the outdoors using our five senses, songs, crafts, and explorations of the plants and animals of the Sanctuary. Parents will have fun too! Maximum 10

Spring Vacation Camp

*Tuesday - Friday, April 19 - 22,
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day
Children's Program for
Kindergarten - 4th grade
\$135 Members, \$165 Non-Members
Maximum 12 campers*

Spring Adventures at the Sanctuary. The spring season is an exciting time in nature! Join us for four days of outdoor explorations around the pond, forest and fields of the Sanctuary. All of our camps include science activities, stories, games, and arts & crafts. Dress for the weather and bring your lunch, snack and a water bottle too.

Stories and Science at the Sanctuary

*Tuesday April 19, Wednesday April 20,
Thursday April 21 • 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Free to Members,
\$3 per child 4 and over for Non-members
Activities and stories appropriate for
children ages 4 - 8 years. Parents stay for
the program and siblings are welcome.
Listen to some of our favorite children's
stories with a natural history theme.*

Participate in hands-on explorations around the grounds and along the trail. Meet some of our education animals. A different theme will be offered each day.

Tai Chi in Nature

*Tuesdays & Fridays, March 25, 28
April 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29,
May 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31
7:30 - 8:30 AM
\$8 per class for Members, \$10 per
class for Non-members, \$5 per class
for elders over 65*

Participants are welcome to start at any point and pay for multiple classes. We are continuing our workshop in Tai Chi in a natural setting with Ty Romijn. In observing the way nature grows and interacts, the ancient Tai Chi practitioners strived to emulate what they saw. During this class we learn together one of the many forms that came out of that study. We do this in the beautiful setting of the Sanctuary over looking the water with nature abounding. Beginners are more than welcome.



Photos: William Saslow





Educational Programs

Plum Island Road Trip

Saturday, May 14, All day trip, start time to be announced.

\$25 for Members,

\$35 for Non-Members

Adult Program

We are hopping in the Bird Van for a day-long trip to one of the best birding sites on the east coast. Newburyport, Joppa Flats, and Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island provide habitats for a wealth spring migrants from herons to warblers, raptors to shorebirds. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a lunch, binoculars, and your curiosity. We will provide birding expertise, snacks, bird guides, and humor. Maximum 12 adults.

Birds & Breakfast

Sunday, May 15

Breakfast Seatings: 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, & 10:30 a.m.

Bird Walks: 6:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Tickets: Adults - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door,

Children:

\$5 (ages 4 -12), 3 and under free

For reservations, please call 846 -2577 Join us for a spring morning of guided bird walks, a delicious country breakfast, and fund educational programs for the whole family.

NEW! Gentle Yoga

Mondays, March 28,

April 4, 11, 18, 25,

May 2, 9, 16, 23, June 6

6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

\$80 for 10 classes for Members,

\$100 for Non-members,

\$50 for elders over 65.

Certified yoga instructor and community herbalist, Clara Morgan, is offering a very gentle, relaxing yoga class that will benefit people of any age. Many of the postures can even be adapted for sitting on a chair rather than on a mat. Participants are invited to bring their yoga mat and a blanket. Loose, comfortable exercise clothing is recommended. A few extra mats are available if you are just starting out. Minimum 4, Maximum 12

Registration & Cancellation Policies

- Please come by the Sanctuary or call 846-2577 to register for programs that require a fee and/or have a maximum number of participants. Payment is required at the time of registration via cash, check, or Visa/MC.
- Free programs that have no maximum number of participants such as the Sunday Morning Birdwalk do not require prior registration.
- If you must cancel your registration, please call and let us know. Refunds will only be provided if you call at least 7 days in advance of the event. A check will be mailed to you within two weeks of cancellation.
- Programs that do not have a minimum number of registrants will be cancelled five working days before the event. (The minimum number is determined by Sanctuary staff and is usually based on the program's expenses.) In the case of program cancellation, your fee will be returned in full. In some cases, we will offer you the option of another date or a program credit.
- The Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp has different registration and cancellation policies. Please refer to the Summer Camp brochure for that information.



Winter Holiday Camp a Success

Artist Mary Dolan and Marine Biologist Andy Dutra, former NBS campers who evolved into fabulous summer camp teacher naturalists, created the idea of offering our family members a vacation camp over the December holiday break for children ages 5 through 10 years. This dynamic duo initiated the original idea at the end of last summer; designed a fun, engaging, and creative four day winter camp; and according to rave reviews carried the whole project off in grand style. The young campers helped care for the education animals, built decorative snow people to greet hikers, tracked animals through the snow, put out feeders and seed for the birds, read stories of their own choice, celebrated a birthday, baked tasty sugar cookies, and decorated the classroom with beautiful snowflake decorations. They even headed down to see what Third Beach is like in the winter! The Sanctuary is offering camp during the April public school vacation. Enrollment is limited so sign up now!

Thank you to Andy Dutra, Mary Dolan and Megan MacDonald for all their help over the holidays! Good luck in the future. We will miss your humor, intelligence, hard work and spirit.

WANTED: Assistant Teacher Naturalists for Camp 2005

Andy, Mary and Megan, mentioned above, all began as campers, then grew up to be volunteer assistant teacher naturalists (Ants) who helped the NBS summer camp provide high quality programming to a wide variety of children. NBS is currently interviewing youth for Assistant Naturalist position for Summer 2005. If you are interested in working with younger children, enjoy spending time outside, like to be creative, and are willing to work hard you may enjoy a three week opportunity with our trained staff. Call the Sanctuary for a job description and application.



Teacher Naturalists Andy Dutra and Mary Dolan.



Campers enjoy the snow creating "earth murals".





Trails and Tails

Sanctuary Welcomes New Properties Manager

Please join us in welcoming our new Properties Manager, Joseph McLaughlin to the Sanctuary family. Joseph arrived in February ready to take on the challenge of this position!



A Word From Joseph McLaughlin

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all and give a brief outline of my career. I received a BA in Environmental Science from New York State University at Plattsburgh Art and Sciences, Plattsburgh, NY.

After receiving my Bachelors degree I toured the United States of America on a bicycle. Starting out in NY with two friends, we spent two months pedaling our way out west. To this day spending those fifty nine nights under the stars and one night in a luxury hotel, gives me an appreciation of how people's good nature and generosity made this journey a life changing experience.

I went on to receive my MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. My career began as a steward of the 40-acre forest at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in Bronx, NY. There I focused on developing and teaching children's forest education programs, conducting forest research, furthering my Arboriculture knowledge and honing my tree climbing skills.

After the NYBG I continued my vocation with the Town of Greenburgh Parks and Recreation Department located in Ardsley, NY. There I was responsible for managing four preserves totaling over 400 acres. One property of particular interest is Hart's Brook Park Preserve. The Hart's Brook Preserve is a former estate that was designated as open space in 1999. The Preserve is owned by the State of New York, the County of Westchester and the Town of Greenburgh and it is a great example of what multilevel collaboration can accomplish. My responsibilities included the restoration of the 1920's gentleman's barn, working in cooperation with contractors and town officials to bring the facility up to code, propagating thousands of annuals in the facility's three greenhouses, and performing hazard tree evaluation and remediation on the three mile trail system.

The opportunity to work at Norman Bird Sanctuary as the Properties Manager is an absolute honor. The historic nature of the property and its buildings are sure to provide a grand look into the past and a compelling transition to the future. The ecosystems are diverse and teeming with life. As the Director of Properties I will strive to sustain and improve the habitat at NBS for the benefit of birds and other wildlife and for people's education and enjoyment.

Joseph A. McLaughlin





Special Event



Think Spring!

Although it's hard to believe, Birds & Breakfast is right around the corner! Save the date of Sunday, May 15th for this time-honored rite of spring and join us for a beautiful spring morning of guided bird walks for all ages, a delicious breakfast buffet and fun educational programs for the whole family. Make your reservations early, as this popular annual community event fills up quickly!

Birds & Breakfast Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving and clean-up on the day of the event. Join your friends and neighbors and lend a hand during this wonderful community event. **Bakers... donate your homemade delights to the breakfast buffet.** Muffins, coffee cakes and other breakfast goodies are always welcome!



Event Information:

Breakfast Seatings:

7:30, 8:30, 9:30, & 10:30 a.m.

Bird Walks:

6:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Tickets: Adults - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Children \$5 (ages 4 -12), 3 years and under are free

For Reservations:

Please call 846 -2577



Holiday Owl Prowl and Ed Shed Celebration

NBS celebrated the winter solstice, owl breeding season and the opening of the new Ed Shed all in one fell swoop. On December 10, the staff welcomed a small but hardy group to the grand opening of the Ed Shed for activities, stories, crafts, and walks all related to an owl theme. Children and parents dissected owl pellets to discover what owls eat, created owl masks and tree ornaments, braved the rain to listen for the hoots and screeches of the great horned and eastern screech owl, and enjoyed some holiday refreshments.





583 Third Beach Rd.
Middletown, RI 02842

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Newport, RI 02840
Permit No. 43

TO CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



Don't miss this summer's most exciting event!
Mark your calendars for Norman Bird Sanctuary's
2nd Annual Bird Ball on Saturday, August 20, 2005.
Reservations available starting in June! Plans are
underway for this fun, Newport casual event.

Save The Date!

*There'll be a new flock in town this summer,
stay tuned for more details to come...*