



# The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME NO. 9 ISSUE 1

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## The Winged Tiger

The crows cawed and circled around the old Maple tree near the gardens as if calling me to see their discovery. I knew by their number and their urgent requests that the owl had returned after two weeks of freedom. As I approached, the sentries backed off still cautiously guarding from a nearby tree. The owl's "greeting" call, one of many in her repertoire, was unmistakable - a drawn out raspy screech. Her first call was followed by others, enthusiastically begging, as she had done to me before, for the free furry brown tailed meals that had come to her so often.

This particular owl, a Great Horned nicknamed "Baby" was raised at the Sanctuary from a gray downy fluff ball with a homely face to a two foot tall golden brown beauty, skilled at hunting, but lazy when it came to leaving the comforts of home.

After six months, we had done all we could to train her for the natural world. Her hunting capabilities were perfected, learned skills critical for hawks and owls. She could fly, swiftly and silently. Most importantly, she had become restless in the confines of her flight cage and wanted to leave it, but obviously not all at once. She seemed to like long good-byes. Although friendlier than most owls one could ever hope to approach, she instinctively took flight whenever one entered the forbidden foot space that encircled her. Assumed to be a female by her long "hoot" calls and her large size, her presence was eminent and her confidence grew as she seemingly began to reign as "the winged tiger of the sky".

## Winter 1988

In the wild, Great Horned Owls are second in size to the Snowy Owl, but considered to be the fiercest predatory bird. Their fearlessness allows them to take prey as large as a stray cat, as smelly as a skunk (for owls are not known for their discriminating olfactory sense), and as abundant as Norway rats - catching up to six per day. Smaller owls, crows, and many hawks often fear the Great Horned as eggs, nestlings, and even adults are taken as prey. To humans, they can be aggressive and will often attack if their nest is approached. Most of the time, they will remain away from us concealed in stands of dense pines, cedars, or secluded woodlots.

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As one of the largest predatory animals on Aquidneck Island, the Great Horned's senses are keen for hunting in the darkness. It's ears, more sensitive than it's eyes, can detect a slight movement or squeak of a mouse up to 100 yards away. The facial disc, a circular pattern of feathers, helps to funnel sounds into the ears-long, narrow slits located on each side of the head. The "horns" on top of the head are merely tufts of feathers and are of no significance for hearing. An owl's eyes, 35 times more powerful than humans', contain 500 times more light receptacle rods and allow owls to use every bit of light available at night. No other creature on earth has better night vision.

Once the prey is heard and sighted, the owl's flight to it's location is muffled by flight feathers with soft, sound absorbing edges. If that isn't enough to make owls such successful hunters, they carry their "knife and fork" to each dinner as well; a sharp beak which quickly breaks the victim's neck and helps to tear the meat, and talons that hold with a suffocating grasp. Small birds, mice, voles, and rats are often swallowed whole.

Unlike many birds, an owl has no crop in its digestive system to store food nor does it have an efficient gizzard to grind. Instead, it has a powerful glandular stomach that separates fur, feathers, bones, and teeth from the soft digestible parts of the prey, allowing the undigested discards to be regurgitated in the form of a two inch long "pellet." This adaptation allows scientists to monitor smaller animal populations in areas where there are owls, and to gauge an owl's diet by virtue of the evidence left in the pellet. (This is how we were able to determine that "Baby" had hunted and eaten a wild mouse from inside her cage)

Owls have been around for thousands of years, appearing after the retreat of the glaciers when seeds were planted and small animals became abundant. During the middle ages, owls were seen as "omens of death", their numbers increasing with the escalating population of rats that carried the Bubonic plague.

Many people today still fear owls because of their association with darkness, their eerie calls, and their predatory features. Owls are often blamed for livestock and poultry kills, and then are killed themselves.

People's negative view of owls can change if they consider that a single owl can consume up to 2,500 rodents a year- a viable alternative to rat poison. Chemicals, including rat poison

are the cause of many owl deaths as they consume the weakened rodents and the poison lethally concentrates in their system.

Winter is the season to see and hear owls. Their hiding places can often be found as the last leaves have fallen from many of the trees they take refuge in. During the mating season, the most vocal time for owls from December to early February, territories are set up by males that defend them by hooting at other males. As a female approaches, a male Great Horned will slowly begin to court her with an unaffectionate series of behaviors involving preening and the giving of food as gifts. Great Horned Owls do not build nests but rely on nests built by crows, hawks or squirrels, or they find a suitable cavity in a large tree. Once mating has taken place, females lay eggs in mid February to late March often incubating the eggs in the worst of winter storms. An average of two chicks hatch and are cared for by both sexes. At one month, they are half grown. Hunting and flying skills are practiced and techniques are improved upon until the chicks are finally able to leave the nest at three months to begin their first season of adulthood, which may last 20 years.

Baby is now in her third year as an adult, about to reach her sexual maturity. We still hear reports about her being in the neighborhood. People who spot her near their houses know her for her sociable manner. She occasionally makes her presence known here at the Sanctuary with her uncanny sense of timing for Spring school walks, Halloween parties, and Birds and Breakfast.

In my heart, I hope she can continue to fly where she is free - appreciated for her beauty and sense of purpose, away from people who might fear and injure her, and guarded by the crows that await her.

Lisa Pritchard





# Children's Programs

## PRESCHOOLERS WITH PARENTS NATURE HOUR

Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Discover the joys of winter together with your preschooler and NBS!. Join us as we explore weekly themes geared for children ages 3 - 5 years old. We'll read nature stories, make crafts, sing songs and have fun. Some activities will be outdoors so children and adults should dress warmly.

\* Please note: we cannot accept any child under the age of 3 years. One adult may be responsible for two children

### SERIES 3

Jan 20: Bird Friends  
Jan.27: Winter is a Season  
Feb. 3: Tracks Left Behind  
Feb,10: Indians Lived Here

### SERIES 4

Feb 24: Tunnels are for Hiding  
Mar. 2: Your Five Senses  
Mar. 9: Birds in the Spring  
Mar.16: The Colors of Spring

Fee: per series \$12.00 (\$10.00 NBS members)  
Pre-registration is required

## WINTER WEEK

February 15 - 19th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Visit the Norman Bird Sanctuary during vacation week and learn about the wonders of Nature. Children in grades K-4 can participate in Nature songs, crafts, and outdoor activities exploring the winter season. Warm clothing is essential for we will spend a good deal of time outside. A mid-morning snack will be served.

Fee: \$35.00 (\$30.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

Limit 20 children

Vacation Week for St. Michael's and New School: March 21-25 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## NATURE CLUB

Through all four seasons, children can explore nature in the Norman Bird Sanctuary's Nature Club. We will spend most of the time outdoors playing games, hiking the trails, and discovering weekly themes. Inside we'll be warming up by our woodstove singing songs and creating natural crafts. Each week is a new adventure! We will provide a mid-morning snack. Children should dress warmly, Nature Club is for children in grades K-4.

### SESSION 3

Jan. 23: Evergreen Trees  
Jan. 30: Fish from our Ocean  
Feb, 6: Exploring Tracks  
Feb. 13: Have a Heart- Endangered Species

### SESSION 4

Feb. 27: Maple Sugaring  
Mar. 5: Working with Wood  
Mar. 12: Sensing Surroundings  
Mar. 19: Eggs in the Spring

Fee: \$32.00 (\$28.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 3 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate the coming of longer warmer days and the renewed fertility season as we search for brightly colored and camouflaged Easter Eggs hidden on the Sanctuary trails. Parents and Children may participate in the hunt for these signs of Spring. Enrollment will be limited to Sanctuary members and their families. The hunt is for children Preschool - 6th grade. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: Parent / one child \$3.50  
Family \$6.00

Pre-registration is required  
Space is limited.

Also, see who is visiting the Sanctuary on April 9



POT POURRI MAKING

Saturday, January 23. 1:00 p.m.

Fill your home with the pleasurable scents and sights of Pot Pourri. Barbara and Sharon from Hill Top Gardens in Tiverton will demonstrate how to mix aromatic herbs and spices to last for months. Each participant can choose his or her own combination of ingredients to take home a unique creation. Bring a glass jar or covered container.

Fee; \$10.00 (\$8.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

Limited to 15 participants.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

During the winter months, a great variety of waterfowl can be seen on the ponds and along the coasts of Aquidneck Island. At this evening workshop, Sanctuary Director, Larry Taft will help you identify many members of this family of birds. Migration behavior and special adaptations of these birds will be discussed.

To view waterfowl, the lecture will be followed up with a 2 hour walk along Gardner Pond and Sachuest Point on Sunday, January 31, at 8:00 a.m.

Fee; \$7.00 (\$5.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

BIRD WALKS

Every Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Join Sanctuary Director, Larry Taft, for these free guided bird walks. During the winter months we will explore the NBS trails, nearby ponds and rocky shore. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. Walks may be cancelled due to inclement or very cold weather.

Pre-registration is not required.

HERBS AND NATURAL HEALING

Saturday, January 30, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Through the ages, wild herbs have been used for their nutritional and healing properties. Hap Morgan, NBS Naturalist will discuss the historic uses of herbs and herbal identification with slides. Recipes and formulas for simple home remedies will be handed out.

Fee: \$4.00 (2.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is requested by Thursday, January 28.

FULL MOON OWL PROWL

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

Listen for the mating calls of our Sanctuary Owls - Screech, Barn and Great Horned as they call in our woods. Hike the trail with the Sanctuary Staff under the light of the full moon as we learn about the owls and other mysteries of nature after dark. Lisa Pritchard, NBS Education Coordinator, will give an introductory talk about owls indoors before the night hike. Bring a flashlight for owl spotting and dress warmly!

Fee: \$3.00 (\$1.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

*I rejoice that there are owls!*

*Henry David Thoreau*



# Programs

## STAR GAZING

Jan. 21	Cloud date	Jan. 22	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 18	Cloud date	Feb. 19	"
Mar. 17	Cloud date	Mar. 18	

Learn the stars in the winter sky and start yourself on a fascinating hobby. Bill O'Connell, NBS member and experienced astronomer will lead the Star gazing at the NBS field near our barn. Winter is the best season for viewing Orion, the fearless hunter, and Pleides, the seven sisters. Planets, Jupiter and Venus will also be visible. Bring binoculars or scopes if you have them. Dress warmly.

If you are unsure whether the star gazing has been postponed to the next night call the Sanctuary after 4:00 p.m. or listen to our message machine after 5:00 p.m.

Fee: no charge

Pre-registration is not required

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 14 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bring your true love or just your love for skiing to this Valentine's Day Ski Workshop. Ann Truslow, National Outdoor Leadership Instructor will discuss basic equipment choices, ski clothing and winter safety. She'll also demonstrate waxing and skiing techniques and then take participants of this workshop out for a practice run (if there is snow). Afterwards, ski the trails of NBS practicing your newly learned skills, observing nature, and enjoying the pleasures of the sport. If we're out of luck with snow, come anyway for an indoor program by our woodstove. Participants should bring their skis so they may take full advantage of Ann's expertise.

Fee: \$7.00 (\$4.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

SNOWY WEEKENDS: in January, February & March.... Fee: \$4.00 (\$2.00 NBS members)

Ann Truslow has offered to be on hand in the event that snow covers our trails! If you would like a cross country ski lesson on a snowy weekend, call the Sanctuary to see when she is available.

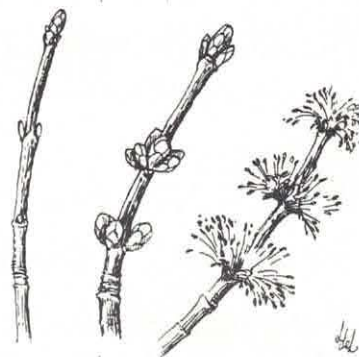
## WINTER TREE ID

Saturday, February 13. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Do trees start to all look alike to you after they have lost their leaves? Then open up those eyes and learn how to tell trees apart in winter. Horticulturnist Julie Morris, will lead this workshop on simple ways to identify bark, twigs, leaf scars, buds and shapes of trees. Never again will trees look the same!

Fee: \$4.00 (\$2.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required



## RAIN FOREST ECOLOGY AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Many of the migratory birds that nest in our area during the spring and summer, spend the winter months in the tropical rain forests of Central America. The future of many of these birds as well as that of numerous other species is threatened because much of the rain forest ecosystem is being destroyed by "development" in that region.

The Manomet Bird Observatory has studied the ecology of migrant birds in Belize, Central America since 1982. Project Director, Trevor Lloyd Evans will present a slide lecture about their 1987 expedition into the undisturbed rain forest in the remote Maya Mountains. As a result of MBO's recommendations from this study the area is being considered by the Belize government as a much needed tropical preserve.

Pre-registration is required

Public Programs continued on next page



# More Public Programs

## MAPLE SUGARING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 21, 1:00 p.m.

Maple sugaring is a tradition that originated with the Native Americans. In this workshop learn how to tap, gather and "boil off" maple syrup. Using equipment made from household objects.

Sanctuary Director, Larry Taft will guide participants through all phases of sugaring from identifying the proper trees to a taste of the final product.

Fee: \$4.00 (\$2.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required.

## ANIMAL SIGNS IN WINTER

Saturday, February 27. 2:00 p.m.

Follow the small tracks of the White Footed mouse. Look for tree buds that have been gnawed or snapped. Search for winter burrows off the NBS trails. Hap Morgan, NBS Naturalist, will lead this adventurous walk discovering the many ways animals make themselves known to naturalists.

Fee: \$3.00 (\$1.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

## PEOPLE, PEST AND POLICY

Wednesday, March, 9th 7:00 p.m.

Pesticides are more pervasive than we think, and are becoming more so with the growth of the lawn care industry.

Guest Lecturer Cynthia Thomas is the pesticide specialist of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Environmental Affairs office and has been studying this issue for over a decade. Join her for this slide program and discussion which will take a look at the history, problems, solutions and recent legislation concerning the use of pesticides.

Fee: \$4.00 (\$2.00 NBS members)

## WOODCOCK WALK

Saturday, March 19 5.30 p.m.

Welcome the coming of Spring as we listen and spot the male Woodcock make its fascinating courtship flight. Learn about the peculiar habits of this wonderful spring reveler and toast its return to the Sanctuary with champagne.

Fee: \$3.00 (\$1.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

## EASTER BASKET MAKING

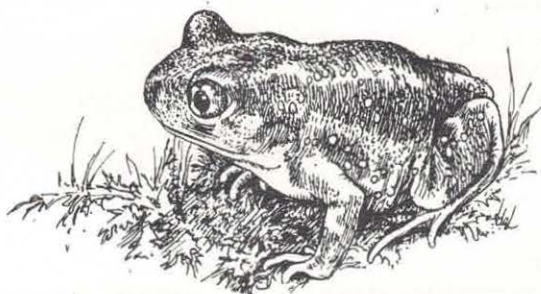
Saturday, March 26. 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Weave your own handled square bottomed basket guided by Sharon from Hill Top Gardens. She'll provide easy working materials and colorful strands for a homemade basket to treasure for years to come. No experience is necessary.

Fee; \$18.00 (\$16.00 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

Class limited to 8 participants.



## FROGS, TOADS, AND SALAMANDERS

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Find out why these amphibians are the focus of the R.I. Herp watch. DEM Biologist Chris Raithel will discuss these magnificent creatures found in our state through slides and possibly some live specimens. Afterwards, if the night is warm, meander down to Red Maple Swamp to find these creatures in their natural habitat. Sturdy shoes are a must! Bring a flashlight for herp spotting.

Fee: no charge

Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, Mar.29



*A Wildlife Refuge*

## NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

PROGRAM SURVEY: MEMBERSHIP

Norman Bird Sanctuary

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is in the process of evaluating its program offerings to better serve our membership and the general public. We wish to offer programs that are necessary and desirable, that will enhance and augment those being provided by others and that will not necessarily duplicate them. The information gathered in this questionnaire will be used for this purpose only. A similar questionnaire is being circulated among those who participate in our public and school programs.

### A. General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. When did you join the Sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were your reasons for joining? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ To get free access to the trails.

\_\_\_\_\_ For member discounts to programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden Plot.

\_\_\_\_\_ To support the programs and upkeep of the refuge.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the following statements describes your perceptions of the Norman Bird Sanctuary?

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor recreation area.

\_\_\_\_\_ Land Preserve.

\_\_\_\_\_ A place to see native wildlife.

\_\_\_\_\_ An interesting field trip for students and childrens.

\_\_\_\_\_ An important educational resource.

\_\_\_\_\_ A wild animal care center.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you use the Sanctuary?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, regularly go there.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, sometimes visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rarely.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE NEXT PAGE



B. Program

5. Have you or your children attended programs at the Sanctuary?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes. \_\_\_\_\_ No.

\_\_\_\_\_ Nature Day Camp \_\_\_\_\_ Nature Club \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-school Nature Hour. \_\_\_\_\_ Explorers Club  
\_\_\_\_\_ Summer Challenge \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Lectures  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday afternoon family programs \_\_\_\_\_ Nature Films  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nature Craft Workshops \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday morning bird walks \_\_\_\_\_ Natural History Walks

6. In a few words how do you feel we could improve our education programs ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What type of programs would you like to see offered in the future ?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How did you find out about our programs?

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper listings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Radio Community calendars  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary Bulletin Board  
\_\_\_\_\_ Word of mouth

9. What are the most convenient times for you to attend natural history lectures or craft programs?

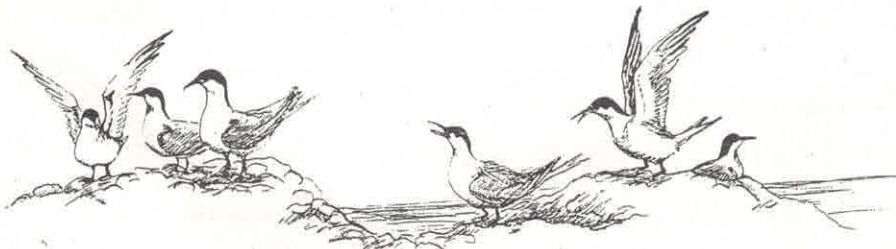
_____ Weekday mornings	_____ Saturday afternoon
_____ Weekday afternoons	_____ Sunday afternoon
_____ Weekday evenings	_____ Saturday morning
	_____ Sunday morning

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this questionnaire back to us or drop it off at the registration desk when you visit.

Thank you !!





# Volunteer Corner

Harvest Fair 1987 has come and gone, but not without the help of many invaluable and dedicated volunteers who make this event such a success for NBS. Our appreciation goes to everyone who was a part, from the pasta salad makers to the gate admitters, to the game ticket sellers etc; (despite the miserable cold Sunday).... Thank you.

Special Thanks to:

- \* Bonnie Williams, who bravely chaired the event and lived to tell about it!
- \* The following Chairpeople who went one step beyond the call of volunteering and helped to organize volunteers as well. Ginny Laughlin, Fran Holmes, Kathy Finn, Sharon and Phil Pelletier, Ginny Purviance, Polly and Ruff Meadows, Ron Bianco, Chris Callahan, Lenny DiAngelis, Ann Damon, Larry Allen, Norm Hall, Bev Murphy, Mark Vissman, Roger Gilman, Morris Hirsch, Bill O'Connell, Patty Corgan, and Peg Hughes.

\*\* Potential Volunteers.... If you would like to sign up now (while things are slower) for the Fair in 1988 we can put your name on our volunteer list. We'll call you in the summer (if you would like to chair) or in September as a volunteer. Call Lisa at the Sanctuary.

Although the Harvest Fair makes up the bulk of our Fall volunteer effort, we have a few hardworking individuals who contribute their time on a daily basis at the Sanctuary. Our thanks and appreciation to:

- Charles Donald, Erika King, Kim Boiani, Dr. Kenfield and Dr. Lunig for animal care.

- Josh Whittemore, Hugh Hallowell, Gray Ottley, from St. Georges School for trail maintenance.

- Elizabeth Thurston, Sher Williams, Lee Blandino, for help with newsletter mailings.

- Emily O'Connell, "Moon", Kim Boiani, Patty Miller, Sally Richardson, Bonnie Williams, Ken Dolbashian, and Lou Brenner, for the Halloween Party.

- Taff Roberts, Jocelyn Sherman, Barbara and Sharon of Hill Top Gardens, Dr Goos, Bill O'Connell for help with Public Programs and Special Events.

- Fran Holmes for her time and effort to sew NBS aprons and last minute office sitting.

- J.Charles Hall Publications for help with the newsletter.

# Donations

We would like to extend our overdue thanks to the following people who have made generous donations.

- Mrs. Jean Perry, who purchased a new slide projector for the Sanctuary to replace the one stolen last winter. This timely donation was made in memory of her mother, Margaret C. Harrison.
- Courtney Laird of Carlisle, Mass. who donated an Apple II Plus Personal Computer this summer. This gift will help us manage our mailing lists as well as other word-processing endeavors.
- Frank and the late Nancy Moitoza who donated stuffed specimens of Red Fox, Snowy Owls, and Ring Necked Pheasants for our Trailside Museum
- The Malones for their contribution of stuffed birds to be used for our museum.

## ATTENTION - HARVEST FAIR WORKERS:

Please return your NBS blue working aprons. We are still very low with our supply.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN MEETING

Sunday, March 20th. 1:00 p.m.

Are you interested in having an 800 square foot garden plot at the Norman Bird Sanctuary to grow your own vegetables, herbs and flowers this summer? Then come to the Community Garden Meeting.

During the meeting, we will assign garden plots, review program regulations and have a chance for gardeners to meet each other. A feature film or workshop on organic gardening will follow. The number of garden plots is limited and you must attend this meeting to get one. (Returning Gardeners - you should also attend this meeting if you wish to participate this year).



# Billy B. Brennan

## The Natural Song and Dance Man



### BILLY B AT NBS

Saturday, April 9th 1:00 p.m.

Mark this date on your calendar! Billy B. Brennan, the natural science song and dance man will be performing at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Environmental education may not be every one's first idea of entertainment, but Billy Brennan has staked out that ground, filled it with natural facts, dynamic music, a big dose of humor and has subsequently wowed the public and press alike throughout the country.

"We have a special little planet here" Billy B. says and it's his dedication to bringing that conviction to children that makes his lively combination of facts such a valuable experience to budding minds. Join us for this naturally wonderful 45 minute concert.

Tickets will be on sale through the Sanctuary office. Seating is limited.

Fee: \$5.00 (\$4.00 NBS members)  
(Adults and Children)

\* (Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult)

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, Gay Sheffield, 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) 846-2577  
Graphics by: Lucia deLeiris, Erika King, R. Schooneck, Isaac Simpson, and Tedeschi.

### WINTER AFTERNOON MOVIES

Sunday afternoons 3:00-4:00p.m.

Join us for an hour of nature movies on Sunday afternoons. Popcorn, hot drinks, and the warmth of the woodstove will keep you comfortable while you watch the show.

\* Please note: Movies for young children in grades K-6 are noted with a C. Movies that are more appropriate for older children and adults are noted with an A.

Jan. 24:	<u>Velveteen Rabbit</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>The Giving Tree</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>Little Gray Necklace</u>	<u>C</u>

Jan. 31:	<u>Beluga Baby</u>	<u>A</u>
	<u>Adelie Penguins</u>	<u>A</u>
	<u>Dolphins and Men</u>	<u>A</u>

Feb. 7:	<u>Red Fox</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>Camouflage</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>The Hound who Thought he was a Raccoon</u>	<u>C</u>

Feb. 14: NO MOVIE TODAY

Feb. 21: NO MOVIE TODAY

Feb. 28:	<u>Legacy of the Loon</u>	<u>A</u>
	<u>Loon Necklace</u>	<u>A</u>
	<u>Mnimals</u>	<u>A</u>

Mar. 6:	<u>Caterpillar</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>Anasi the Spider</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>Why Mosquitoes Buzz in</u>	
	<u>People's Ears</u>	<u>C</u>

Mar. 12:	<u>Enduring Wilderness</u>	<u>A</u>
	<u>Nature's Half Acre</u>	<u>A</u>

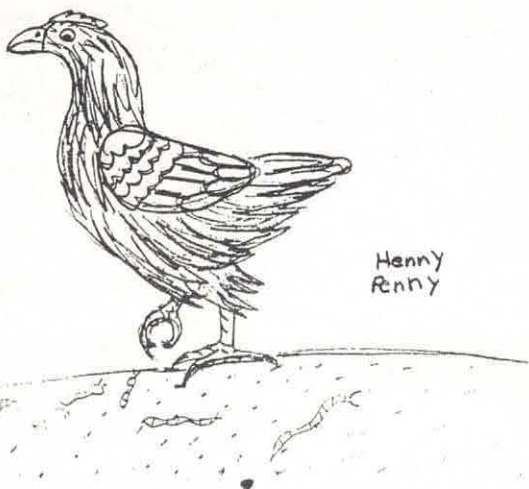
### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Save The Bay Land Use Conference Saturday, January 23. Call STB for more information 272-3540.
- New England Environmental Conference at Tufts University, Saturday and Sunday, March 25 & 26. Call NBS 846-2577 or Nancy Anderson 617-381-3451 for more information.





# Director's Notes



## NBS NATURAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Dear Henny Penny,

We saw a hawk near our feeders that kept our Chickadees and Finches away all day. What can I do to keep the hawk away?

A concerned Birdwatcher

Dear Concerned Birdwatcher,

Please do not do anything to keep the hawk away kind Sir. The hawk was there to and a meal- your feeder birds. However, predators such as a hawk, and owls, are vital and necessary for maintaining populations of smaller birds (and usually rodents). Predators are an important part of nature's food chain. The Chickadee and Finch flocks will ultimately "benefit" from the hawk by having sharper senses when predators approach. The hawk will eventually go away and the birds will resume their feeding.

Henny Penny.

If you, or your family has a question about wildlife on Aquidneck Island, please send it to Henny Penny, NBS. We will try to respond to each question through this newsletter.

## LOST AND FOUND ... MOSTLY FOUND!

Is your child missing- one pink glove?  
How about a sweater, lunch box, or hat?  
We have an assortment of childrens and adult clothing ready to be claimed from our lost and found box.

Fall has been a busy, yet productive season here at the Sanctuary. The Harvest Fair, held on the first weekend of October, was successful thanks to over 200 dedicated volunteers who helped to put it on, as well as to those who attended the Fair despite the unseasonably cold weather.

In the few months since the Fair, close to 1,000 adults and children participated in our educational programs which we offered to local Schools, community groups and the general public. Topics ranged from searching for wild mushrooms to exploring the ridges to making natural holiday crafts to gazing at the stars. This winter we will offer more natural history programs. We hope you will join us.

In the fall we began to review and update our land-management plan with the help and advice of State Forester, Paul Dolan. The plan is our guide to help maintain a variety of wildlife habitats at the Sanctuary which will encourage continued diversity of wildlife species in years to come. Recently, Boy Scouts, John Newsome and Jeff Britton, each working on their Eagle ranks, and College intern, Mary Nunes, have helped to clean out the understory from a grove of Cedar trees that we are trying to maintain. If the brush were to go unchecked, the grove would eventually be destroyed by natural succession. Similar projects will continue in the Spring.

We have started to make some real progress on the development of the Trailside Museum. This Fall, Tuesdays have been set aside for the staff to work on researching and writing for the numerous displays to be installed. (This is Phase II of the project). Advisory Committee member Joyce Botelho, has been acting as our script consultant and Editor. Artist Amy Wright, is presently working on her first assignment - an illustration of how local landscape has developed since the glaciers retreated over 12,000 years ago. Designer Reuben Wade and Associates have begun constructing the display cases for the museum as well. We will continue to take advantage of the relatively quiet winter season and have a number of exhibits ready in the Spring.

Enjoy the winter season,

Larry



Su		What's Happening at the Bird Sanctuary?										Sa	
<b>JANUARY</b>		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY		NEW MOON		Mating Season for ralleons Star Gazing 7	Look for Venus in the Western sky cloud date 7pm	Nature Club "Pot Pourri" 1-3					
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
Nature Movie 3-4					Preschool w/ Parents "Ducks and geese" 3-4			Nature Club "Herbs and Healing" 2-4					
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		31	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nature Movie 3-4				GROUNDHOG DAY, FULL MOON Owl Prowl	Preschool w/ Parents			Listen for Foxes Yelping					
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Nature Movie 3-4				great Horned Owls Nest	Preschool w/ Parents			Nature Club "Winter Tree ID" 1-3					
VALENTINE'S DAY		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Cross Country Skiing 1-3			Winter vacation week		New Moon	Bird Migration Lecture 7 p.m.	Star Gazing 7 pm	Cloud date 7 pm					
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Maple Sugaring 1pm			GEORGE WASHINGTON BORN	Look for Mars and Saturn in early morn.	Preschool w/ Parents			Nature Club "Animal Signs" 2 p.m.					
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nature Movie 3-4			LEAP year		<b>MARCH</b>	Preschool w/ Parents		Full Moon	Red Winged Blackbirds returning				
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Nature Movie 3-4			Look for Pussy Willows		Preschool w/ Parents People, pest policy 7:00 PM								
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Nature Movie 3-4					Preschool w/ Parents	New Moon ST. PATRICK'S DAY	Star Gazing 7pm	Cloud Date 7pm					
Vernal Equinox		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NBS Garden Meeting 1pm			HAPPY SPRING!!! Early Spring Vacation Week	NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK		SKUNK cabbage up!	Ospreys returning north						
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
EASTER Bird Walk 8 a.m.		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Easter Egg Hunt 1pm						Migration for geese and Ducks to north							
Bird Walk 8 a.m.		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Tree and Barn Swallows return		Preschool starts again next week!		Listen for Spring peepers	Next NBS newsletter due out!					

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