



The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME NO. 11 ISSUE 1

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Backyard Birding by Lawrence Taft

Winter 1990

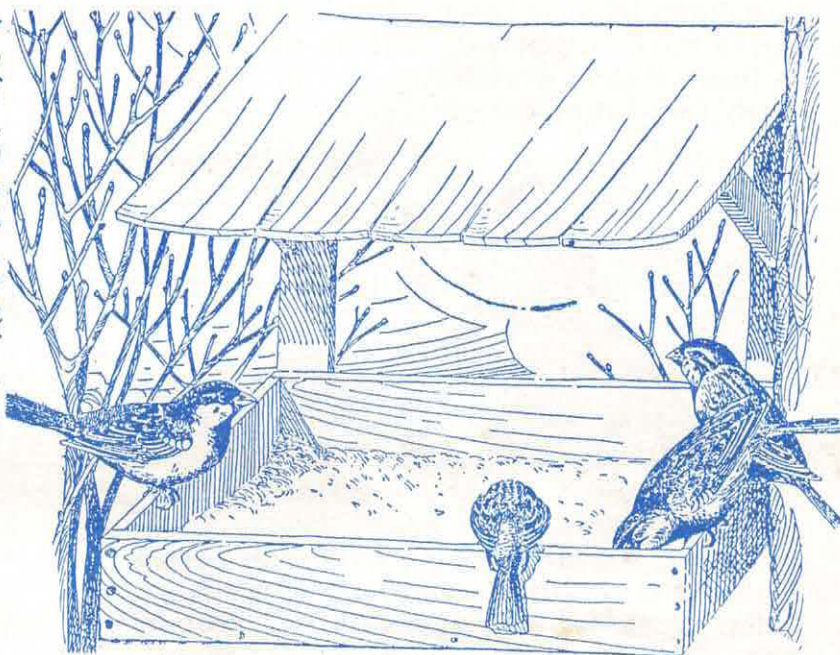
While taking a class in Ornithology during the Winter of 1988, I was given the task of compiling 3 ethograms (pie charts) of the behavior patterns of a local bird species. The ethograms were to be based on 180 minutes of observation made over three equal time periods in January, March and May. During each of the observation sessions, I was to try my best to observe the same individual for as long as I could, but barring that, I could observe another bird of the same species and sex. This was acceptable under the assumption that they all would exhibit similar behavior patterns.

I picked the male house sparrow as my subject, it being so common that I could spend more time observing its behavior, rather than looking for the bird, as would be the case with a more rare species. Because it is so common, (a nuisance actually), I had previously found the sparrow easy to ignore, and therefore, knew very little about it. After 3 hours of careful observation, to my delight, I found the "common" house sparrow to be quite an interesting bird.

To compose the ethogram, I had to try to fit the bird's activities into one of nine behavior functions: body care, feeding, territorial, courtship, nest building, caution, displaced aggression, resting and agonistic (hostile or aggressive behavior not related to predation). I then added up the number of minutes that the bird exhibited each type of behavior pattern.

Below is a description of the changes in behavior over the three observation periods with excerpts from the journal of notes I kept to compose the ethograms.

During the January observation period the male house sparrow spent almost 50% of



its time feeding and 25% of its time was devoted to agonistic and caution type behaviors.

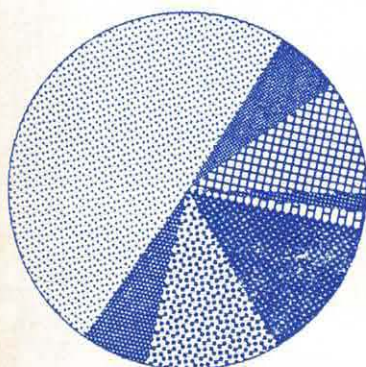
"January 21, 1988 8:10 am. I observe the feeding stations in the courtyard on the south side of the Sanctuary barn. The weather is sunny but windy, the temperature is 39 degrees farenheit."

"A mixed flock of house sparrows, and white throated sparrows feed on the ground below the feeder. I pick one male house sparrow to observe. A handful of house finches and a cardinal are perched in an evergreen tree a few feet away. The male house sparrow spends most of its time feeding on seeds that are on the ground but occasionally stops and rests (This feeding / resting behavior continues for 2 one minute intervals)."

continued on next page

"Suddenly, 'my' bird jumps at another male house sparrow that wanders near, chasing it away and landing on exactly the spot where the other bird was standing. It looks up occasionally, flies up to a perch three feet above the ground to join other male house sparrows, and is chased away by yet another male. Feeding on the ground again, it is quickly chased off into the evergreen tree by the arrival of a small flock of white throated sparrows (This display of agonistic behavior was observed for 3 one minute intervals)."

"The bird flies to the nearby fence and wipes its bill back and forth on the post, (a brief display of displaced aggression). Sitting alone on the top of the fence it looks around and ducks its head (displaying caution) as a mixed flock of sparrows land on the ground to feed. It then begins to preen its feathers (body care behavior)."



January

Agonistic	13.4%
Caution	11.9%
Body Care	6.0%
Feeding	49.3%
Territoriality	6.0%
Courtship	10.4%
Displaced Aggression	1.5%
Resting	1.5%

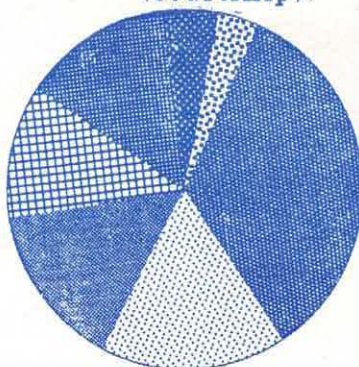
During the second observation period in March, feeding remained the primary behavior (33%), and agonistic and caution behaviors dropped down (8%). Territorial, courtship and displaced aggression became more evident (44%). Here is a brief excerpt from the March journal.

"March 1, 8:25 am. The weather is sunny, the temperature is 25 degrees. I observe the feeding station on north side of barn."

"The male house sparrow is at the feeder, (feeding for 3 one minute intervals), a female is on the ground below. Another male comes to feeder and the first one chases it away, then resumes feeding (agonistic behavior 1 min.) The male flies to the fence and is constantly looking around (caution behavior). It is joined on the fence by a female, which it hops toward. The female then flies off, and the male flies after her (courtship behavior)."

"The male, sitting on top the fence, begins to flutter its tail in a swift up and down motion (territorial). It is joined on the fence by a female and it begins to hop and

bow. Later, 3 other males and a female land on the fence. The male begins to chirp (courtship)."



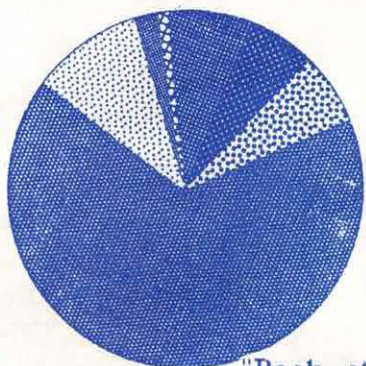
March

Agonistic	5.0%
Caution	3.4%
Feeding	33.9%
Territoriality	16.9%
Courtship	15.3%
Displaced Aggression	11.9%
Resting	13.6%

During the May observation period, a big change in male house sparrow behavior began to appear. I observed it devote over 66% of his time defending territory. Below is an excerpt from the notes from this observation period.

"May 1, 12 noon. I observe the feeding station on the north side of the barn. The weather is cloudy and the temperature is 45 degrees. A small group of male and female house sparrows are sitting on the fence. A flock of house finches are at the nearby feeder."

"The male house sparrow hops and bows repeatedly along the top fence rail (courtship). The females fly off. The male then begins to flick its tail (territorial). The females return. The male resumes the hop and bow routine. The females again fly off with the male in pursuit (courtship)."



May

Agonistic	6.2%
Feeding	6.2%
Territory	66.7%
Courtship	10.1%
Nest Building	2.3%
Displaced Aggression	0.8%
Resting	7.8%

"Back at the feeder the male feeds briefly and flies to the fence, and then to the ground. It picks up a straw (nest building), and flies on to the fence with the straw in its beak. Upon the arrival of some other males, it drops the straw and takes a stance in which its head is stretched toward its adversary and its wings are drooped downward (territorial stance). They all fly off. Later, on the fence the male begins its tail flicking action again (territorial). A few females land on the fence briefly and fly off. The male wipes its beak repeatedly on the fence post (displaced aggression). It then flies over to the feeder (feeding)."

Dear Henny Penny,

We found a seagull with a broken wing on our road in Newport. How come the Bird Sanctuary didn't come and get it to fix its wing?

Signed
Angry with NBS

Dear Angry Person,

Your situation is not unique. The Sanctuary receives hundreds of calls every year regarding birds with broken wings. Some people request us to pick up the bird. Others bring the birds to us. Let me state the Sanctuary's response to some of these situations. Because we have limited facilities, staff and budget for wild animal care, we serve primarily as a source of information. When we receive a call, we always try to assess each situation carefully. When possible, we encourage people to leave the bird alone.

If the animal is in danger, or poses a problem to people, there are usually two responses- call your local animal control officer (at the Police Dept.) who has the ability to pick up the animal (especially gulls and larger animals), or get someone to help you throw a blanket or sheet over the gull, or smaller bird (be careful with mammals- always wear gloves) thus blocking its vision and enabling the rescuer to pick it up and put it in a large box. From that point, the gull can either be taken to a veterinarian for treatment (broken bird bones are tricky to set, however), brought to the Sanctuary where we can help you evaluate what to do next, or released into the wild where it is not apt to be bothered by dogs, cats, or people - an empty beach is a good choice for a gull.

We at the Sanctuary believe that some animals that have been injured to the point where they are unable to be rehabilitated, either should be put to sleep in a humane manner, or released back into the wild to die naturally as part of the ecological web of life.



Henny
Penny

So, to answer your original question- no, we are unable to go and pick up injured gulls, and no, there are no veterinarians on our staff and we are often unable to get the gull to a vet for proper treatment. We would like to help people make a decision when a situation involves the life of an animal. After all, the Sanctuary cannot be held responsible for all local wildlife - it's also up to you as caretakers of this world.

I thank you for your time and please, do not get angry with us. A happy Winter season to all of you.

-Henny Penny



Sanctuary School Program Receives Grant

The Sanctuary has received a grant for \$11,174 from the Rhode Island Foundation to teach a year long program, Project ISLE (Island Schools Learning about their Local Environment) to ten fourth grade classrooms on Aquidneck Island. In progress during the 1989-1990 school year, this pilot program will reach approximately 250 students through two Sanctuary natural history tours and five in-school visits. So far, students have made their own maps of the island, with emphasis on open areas, and have studied the habitats of animals and plants on the island. They will be compiling an "Island Wildlife Guide", to be made available to the general public in the Spring. The schools who are participating include: Aquidneck, Cluny, Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, Elmhurst, Kennedy, Hathaway, Melville, and Sheffield.

NBS Intern

Welcome to Jordan O'Reilly, our new education intern who will help us teach Project ISLE in the schools and public programs at the refuge. Jordan will be coming fresh from an internship at Alton Jones Campus at U.R.I. She has had a number of teaching and learning experiences nationwide, from research on humpback whales in Hawaii to fishing on boats in Alaska. Join her for some of the special programs she'll be teaching this winter and spring.

Special Programs

Signing with Nature for Children and Families

Saturday, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3

2-3:30 pm

Animals have their way of "talking" and many of us have another way of talking with our mouths, but can you think of another language that is used worldwide by millions of people? It's the language of the hands, also known as signing. Characteristics of animals and ecological concepts can be understood more easily when the words are acted out by their signs. Ellena Ferreira, a member of the deaf community will be helping us learn the basics of signing as it applies to some images of the natural world. The first session of this class will lay the groundwork by focusing on letters and simple words. During the second class, the group will take a walk along the trails learning and applying some of the descriptive signs in this beautiful language. Adults and children (in kindergarten and older) are welcome. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$10 (\$8 NBS adult members)

\$8 (\$6 NBS child members)

Limit: 15 adults/children

Pre-registration is required.

Animal Signs in Winter Walk

Saturday, February 17

1 pm

From winter tracks to "scat" left to mark a hunting territory, animals are not always visible, but they leave many clues to tell us they are around. Some of the clues may go undetected by an untrained eye. Follow a Sanctuary Staff Naturalist on a walk through the trails looking for the many signs left behind. Dress warmly and bring your best senses for piecing together evidence! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$5 (\$4 NBS adult member)

\$4 (\$3 NBS child member)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration is required

Winter Adaptations

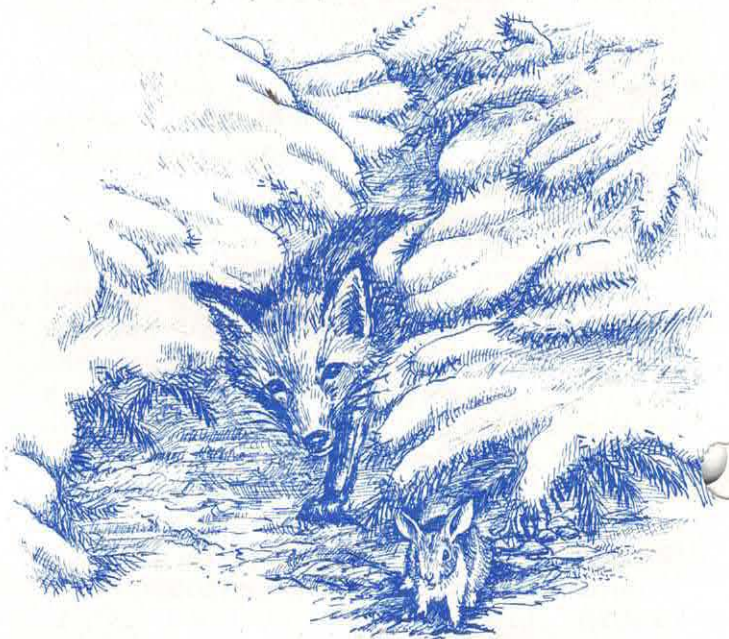
Thursday, January 25 7 pm

How do animals survive in the winter time? Where do they go when they migrate or hibernate? Find out the answers to these mysteries of nature in the winter season during this one hour slide show and "hands-on" lecture, for both children and adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS adult member)

\$3 (\$2 NBS child member)

Pre-registration is required



Global Gobbledygook: Songs and Stories About Our Planet

with Ann Shapiro

Saturday, April 7 1 pm

This one woman show will offer a variety of musical instruments, lots of audience participation, and a blending of tales and tunes focusing on the light-hearted side of our planet's environmental predicament. Ann Shapiro, of Crackerbarrel Entertainments will perform for children and their families, and all other interested earthly beings during this forty-five minute concert in the Sanctuary barn.

Fee: \$6 (\$5 NBS adult members)

\$4 (\$3 NBS child members age 3-12)

Tickets are available

Pre-registration is suggested

Programs

Herbs and Natural Healing

Wednesday, March 14 7-9 pm

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: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration is required

Woodcock Walk

Saturday, March 17

5:30 pm

What has its eyes toward the back of its head, has an upsidedown brain, and performs a dance that can rival Baryshnikov? Only the strange and magical Woodcock, of course! Help us celebrate the annual arrival of this Spring reveler as we listen for the famous "peent" call and watch the aerial performance of the male as he courts the females.

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration is required.

Organic Lawn Care and Composting

Wednesday, March 21

7 pm

Start your Spring off on a green note by learning about the wonderful advantages of treating your lawn and garden organically. Mike Merner of Earth Care Farm in Charlestown, R.I. has been in this business for years and has happy clients to prove its success. Through a slide show and lecture, he will let you in on the secrets to a healthy and ecologically sound lawn and start you on the right path to home composting. (For those who may be interested, we'll be touring his farm in February. Call us if you would like to be a part of this trip.)

Fee: \$5 (\$4 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required by March 19

Women's Wilderness Night

Sat.-Sun. March 24-25 Time TBA

A special retreat for women of all ages is being planned for this weekend in March, to celebrate the return of Spring, and the physical and spiritual strengths of being a woman. For more information, please call the Sanctuary. Space will be limited.

Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders

Thursday, March 29

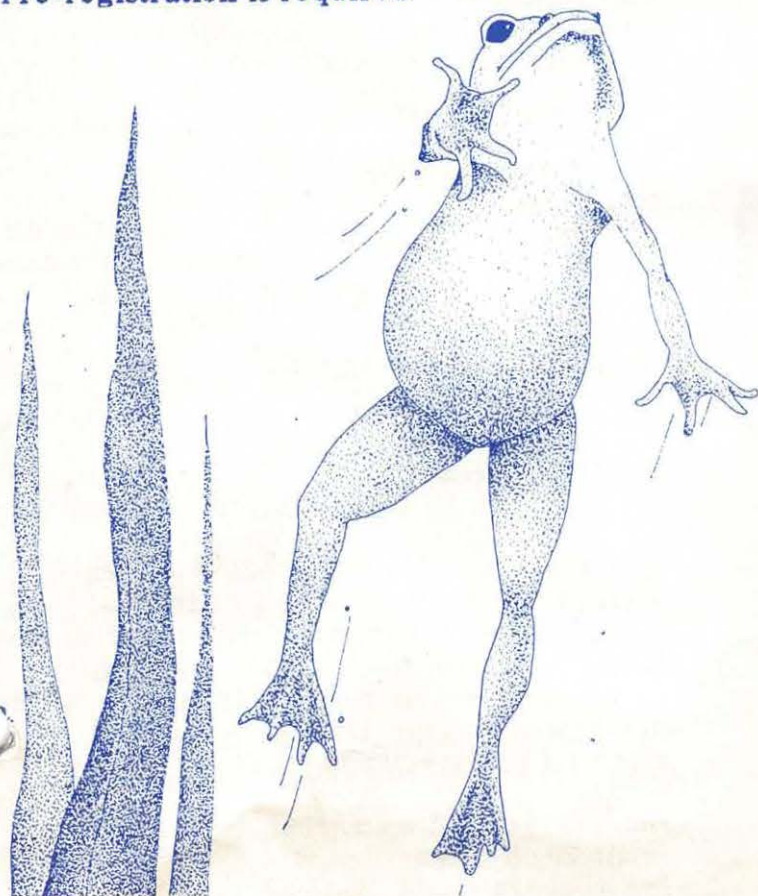
7 pm

The Spring season marks the return of some special creatures that awaken to lay their eggs in the vernal ponds that form after the first warm rains. These creatures, including the reptiles are called "herps" and have unique adaptations for surviving in the natural world. Chris Raithel, DEM Biologist will dazzle us with some fascinating stories about these animals during an indoor presentation. Later, if the weather and mood permit, participants can walk to the Sanctuary's ponds to observe these magnificent vertebrates.

Fee: \$3 (\$2 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

**Call the NBS office
to register
846-2577**



Children's Programs

Preschoolers with Parents

Wednesday afternoons 1-2 pm

Offered as a friendly introduction to nature, this hour long class will help both child (age 3-5) and parent explore and discover together. Themes and concepts are carefully chosen and taught through songs, games, stories, and outdoor walks. An adult may be responsible for two children. Both child and parent should dress warmly. You may register per session or per class.

Winter Session

1/24: Our Feathered Friends

1/31: Animal Tracks

2/7: Squirrels

2/14: Love a Skunk

Early Spring Session

2/28: Reptiles

3/7: Weather

3/14: Rock Hounding

3/21: Indians

Fee per session: \$12 (\$10 NBS members)

Fee per class: \$5 (\$4 NBS members)

Limit: 10 Child/Parent pairs

Pre-registration is required

Special Request- If you are an enthusiastic parent of a preschool child, age 3-5, who would be interested in helping to teach our Preschoolers with Parents Sessions, with the help of other parents, please call the Sanctuary and speak to Lisa.



Native American Stories and Craft

Sunday, February 11

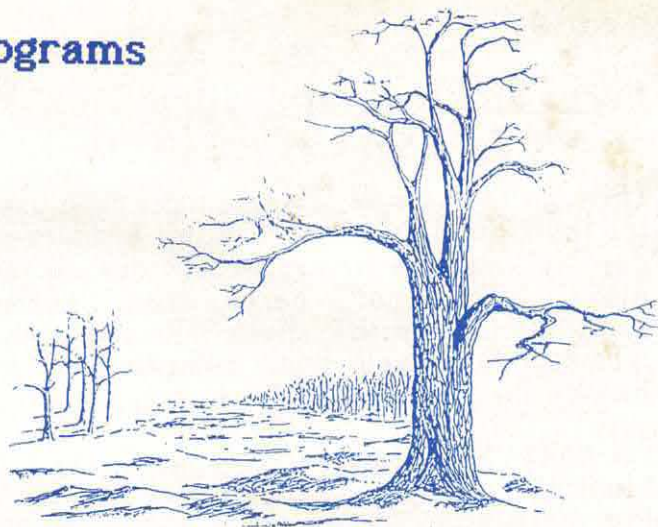
2-3:30 pm

Join Sanctuary Intern Naturalist Jordan O'Reilly for an afternoon of storytelling about the lives and lessons of the Native Americans. She'll then demonstrate the art of making a "dream catcher", a craft treasured by children in many native cultures. Children in grades K-4 are welcome.

Fee: \$6 (\$5 NBS members)

Limit: 10 children

Pre-registration is required



Nature Club

Saturday mornings 9:30-12:30

Come spend the winter and spring with nature! Saturday morning Nature Club is a wonderful alternative learning experience. Children, in grades K-4, will learn about the wonders of nature through stories, songs, crafts, and hikes under the gentle guidance of a Sanctuary Naturalist. Each week of the four part session, the group will explore a new theme. Children should dress for the weather. A healthy mid-morning snack will be served.

Winter Session #1

1/20: Winter Adaptations

1/27: Tracking Wild Animals

2/3: Winter Weather

2/10: Hawks and Owls

Winter/Spring Session #2

3/3: Dinosaurs

3/10: Exploring Habitats

3/17: Animal Kingdom

3/24: Adventure Along the Trail

Fee per session: \$36 (\$32 NBS members)

Limit: 10 children

Pre-registration is required

Winter Vacation Week

Mon.-Fri. Feb. 19-23 9:30-12:30

Take a look at how nature spends the winter! We'll be enjoying the magic of the season by hiking, playing games, learning stories and songs, and creating natural crafts. Children in grades K-4 can participate in this week. Dress warmly, in layers. A healthy mid-morning snack will be served.

Fee: \$45 (\$40 NBS members)

Limit: 20 children

Pre-registration is required



Earth Day 1990: Countdown Calendar and NBS Events

This year will mark the twentieth birthday of the original Earth Day in 1970 celebrated nationwide as the birth of the ecological awareness movement that has both strengthened and waned in years since. The Norman Bird Sanctuary would like to help keep this movement alive and rekindle the spark for the new decade. Significantly, the Sanctuary will be having its own birthday this year, as it celebrates 40 years of preservation and protection of its 450 acres given to future generations of Aquidneck Island by Mabel Norman Cerio in 1950. By participating in these statewide and local events, you and your family will help spread the message worldwide about the importance of taking good care of our earth and on the local level, your own backyard Sanctuary.

January 27: Save The Bay Land Use Conference

March 10: R.I. Audubon Teacher Workshop: "Earth Day Resources"

March 16-18: New England Environmental Conference at Tufts University

March 24: Issues Day TBA

April 7: NBS presents "Global Gobbledygook" with Ann Shapiro

April 20: Environmental Council of R.I. Dinner and Auction

April 22: **EARTH DAY**- hikes, canoeing, horticultural demonstrations, and other activities to be announced, Roger Williams Park. Also see the NBS Spring flyer for NBS events!

April 25: Gaylord Nelson, former Senator from Wisconsin and speaker at the first Earth Day, Roger Williams College

April 23-30: R.I. Plant Week

April 27: Arbor Day

April 28: Statewide Litter Clean-Ups

**We travel together, passengers on a
little spaceship... called Earth**

NBS Community Garden Meeting

Sunday, April 1

1 pm

If you are interested in having a garden plot at the Sanctuary during the 1990 gardening season, you must attend this meeting. Returning gardeners must also attend, if you wish to keep your garden from last year. A representative from the R.I. Organic Certification Committee will be on hand to talk about progress made in the past year and to answer any questions about organic gardening.

-ALSO-

The R.I. Organic Certification Committee - NOFA (Nat'l Organic Farming Assoc.) will be meeting in February. New members are welcome. Call Sharon Culbertson at 624-8171 for more information.

GRANTS

The NBS received a grant of \$12,500 from the Champlin Foundation to purchase a new Sanctuary truck. We also received \$4,000 from the Conservation Foundation for publicity for the Grey Craig Project.

Volunteer Carpenter Needed!

The Sanctuary has a few carpentry projects for someone who is able to spare a few hours. For example, our sheep house will be falling down, if we don't get help soon!!



Wanted: ALIVE !

Have you seen or heard this bird, a little too closely for what you might expect of a wild bird? We are trying to find the location of "Baby", a "sociable" Great Horned Owl that we released 4 years ago, and haven't heard from in six months. If you have any information of her whereabouts, please call the Sanctuary! We miss hearing about her.

-Please Note-

Sunday Morning Bird Walks
will be discontinued until March 18

Owl Prowls

Silently prowl the trails listening for the mating calls of the Sanctuary's two resident owls-the Great Horned and the Screech. This is the season to call them out of the darkness. We are offering two kinds of "prowls" for all those who are interested. Choose the best for you, and join us as we learn about the fascinating lives of these creatures during a brief indoor presentation and then venture out to find them. Dress warmly, and bring a flashlight. Pre-registration is required.

For Families: Saturday, Jan. 20 7 pm

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS adult members)

\$2 (\$1 NBS child members)

For Adults: Friday, Jan. 19 7 pm

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS members)

Survey of Rhode Island Birds

Thurs. nights Feb. 1, 8, 15 7-9 pm

Sun. morning field trip Feb. 18 8 am

If you're a beginner birder, or if you would like to learn more about the natural history of the birds you've been watching for years, this mini-course will be of help. Sanctuary Director Larry Taft will teach about all the feathered friends one is apt to see in R.I. Guide books will be available for purchase.

Fee: \$20 (\$15 NBS members)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration is required

Valentine's Day Wreath Making

Saturday, February 10

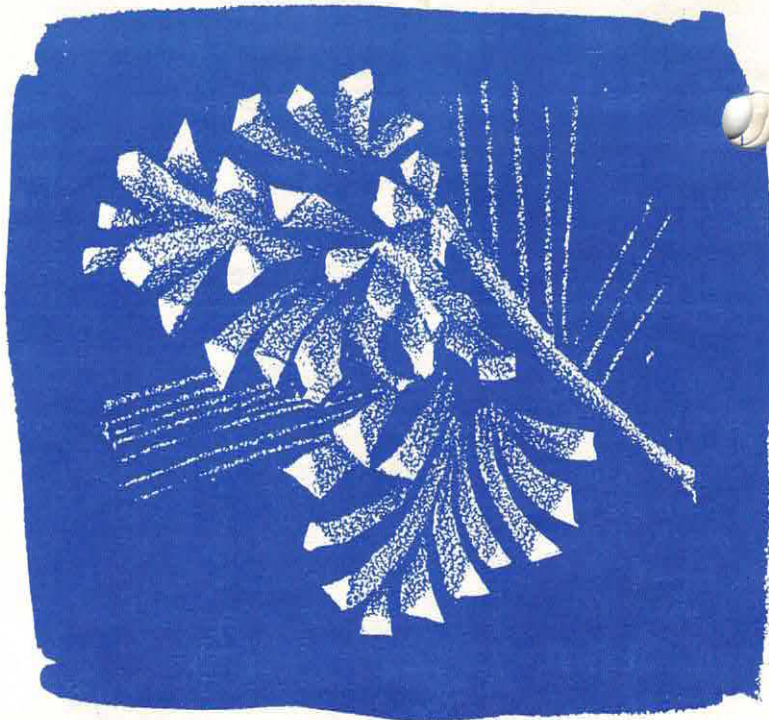
1:30-3:30

Send someone you love a special heart-shaped, handmade, dried rosebud and baby's breath wreath. Sharon Culberson from Hilltop Gardens will help you design and assemble this heart-felt gift. Bring your nimble fingers, a pair of reliable clippers or scissors, and a heart filled with love.

Fee: \$14 (\$12 NBS Members)

Limit: 10

Pre-registration is required.

**Identifying Trees in Winter**

Saturday, February 24

1-3 pm

Julie Morris, Horticulturist at Blithwold Gardens in Bristol will lead this indoor class, helping participants to understand how to identify trees by looking closely at their characteristics- bark, buds, and bud and leaf scars on sample twigs. By learning to look for the particular pattern of characteristics that each species or family of trees have, one will find it easier to use a field guide and identify trees when seen in the wild or in gardens.

Fee: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 15

Pre-registration is required.

**Trash and Environmental Quality-
What You Can Do**

Wednesday, March 7

7 pm

Though Middletown and Portsmouth have yet to take part in the mandatory statewide recycling program, Newport is just beginning to see the beneficial effects of "doing it again". Katherine Maxwell, Newport's Recycling Coordinator will present some solutions to Aquidneck Island's household garbage glut- disposables, source reduction, and hazardous waste during this informal lecture and "hands-on" discussion.

Fee: \$3 (\$2 NBS members)

Pre-registration is required

From the Fearless Hunter to the Seven Sisters:

Stargazing For Children

Friday, March 23 7 pm

Begin to watch the nightly sky and learn about the legends of the stars as they perform before us. Watch for the magical appearance of man and beast as the twinkles become alive with stories told by NBS Intern Naturalist, Jordan O'Reilly. Children should dress for the weather, bring binoculars, if they have them, and must be accompanied by an adult. A cloud date will be held Saturday, March 24.

Fee: \$6 adult/child (\$4 NBS adult/ child member pair)

Limit: 8 adult/child pairs

Pre-registration is required

Nest Shelf Building

for Swallows or Robins

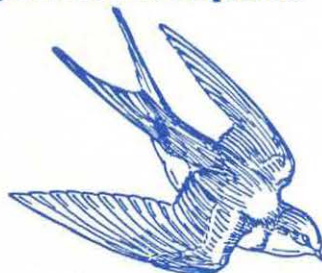
Saturday, March 31 1-3 pm

Learn to make a nesting shelf in time for the Spring return of the Barn Swallow or Robin. A nesting shelf will offer a comfortable ledge for these birds that prefer a rafter-like place to hold their mud nests. Each participant will make a shelf to take home in time for the nesting season. Tools, supervision, and instruction will be provided. Children in grades 3-6 may participate.

Fee: \$12 (\$10 NBS members)

Limit: 8

Pre-registration is required



barn swallow

Spring Vacation Week

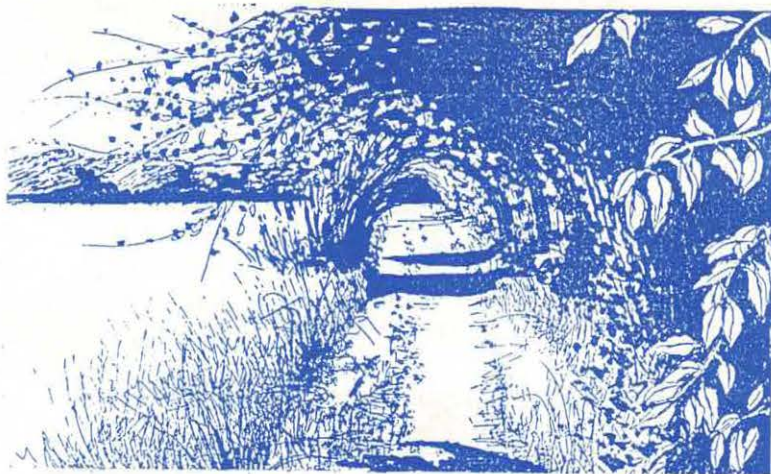
Mon.-Fri. April 19-23 9:30-12:30

Look for the signs of Spring as nature wakes from her long winter's nap. We'll spend more time exploring outdoors, as the weather warms, but will find time to learn new games and stories, and make crafts indoors. Dress for the weather. A mid-morning snack will be served.

Fee: \$45 (\$40 NBS members)

Limit: 20 children

Pre-registration is required



New!

Teacher/Parent Workshops

Geology for the Non-Geologist

Thursday, March 8

The World of Birds

Wednesday, April 4

Discovering Nature with your Preschooler

Wednesday, May 9

These workshops will help both Educators and Parents learn about the Sanctuary's approach when working with children in an outdoor setting. Using nature to set the stage, each workshop will combine the use of outdoor techniques and resources with indoor projects and games. Hand-outs will be included. Participants should dress to be outside.

Fee: \$12 (\$10 NBS members)

Time: 3-5 pm

Space is limited

Pre-registration is required

Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 14 1pm

Celebrate the return of the warmer weather and the arrival of Spring and all she brings - new life and hope. Venture through the Sanctuary's buildings and trails looking for the delicious treats hidden as part of the search for signs of Spring. Find the special "earth eggs" that contain extra special surprises. Children, ages 3-10 may participate in this Sanctuary events. This program is limited to members only.

Fee: \$4 One child/parent pair

\$6 family

Limit: 30 children

Pre-registration is a must

Director's Notes

Gray Craig Update

We're almost there! We have drafted a letter of agreement with the the Grey Craig developers outlining construction limitations and conservation easements to protect the Grey Craig estate. At this point the letter is in our lawyer's hands, and we anticipate that it will be signed shortly.

The agreement includes development guidelines which restrict construction. In addition, conservation easements provide further protection for the future. These easements are legally binding restraints which control the use of the land and protect its scenic and environmental values in perpetuity, regardless of future ownership.

The key elements of the agreement are: reducing development from the originally-proposed 56 dwelling units to a limit of 23 dwelling units, 12 of which must be developed within existing estate buildings; placing conservation easements on 37 acres including the "puddingstone" ridges and a 200-foot buffer around Nelson Pond, part of the drinking water reservoir; and, outright purchase of 14.5 acres of land in the northeast corner of the estate adjacent to the Norman Bird Sanctuary and Paradise Brook.

With this agreement, the wildlife habitats and drinking water reservoir will be protected and open space will be preserved for the community and its future citizens.

Soon the fund raising must begin. The purchase price for easements, restrictions and land totals \$1.15 million. Additional funds will be required for surveying and closing

costs, financing, and a legal defense fund to protect the easements against any future encroachment. The total dollars needed will be confirmed later this month.

The Bird Sanctuary will embark on a capital campaign in 1990 to raise the necessary funds. We will seek gifts and grants from private foundations, businesses and individuals. We will also seek support from Middletown and Newport.

In late December, Barry Murphy and I presented the project to the Middletown Open Space Committee, and, in a separate meeting, to the Town Council. We requested that the Town match the state's commitment of \$400,000 by investing \$400,000 from town open space funds. The Middletown contribution would be used to purchase the 14.5 acre parcel in the northeast corner of the estate. This parcel would be protected open space for enjoyment by the community. Access would be provided through the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

An investment by Middletown is critical to this project. The State of Rhode Island as well as private foundations and donors expect to see leadership from the town. **The Town Council will discuss this project at its second January meeting scheduled for the 16th.** Any support that you might offer would be most helpful.

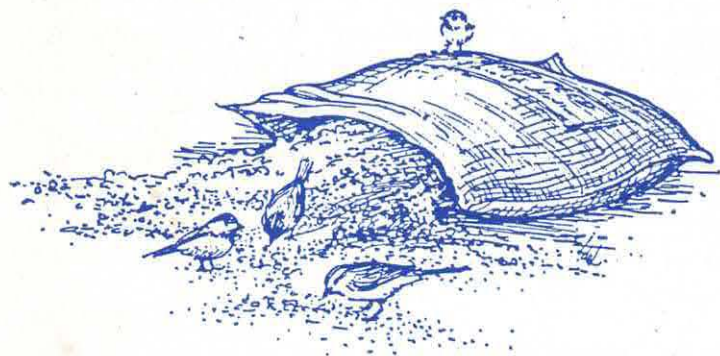
We will keep you informed of developments and look forward to your assistance.

Happy new year,

Lawrence Taft
Lawrence Taft



I thoroughly enjoyed the task of making the house sparrow ethograms. It added new excitement to birdwatching for me by forcing me to learn more about the ordinary birds instead of always pursuing new ones. Through informal observation, you too can learn much about the intricate social behaviors of your backyard birds. A good reference is the Guide to Bird Behavior by Donald Stokes (available in our bookstore). Though you may think your back yard birdfeeder is only for the birds, it is really there for your enjoyment. Take advantage of it, and happy winter birding!



Wish List

First wishes for the new year!

- A color T.V
- A VCR
- Two office chairs
- Touch tone telephone
- Laser printer
- Computer table
- \$100 for veterinary supplies
- \$75 for the purchase of educational books for the NBS library
- 2 Office lamps
- office desk
- heating pad
- towels
- stale cereal and bread

The Norman Bird Flyer is published quarterly by the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit 450 acre nature preserve established under the will of Mabel Norman Cerio

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Receptionist: June Doolittle

Intern Naturalist: Jordan O'Reilly

Graphics: Kirsten Pilblad, SMU illustration students, Erika King, Amy Wright, and Lucia deLeiris

Volunteers and Donations

We'd like to thank all of you who helped make the Fall of 1989 one of our most successful, in terms of volunteer hours, donated skills and goods, and money raised for the Sanctuary. We are truly appreciative of this achievement and we're indebted for your help, right down to the donation of last breadcrumb for our animals!

For help with our Harvest Fair, a huge **Thank You** to Sharon Pelletier and Kathy Finn, the dynamic duo (putting Batman and Robin to shame!) who took on another year of the labor intensive job of organizing everything, as Co-Chairs of the entire Fair. Included in their share, of course are their family members who couldn't help but be swept up into the action! Thank you to Phil, Sarah, and Jonathan and all their friends who were called on to help. To all the Harvest Fair Chairs, we thank **you** for sharing your busy schedules to organize the variety of factions that make the fair so great. You are: Fran Holmes, Al Marcantonio, Greer Silvia, Carol Maloney, Ginny Purviance, Garrett Sullivan, Toni Murphy, Bonnie Williams, Dierdre Roettinger, Lenny DeAngelis, Moia Martland, Linda Michaud, Anne Damon, Fran Roeder, Nigel Henderson, Phil Rondina, Norm Hall, Bev Murphy, C.G. King, Morris Hirsch, Roger Gilman, Pat Archer, Peggy Hughes, Fran Babcock, and Cally Gottlieb. And thanks to all volunteers young and old, family and stranger, who contributed some part of their time for this fundraiser.

For public programs this Fall, thanks to Millie House, Dr. Roger Goos, Sharon Culberson, and Jocelyn Sherman.

For children's programs, thanks to Jenny Morgan, Ken Dolbashian and St. Georges students- Sarah Light, Narissa Willever, and Bill Durgin.

For Trail work, thanks to St. Georges students, Sarah Light, Eleanor Lucas, Narissa Willever, Bill Durgin, Mike McShane, and Matt Davies.

For help with animal care and food, thanks to Charles Donald, Erin Carney, Emily and Becca Leslie, Susan Roberts, Tom Richter, George Shippee, Pamela Watley, Lee Tollman, and Star Market.

Lastly, thanks to Liz Franks for her sewing skills needed to repair our earthball, Mrs. William Sherman for the T.V. stand, and Kirsten Pilblad and Bob Barry's SMU illustration class for graphics.



Norman Bird Sanctuary
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OR TO CURRENT RESIDENT

Are You Due to Renew?

Your NBS membership renewal date is printed on the mailing label below your address. If you're due to renew soon please use the enclosed form and send it along with your renewal check. By using this form and sending your renewal ahead, you can save the Sanctuary the cost of sending out reminders. This will help us put your membership dollars to better use.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional/Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$1000.00

If you are not a member, please use this form to become one!

What's Happening at the Sanctuary?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY						
14 Remember... NO BIKU WALK here!!	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16	17	18 Hoo Hoo!	19 Owl Prowl 7pm	20 Nature Club begins
21 NBS trails open for X country skiing ..	22	23 Meeting season for Raccoons	24 Preschool 1-2pm begins	25 NEW MOON	26 Owl Prowl 7pm	27 Nature Club Signing with Nature
28 Listen for Foxes yelping while covering	29	30 Preschool 1-2pm	31 FEBRUARY	1 Winter Adapting Tip	2 GROUNDED HOB DAY	3 Nature Club Signing with Nature
4	5	6 Preschool 1-2pm	7 Bird Class 7-9	8 O FULL MOON	9	10 Nature Club Wreath Making 100-330
11 Native American Stories & Crafts	12	13 Preschool 1-2pm	14 Bird Class 7-9	15	16 Animal Signs in Winter Walk	17
18 Bird Class Bird Walk 8am	19 WINTER VACATION WEEK	20 THANK SNOW!	21 PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSED	22	23 Identifying Trees 1-3pm	24
25 NEW MOON	26	27 Preschool 1-2pm begins	28 MARCH	1	2 Nature Club begins	3
4 Find some Pussy Willows	5	6 Preschool 1-2pm Recycling 7pm	7 Redwing Blackbirds Return	8	9 Nature Club	10
11 O FULL MOON	12 LINCOLN'S DAY	13 Preschool 1-2pm Herbs & Nat'l Healing	14 SPRING	15 Think Spring!	16 Nature Club Woodcock Walk	17
18 BIRD WALKS begin...	19 WASHINGTON'S DAY	20 Natty Wildlife Week	21 Preschool 1-2pm Organic Lawn Care	22 Skunk Cabbage up! r.u.	23 Stargazing for children 7pm	24 Nature Club Women's Wilder-
25 NEW MOON	26	27 Ospreys returning	28	29 Herps Program 7pm	30 Nest Shelf Building 1-3pm	31
APRIL						
1 Garden Meeting 1pm	2 Spring Keepers...	3	4 Migration of ducks and geese to north	5	6 Global Gobblodygook 1pm	7
8 Tree and Barn Swallows return!	9 O FULL MOON	10	11	12 Spring NB? Newsletter should be out by now!	13 Spring Eggs Hunt	14