

1! The wine tasting party was a two hundred dollar success for our teaching program. People enjoyed it and the teaching program is, after all one of the things we are all about. A glance at the calendar shows that we are booked solid through September! For a run down of the Spring school program look on the back page.

We had a tremendously popular exhibit at Ecology Fair on Earth Day at Touro Park. Everybody went. The snakes, Wisteria and Halsey were there. Whiff, being a nocturnal animal as skunks are, spent the day asleep under a newspaper with only her tail showing to prove her presence. The screech owl enjoyed the day hugely, such curious creatures, owls. Baby mallards went too, and some geese. It seems absurd that only a few weeks ago they were no bigger than your fist, and bright yellow! Soon they can take over the guarding of the Sanctuary. After all it was geese that saved Rome from The Vandals, and geese are used to guard the great Scotch distilleries in Scotland. In the late 1800s a British division had a pet goose to serve as its ears when stationed in Ireland. (In his old age that goose was decorated and finally buried with full military honours.)

work goes on at the dam.. Money was given to dredge the bottom of Maple Swamp Pond while it is drained. Dredging should be done every three years-- it has been 10 since the Newport Garden Club built the dam and dredged.

One of our boys in Bristol found a Great Horned Owl. It was wounded. With parental co-operation it arrived at NBS. It had been shot through the left wing, a clean break which could be pinned if we could find a surgeon willing to do the operation. The father of one of our students is a surgeon! A few days later a happy "pinned" owl was started on its way to recovery. Time and again it has been noticed that the students' interest is carried home and the parents get involved. Because of this visiting owl we have learned to our shame, that we have attributed Hooter to the wrong sex. Visitor hooted at Hooter in basso profundo, and Hooter answered in soprano! We apologize.

A Black Crowned Night Heron was caught in a muskrat trap. Its toes were slightly injured. However it would not fly. Nor would it eat fresh, albeit dead, smelts. Heron are wading birds and used to live food. It was finally able to eat dead fish but was still unable to recover.

Another visitor for the summer in "Norman", a bull calf of Holstein lineage. Did you know that calves have eyelashes that would make a Hollywood starlette



weep with envy? Norman also has curly white eye brows. At the moment he stands 4" taller than neightour's German police dog: but as Ogden Nash said-"The trouble with a kitten is that. Eventually is becomes a cat." Norman will be long gone from the Sanct. before he becomes a bull. Right now he's almost cuddly. Just give him time.

A wee fox, "Carson" was found by some boys and brought to us. He was weak but not damaged, but he is young and wild. He can not cope with the world alone. And here we have a potential tragedy building. If we turn him loose he'll die of starvation: keeping him he will look to man for food. So we shall keep him, later letting him hunt on his own. Please God, a lovely vixen will cross his path next Spring!

The Inflation Gardens are plowed and some are planted. Quite a number of people have decided to beat the rising costs of food by growing their own. It is a delight to have them use the Sanct. land. We shall exhort Nature to keep all rabbits, raccoons, crows, pheasants, etc. away from these plots of land as the harvests ripen! To keep insects from chewing up vegetable & flower gardens there are praying mantis egg cases available for 25¢. Call 847-7637.

"Project I.D." is now nationwide. There is a telecommunications system across our nation to track down stolen goods IF THEY ARE I.Ded. If you have not I.Ded. your possessions you are silly. Go to the police station and DO IT! Don't wait to lock the barn door after the horse etc. Project I.D. is a gift from NBS to the Island communities. It may take one hour to I.D. your house. The decal on your door is the deterrent, the code tracks your goods IF a robber is so stupid as to pass by the decal.

How would you like to gain 200 lbs. in 6 weeks? That's what happens to baby seals in the first few weeks of life. They need fat to keep them warm in the cold water where they are taught to swim. In the huge herds of seals, Mothers and babies recognize each other by smell, as many warm-blooded mammals do. Birds do not. They accept any egg shaped thing in their nests. Cow birds count on this. Never do they build a nest of their own. Later in the summer we will see a family of perhaps sparrows--four small birds, one large baby bird and a parent bird. The parent will feed the big baby long after its own are airborne. The big baby will turn out to be a cowbird. (Nature's Welfare system)

Fifty Whooping Cranes migrated this Spring--down 9 from the Fall count. But naturalists feel this is because of normal attrition. The osprey count is way down in Westport--so far down it is probably the end of those gorgeous



birds in our part of the world. And all we wanted to do was to get rid of mosquitos, remember? We sprayed with DDT. We drove off the Purple Martins (they're back) and hastened the end of our ospreys. But we never got rid of the mosquitos.

As suggested by a school child, a spider went aloft in skylab. The purpose was to see how she would spin her web in weightlessness. Perhaps in the 150° heat that developed in Skylab, she withered and died--perhaps she's spinning away happily.

The Eskimos have decided that their igloos melt too fast and they have asked a Canadian company "Shelters, Ltd." to make them igloos of plastic blocks. Want to bet that eventually the Eskimos will be sorry to have lost the art of igloo building?

How false of us to refer to items made of plastic as "disposables" when there's absolutely no way to dispose of them!

We need a freezer! All our hawks, owls, and other carnivores eat born-in-hatcheries, day-old chicks. There are too many roosters born, so they are killed, frozen, and sold to serve as food for people, Carson and Wisteria. Our ancient freezer, rescued from the dump 9 or so years ago, has finally given up the ghost. It can not be resuscitated again. It is very expensive to buy chicken at the Supermarket, as you know. That is what we are feeding the boarders until we get a "new" freezer. We did buy a second hand typewriter and are in the market for a second hand mimeograph machine as our monthly bill for printing is out of sight (lots of printing for the class sheets of instruction). We would like a mimeo in elegant condition.

We have some "thankyous" to say. Thank you Newport business for allowing us to cut the addresses of our membership on your machine. Thank you Thompson-Forbes for the addressograph machine to run them off monthly. It used to take 3-4 days to ready The Bird for the mail--it now takes 45 mins. Thank you Audubon, for arranging the mail permit. We had to get large enough to fit postal regulations. Now we fit, each piece goes out for less than .02¢ a copy. Thank you, members for donating sod from your new garden plots for grassing over Drury Courtyard and thank you neighbouring Nursery for assistance in acquiring beautiful shrubs planted therein. We are getting bigger and beautifuller.

We can all save one gallon of gasoline out of each 10, if we drive more slowly. And we can prevent pitiful sights such as was seen near the Sanct. Someone speeding down 3rd Beach Rd. killed a male yellow warbler. The female was on the ground pulling on its mate's wing as tho' to say "Spread your wings &



you will fly". But the fragile neck bones of the male had been no match for the hood of a car. So she is alone, pregnant, with no mate to help nest building, to spare her in the nest, to feed her or to help with the feeding of the young. She can't do it alone. If only someone had driven down the road more slowly!

LAST CALL FOR DUES. If you've been meaning to write your dues-check, do it now.

The Spring school program has been busy, busy, busy, and certainly could not have been done if it was not for the many volunteers that showed up each morning to run the trips. In the months of May & June we played host to all the Middletown sixth grades, three fifth grades, five third grades, two kindergartens, and two second grades. In Newport we enjoyed the classes of two kindergartens, 1 fourth grade, 17 sixth grades, two senior grades, St. Michaels sixth grade (overnight). In Portsmouth we had the first, second, third, and kindergartens from St. Philomenas. We also had the Junior High from Barrington, two eighth grades from Warwick, six first grades from Bristol three third grades from Jamestown. In-service programs for Middletown High School, St. Georges School, Lincoln School, Wheeler School, three garden clubs, and eleven scout groups.

#### ACTIVITIES For the Summer are:

Fennig's All-Star String Band with good old-time country music and dancing. The band features hammered Dulcimer, Fiddle and Banjo, and dance instruction. Donation: \$2.00 per couple, \$1.50 singles. Put it on your calendar now for June 16th at 8:30pm at the Barn.

Nature films every Wednesday in July starting at 8:00pm. The cost of the films is quite high compared to the numbers of people who usually come. If we get a large enough crowd we will continue these programs through August, otherwise we will postpone them until Fall. The charge for members is 50¢, non-members, 75¢.

The last page of this letter concerns our Nature Day Camp Program. If you do not have children between the ages of 6 and 12, please give this page to someone who does.



# NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

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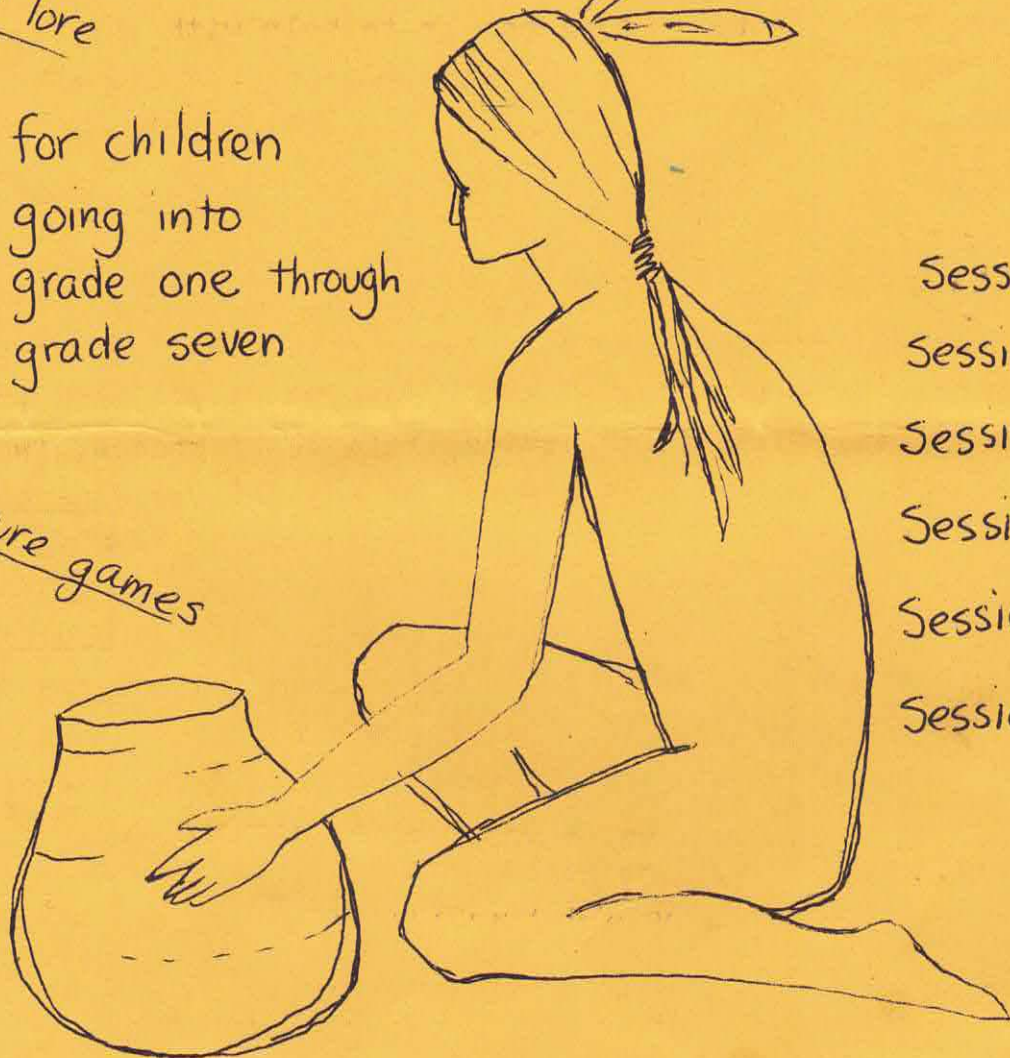
nature study

for children  
going into  
grade one through  
grade seven

nature games

Session I June 25-29  
Session II July 9-13  
Session III July 16-20  
Session IV July 23-27  
Session V July 30-Aug 3  
Session VI Aug 6-10

trained professional  
staff



## NATURE DAY CAMP

SIX one-week sessions

\$15.00 per session

\$10.00 for members of NBS

Registration

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

for Session \_\_\_\_\_

for further information  
please call us at  
846-2577