

The Sanctuary was going full blast by the last week of June. There are 15 teachers--nine of them on salary--and innumerable young helpers. Where would we be without them? Closed, or limping along, That's where we'd be! The Young People are just Great! Besides the humans at the Barn we have the usual assortment of others, baby birds etc., and a supply of unusual baby things too. A Lamb named Charles, baby possums, two sparrow hawks, a litter of tiny kittens plus a pregnant cat! She has found a home, the kittens will go to homes when they can feed themselves--they're still on eyedroppers. The sparrow hawks will be able to make their own strikes by Fall and then they'll join the Fall migrations. All the old standbys, Wisteria Mood Indigo (still growing,) Hooter, Whiffy, -all fine thank you. Wisteria has shed her skin twice since last the Bird wrote about it. Did you know that a snake sheds the lenses of its eyes and is almost totally blind, whenever its skin must go?

We had a lot of excitement over what the papers said was an immature Golden Eagle. Fearless Leader is sure it was the same Bald he's been watching at Sisson's Pond for 6 months. Either way it is not a well bird, but it refused to come down for bait so it could be captured and nursed back to health.

Poisonous snakes are multiplying in Italy. For generations Italian "sportsmen" have stationed themselves on the heel of the boot of Italy. There exhausted birds land after migrating from Africa, and are slaughtered by the millions. Probably lots more Italians must die from snake bites before the "sportsmen" realize the need for live birds.

Walter Cronkite said the names of birds are beautiful. They were named long ago in a gracious era. Bob-o-link, oriole, starling, upland plover--names to whisper as you fall asleep. Man now comes up with some unpleasant sounds. The lovely French word "rapport" becomes "rapp"! Those who named the most populated areas of our country give us more ugliness. Boswash is the area between Boston and Washington. Chicpitts is between Chicago and Pittsburgh. Sansan isn't too bad--that's the space between San Francisco and San Diego. NBS is 80 miles into Boswash!

The damage done by Agnes was bad enough for humans but for nesting animals it was 100% fatal. Birds and animals died of drowning and starvation.

In London, Chee Chee the Panda died, aged 15. She who refused the advances of an An, died without issue--as lawyers say. But not so Frazier! He sired 35 lion cubs in 16 months. Then he died--aged 18.

Amchitka Island, nine months after the atomic test blast, looks the same. You and I mourn the death of 1000 sea lions. Stockholm Ecology meeting yielded little. A half hearted ban on killing certain species of whales for 15 yrs.--those whales so decimated that they probably are already lost. The saddest thing is that there is no part of a whale without a substitute. No part of a whale is necessary for man's survival. Baffin Island, covered with flowers and wild life in 1960 is now covered with ice. Meteorologists feel a new glacier is forming. Maybe we are not imagining that the weather is most unusual.

A miniscule redwing flew up to defend his territory against the giant who did no harm--the Golden? Eagle. Ibises are breeding on Gould Island. Purple martins moved into their apartments before the houses were secured to the posts! The world seems to be getting itself together. When things are right for wild life things are right for man.

Ra, God of the Sun, is being honoured at NBS. A phone call during an Agnes day informed us that "there's an eagle down on our drive-way". The eagle proved to

be a dirty coloured ball of wet feathers, about the size of a juice orange, with a hawk beak. He was dried, warmed, fed snips of raw chicken and named Ra. Suddenly he became a hawk, tall, regal and beautiful. Before he is freed he'll be banded. Don't be alarmed if a hawk lands on your head. He's used to people. The second almost-victim of Agnes is "Janus" so named because these hawks have a camouflage--their caps and spots create a face on the back of their heads, to confuse their prey and confound their enemies. The crew at the NBS DID NOT KNOW THAT Janus was the Roman two-faced God--that the month of January was named after him as it is the month that looked back over Fall and forward to Spring. July was named after Julius Caesar and August after Caesar Augustus. Before those two got into the act, September, October, November and December were the 7th-10th months of the year. March is named after Mars the War God. But whence cometh February, April May and June?

✓ Shakespeare said "Sometime too hot the eye of Heaven shines". Throughout the terrible hot and humid days of July, it was lovely and cool in the Sanctuary. One can only be sad that there are so many millions who live too far away to enjoy our cool spot. But one wonders why more neighbors within hootin' distance don't come, sit by the waterfall, chew a spice bush leave, and let the swelter pass them by.

✓ What is the value of a smile (Author Unknown) A smile costs nothing, but creates much. It enriches those who receive it without impoverishing those who give it. It happens in a flash, but the memory of it may last a lifetime. No one is so rich that he can get along without it, and none so poor but are rich for it. It creates happiness in the home, goodwill in business, and is a sign of friends. It is rest to the weary, uplifts the discouraged, like sun to the sad, and nature's best antidote to daily woes. Yet it cannot be bought, begged or stolen for it is no earthly good until it is given away.

✓ Elephants are born without knowledge of their noses. An elephant trips over its trunk until he learns to curl up the tip. Many a baby elephant has almost sneezed his head off learning just how far up his trunk he may safely suck dust for a lovely dust bath.

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Now that we have your attention, please save Sunday afternoon September 24th for the 3rd Annual Benefit Cocktail Party at the NBS. Start saving your money--we need it for the winter teaching program in the public schools. Put the date on your calendar NOW

✓ With so many small animals living in the Barn-Museum it is necessary to keep the windows open. It took barn swallows no time at all to move in. They raised many nice families in perfect safety. The birds who chose the orchard did not fare so well. A neighbor's cat did them down, Altho' we threatened to shoot the cat, the neighbors did nothing (neither did we!)

✓ Next year all orchard trees and posts will have to be collared with metal to thwart feline.

There is no news about the renovation of Education Shed. We raised \$6,009.00., with R. I. Foundation matching dollars we have 12,009.00 drawing interest in Bank. Plans were drawn, bids let out, plans sent to Trustees for their majestic OK. They have not returned either plans or OK. And that is very bad as we all know it is in summer we should be making a winter classroom.

✓ If you notice that your checks to us are slow in being processed--don't blame us, blame computers. The Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary have grown to such a point that we have moved our monies from the cigar box to the Bank (with nine paychecks and all withholdings, tax forms and things it is too much for us). Our membership files are no longer in a recipe box either!

On the old trail that used to lead to the Osprey nest, there is a real Wigwam. In August we shall have a trial Nature Day Camp for pre-kindergartners. Little children will be Indians for 3 hours a day for one week. Don't you wish you qualified for that Day Camp? The Wigwam is made of willow wands driven into the earth, bent and lashed together with willow bark, and covered with rushes from the swamp. Such a Wigwam can be made any size and is water repellant-if not proof!

A pronouncement from the Army Corps of Engineers:-In order to prevent floods-wetlands will have to be preserved. Isn't it nice to have engineers say what we-with-eyes have known all along?

Politics are an illness. Like the fevers of malaria, those of politics rise and fall. Once infected, there are seldom any remissions!

The police tell us that "any day now" our gift to the people of the Island "Project Identification" will commence. When it does start, do join it and together we can drive robbers from our midst. Once again we'll be able to walk out without locking our doors! Remember bikes can be engraved for identification too!

In the Sakonet Times an ad reading "Take a peek at a new beak" advertises NB as does a billboard on Memorial Boulevard-a blue wing with the words "Take a Bird under your wing" "Join the Friends of the NBS " Incidentally, to those of you who are new members-Welcome aboard, nice to have you with us. To our old-timers your just wonderful to join and rejoin yr. after yr. You know the work we do-- quality and quantity. For those of you who are interested in numbers-1460 hours of teaching went on in 6 weeks since school. Two hundred Title I children from the ghettos under the National Guard Kiddy Kamp program will be coming in Aug. Child Day Care Center will send us a total of 65 of their children. Besides all that we have researches going on, on small animals, birds and invertebrates. There will be an Insect Work Shop run by our friend the Bee Man. The Sanctuary will entertain the Newport Region "Ducks Unlimited" Club dinner. And those nice Scouts come in and out. About 45 non-members do the trails a week. The horseback riders are welcome to use of horse trails. We have bales of mulching hay for sale great for veg. garden. Reasonable price. The billboards and the Norman Bird are gifts. Don't think we squander your dues. They go 100% into teaching.