

Hi! It may have been the mildest winter in 22 years, but it held its punch til Spring! We were lucky tho' to have had rain. Maple Swamp swoll hugely as it caught the runoff from the hills around. The dam held as the land at the east end gave before the weight of water. The trails were mud until the wind and sun dried them. Never-the-less some brave gardeners put in radish & lettuce seeds! The birds kept pushing north. Several Glossy Ibises were seen. Marsh hawks, peregrin flacons, and a kestrel were reported. A shrike came down in the feeding area. Usually his presence is known by the total silence that follows! Small birds get to cover & freeze there. This time he bounced in with great authority. At first glance one might think him a blue jay, except that he is grey where a jay is blue. His head is rounded, beak strong and a neck well suited to his style of hunting. He feeds on mice and small birds. His other name is Butcher Bird as he hangs his food on thorns until he has consumed all. This year he was late heading north to the tundra. He is usually on the Christmas Count! The geese are going north. The pheasants are courting. The herring are running. Days are filled with bird sounds. And all night long marsh peepers sing!

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Everyone's been awfully kind to the silly goose & her coterie of mallards that moved out of Cerio Pond to dine in the gutters! The grey goose is 14 years old! Most of them can fly away whenever they want to go. But with daily handouts of corn our welfare recipients are not about to leave.

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Thanks to all of you the opening of the Sanct's Gift & Book Shop was a great success. Had the weather been better we couldn't have handled the crowd! Net take for #1 Day was \$265.00--for #2 day it was \$60.00! Now you know where to go for truly lovely cards, books, toys, jewelry, an occassional home-baked pie etc. at remarkably low prices (no rent!) and gifts for the impossibly-difficult-to-give-to. Needed: a volunteer to take it over & to run the Shop, 1-4, Wds.-Fris, & 12-4 Sats & Suns. Haven't you ever had a secret desire to run a Gift Shop? Nows your chance! You do not need a business head, but an artistic hand. Arrange some flowers on a show case, flick dust off the honey pots, and make out sales slips. We have a thing that figures out the taxes for you. Call 846-2577 to volunteer.

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Now's the time to start thinking "Harvest Fair". Strawberries mean jam to be donated for sale. Knitters start knitting, crocheters top, for the Fair. Gardeners grow extra for the Fair. Everyone, think HARVEST. It will be on us before we know it!

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On May 25, June 1 and 8 there will be Open House at the Sanct. Everyone's invited, members or not. Why not pack a picnic lunch'round your neighbours up and come on over? You can eat in the orchard, buy lemonade from the Scouts (profits to them) & either see the many trails or sit in the Ed Shed and see a slide show on the Sanct's delightful charms. Come any one, or all three dates! 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

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Fearless Leader is trying to catch starlings! Someone is doing a study on why birds in flock wheel & turn in the sky. It may be that changes in light causes the flight pattern to alter so suddenly. Fearless L. is having a time as starlings are smart! For each one captured he Sanct. will get .75¢. (No harm will come to them--they'll be free in a barn with different lights. Eventually, they'll be freed). If you come upon a starling--should one pop down your chimney, catch & carry it to N.B.S. It will mean .75 in our till.

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Ticks are out. The season is coming for mosquitos and it's supposed to be The Year Of The Flea. Scientists have known for ages that blood well up in niacin content is unattractive to blood suckers. To get niacin into one's self and pets, brewer's

yeast is the answer. Note the dosage for yourself, and figure your pets from there. (Don't take too much or you'll take off-lighter than air!)

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Do you realize that only 3,000 swallows return to Capistrano now? Before the fields around the old Mission of San Juan Capistrano became house lots--when the area was filled with crops, and insects that feasted on the crops, as many as 30,000 came. They plastered their nests of mud against the walls of the Mission. Without the insects to feed them they must seek other places to nest.

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People still use the word "ecology" too loosely. It is a vast unending study of the links that exist between all living organisms and their environments. To study the ecology of humans and that of earthworms leads to the conclusions that man cannot live without earthworms, but worms thrive without man!

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We all know what a lot of birds are called--a flock. A raft of ducks, a bevy of quail, a herd of elephants. What do you call a lot of rhinos, if you're in the know? A crash of rhinos!

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Those of you who travel to NYC & will be there after April 29--the Metropolitan Museum of Art will have a fabulous display of artifacts of the Scythian civilization. (Scythia is now S.E. part of Russia, also called The Ukraine). The exhibit is on loan from USSR. The works are almost entirely made of pure gold and they show the great love and respect of the Scythians for animals. The Scythians were a nomadic people, their treasures they carried with them. They were powerful at the time of Darius The Great, of Persia when he thought he would polish off ancient Greece. He met the scorched earth policy which in later centuries Napoleon and Hitler's armies would meet. Too bad the Russians did not retain that old love for animals. It was in Russia that an American witnessed extreme cruelty to horses, & the idea for the SPCA was born.

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Man has invented a new way to kill coyotes! A canister of gas buried in the ground with bait firmly attached to the top. When the coyote tugs at the bait a blast of cyanide is released to kill the coyote instantly. Meat eaters all, will do the same, so it is not a selective poison! The sheep owners, who keep dreaming up these deaths for animals, say that the sheep industry will die if coyotes are not controlled! The sheep industry enjoys free grazing and government subsidies! The flocks are huge--too big for dogs to control, often numbering in the quarter million. The answer to that is to break the flocks down into sizes small enough for dogs to manage. Sheep seem to have an unnatural tendency. Not "survival of the fittest" but survival of the least fit! They push the weakest to the center of the flock, thus forcing the stronger and fittest to the outside where they're most vulnerable to attack.

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The Roger Williams Park Zoo is trying to update itself. It might be a good idea, if you can, to join the group! The zoo has been in deplorable condition with "caretakers" who didn't! Now a new director is struggling against inertia to revitalize & modernize. He is succeeding. Zoos, in the past, have literally consumed animals, but now, with renewed interest and knowledge they are the breeding places for many rare creatures. It may be that in the future Zoos will be the only place endangered species may survive. To join--it's \$3.00 for students and \$10 for families (you may give \$100.00 & be a Sponsor!) Make check & mail to: Membership Chairman, R.I. Zoological Soc., R.Wms. Park, Providence 12905.

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Someone brought a pet rabbit to the Sanct. Instead of giving it Fearless Leader,

who would have kept it safe for the enjoyment of visiting children, they released it in the fields. It made a lovely supper for a fox, hawk or owl. Its soft white pelt, in bits and pieces dot the landscape. Only the predator knows who ate it. Poor, helpless rabbit! Totally unable to survive in a nature environment. To him a cage was natural! If you have any such creature that you have tired of, that the children have outgrown, give it into the hands of Fearless Leader, or one of the Sanct's volunteer's. It will join the live displays in the Museum.

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One of London's most famous stores, Liberty's, is built of ships' timbers. In all likely hood many of those timbers came from this continent. 'Twas said, in early times that a squirrel could cross Pennsylvania without ever once touching the ground! Wood was a great commodity. One might say the Nation was founded on it. Homes, tools, dishes, tubs, yokes, rakes, boats, ships, canoes, bridges, hammers, cradles and coffins, all came from wood. And much much more--hides were tanned by bark, and homes were heated, cooking done by wood. The iron that was fired by charcoal, a by-product of wood, was a finer iron and rusted less, than iron made by coal. Charcoal has no impurities as coal has. Charcoal was used extensively in the early days--to cleanse teeth, sweeten drinking water especially on ships, to preserve meat and ice, to settle upset tummies, to make gun powder, ink, medicines and paint. Charcoal vendors had a song--"Charcoal by the bushel, Charcoal by the peck. Charcoal by the frying pan, Or any way you lek." Charcoal was used to pack and save apples--a staple of the early settlers' diet. Some of the ways have come down to us. APPLE: dried, candied, sauce, pie, tart, pan dowdy, brown betty, butter, coffee cake, snow, jelly, jack! cider, crisp, dumplings, muffins, baked. In mince meat and as a base for other jellies as "pectin". And just plain, "apple"! Can you add to the list?

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Sign of our times (an original poem) "I thought that I should never see. A Rolls Royce parked at The A & P."

There is an untapped resource at the Sanctuary - the minds and talents of the members. Now, before you all go to ground, please read on. We need occasional helpers and you need not fear you are committing yourself to a weekly or monthly meeting. The time and occasions you volunteer are completely within your control and subject to your veto power. When we call on you, you are free to say no.

We desperately need a resource pool of telephoners, typists, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, artists, writers, organizers, and idea people--any and all talents you've always wanted to exercise but haven't found the place or felt you had the time for. One idea or one hour of time from each member - at that member's convenience - would enable all members to enjoy the Sanctuary's facilities and functions to the fullest.

We specifically need the following:

1. Members to call just 10 other members in the Providence, Fall River, Barrington, and Bristol areas. Call Kathy Maringas, 683-3484 if you can help or drop a note to the Sanctuary if it's a long distance call.
2. Workers in our new bookstore, The Norman Bird. Call Polly Gardner, 846-9740.
3. Enthusiastic members to talk to people during our open house - June 1. Call Leona Tripp, 849-5766.

CORRECTION PLEASE NOTE: Sanctuary Day Open House is one day, Sunday, June 1, 10-4 p. m.

COMING EVENTS

Coming Events: Workers and Participants wanted. (Workers have more fun!)

Bird Walk every Sunday at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars.

June 15, Father's Day Breakfast and Hike. Reservation by June 12. Call Sylvia Hampton, 847-7367. Adults \$1.00, members under 12, fifty cents. Menu: Scrambled eggs, sticky buns, juice and coffee. A bargain at today's prices.

August: Clambake

September: Cocktail Party. Hors d'oeuvres makers call Jeanette Szpinalski, 847-4967.

October: Harvest Fair. Workers needed NOW. Call Pat Hegnauer, 846-1308. Halloween Party for the children. We need a chairman for this.

November: A Wine-Tasting Party

Nature Day Camp information, call 846-2577

We have received some responses regarding adult education classes - if you have not sent yours in, please do so! We are trying to set up a schedule now.

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