

Hi! The ocean breeze, that we love so in the other seasons of the year, drew our Spring out into a long season. Spring flowers last twice as long in coolness than they do in heat waves! Daffodils were everywhere--even at the thistle feeders there seemed to be daffodils! The gold finches had come over into summer garb! The miracle of buds was with us for an extra long time. Each bud, grey, green or red, rounded or pointy, lacks only water and sun to produce leaves or flowers. Then with a little bit of help from the bees, the flower buds produce fruit and seeds of the next generation. Holly bloomed the very day catbirds, swallows and woodthrush came back. One could tell that cardinals had mated--everywhere she went, he followed, (it was she who followed him all winter!). Finches had choice morsels poked into their beaks by attentive males, and cock pheasants clucked an endless sound to tell the girls "Big Daddy's here". Humming birds migrated through in mid-May and by June green heron were back to hunt the marshes.

* * *

At the Sanct. everybody's back. Whiff & Flower are home with yet another skunk--no one can tell one from another. The fan-tail doves are with us again, "Gatsby and Daisy" and two snow white eggs! The noisiest and enthusiastic return was from Nasturtium and her black lamb, named Dahlia. Nasturtium wintered over with her former owner, grew a long woolly coat that is far from white, and was bred to an Astrikhan. The only way one can tell that Dahlia is Nasturtium's baby is that she has a tiny tuft of whitish wool on the top of her black head. She's cute as only a black lamb could be! Blossum O. Possum had a good winter--sleeping all the winter days long! There are new comers too. The cutest of which is a baby fox. Some children said they saw a mean ol' fox trying to eat a kitten. So they drove her off with sticks and stones, retrieved the 'kitten' and carried it home to their astonished Mother. As the fox kit is a female we have named her Fanny Fox, without a finale "e". We had another fox for a few days. Brought in in an emaciated condition, after a few days of good food, it chewed its way to freedom!

* * *

Women's Lib seems to have entered the hen house! All the hens have turned on the rooster and pecked his legs raw. He was isolated until they had healed. As soon as he was put back with his harem, they turned on him again! Just for that, he has the run of the Sanct., while the girls are closed up to attend to business. The egg department has been making money for NBS, but for how long now that He Himself has lost his dominance?

* * *

The School year came to a close with over 9,000 children taught from the Public School Systems. Twelve year old children are not as numerous as they used to be! There was a Wildlife Interrelationship course taught by a teacher hired with your dues. She got to 85 classes and taught an estimated 2,125 students that were in schools where we have not taught before--well off into the far reaches of our great State! Do you realize that our teaching program is so good, it is being imitated--the sincerest form of flattery. Do you realize that our whole set-up, Director, Advisory Committee and Membership is also being copied? We are becoming a model for other Sanctuaries!! We mustn't pat ourselves on the back, but we surely can pat each other's. Without our volunteer teachers and staff, we'd be just benocular totting birders.

* * *

One school girl at the Sanct. fashioned a sun dial. It works! At 9 a.m. it reads 9 a.m.! No one is mean enough to mention that we are on Day Light Saving Time!! Sun dials are nice. Only the hours count, the minutes are of little importance, and the seconds don't exist. Dials speak of a more leisured time--a nicer time because unimportant things remain unimportant.

We have high hopes of getting a second-hand flagpole, in time for the Bicentennial. We need someone to make our own insignia—a flag of azure blue with a flying sea-gull in white, to hang below our national flag. Also, for the Bicentennial, Boy Scouts are clearing out the Historic Cemetery where the Benjamin Gardiners are buried. The weeds, old trees and shrubs will be removed, the gravestones fixed. Vandals seem to think that they will find a skeleton if they move the stone of the former farmer of land which is the Sanct. now. It will be fixed with cement so they can't move it!

* * *

"Open House" was a great idea! There were over 500 visitors with 19 new families joining. The Museum was of A-1 interest, the grounds were lovely. All the animals behaved and the slide show was packed at every showing. We did so fear the Navy pullout would adversely affect the Sanct. Instead it has grown steadily—from 500 Flyers mailed out to over 700, at this mailing.

* * *

Added to the animals this year is Peggoty, surely the world's handsomest goat! She is in with Nasturtium & Dahlia—who are we to separate the sheep from the goats? And in back of their pen there is a huge cage being built for all the hawks, so that they can fly a bit. We seem to have quite a number, mostly they are recovering from broken beaks. All of them show signs of living in too small cages—their tail feathers show it.

* * *

Smokey the Bear is retiring after 30 years of service to the nation. Since he started teaching us about the dangers of forest fires, he has cut down the numbers of fires 30% annually! People listened when that bear spoke.

* * *

The R.I. Audubon Society has taken a stand on nuclear power. It was a most refreshing report to read because they admitted that they do not know! Most people are positive, pro or contra, on nuclear power, but because so many experts have come to totally opposite views after studying the same body of evidence, the R.I. Audubon feels something is wrong with the evidence!

* * *

The Weather Bureau warns us that the weather patterns are the same as they were in the hurricane years of the '50s & '60s. Mild winters leave behind them warm ocean waters and this sets the stage for hurricanes. The season is on us, from June to November—and it is wise to be aware "especially if you own beach property! By the time beach houses are fancied up with curtains at the windows we always have had a hurricane! City dwellers can suffer too, from fallen trees, etc. In the 1938 hurricane, this Island was reported to have disappeared!! Earthquake people say that there will be an horrendous earthquake. The closest that they can come is to say it will be within 10 years and on either the East or West coast. Let's not worry about it. If we do we can wreck 10 nice years.

* * *

A, there are so many Events at the Sanctuary, The Bird is bowing out here to give room. It will be back only in the Fall. Have a good summer! Watch out for ticks, poison ivy and sun burn.

* * *

Tag line on Salada Tea Bags: When two pessimists meet they shake heads!
Tag line on another Salada Tea Bag: Before you let yourself go completely, be sure you can get yourself back.

NATURE DAY CAMP, SUMMER 1975

For Children going into the first grade, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade, a nature oriented day camp running for six weeks will be presented by the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Classes begin June 30, and end August 8. A camper may sign up for any number of weeks. Each camp day starts at 9:00 am and ends at Noon.

Session	date	cost
I	June 30 to July 3	member: \$10.00 Non-member \$15.00
II	July 7- 11	member: \$15.00 Non-member \$20.00
III	July 14- 18	Same as above
IV	July 21- 25	Same as above
V	July 28- Aug 1	Same as above
VI	August 4- 8	Same as above

*** *** *** *** *** ***

Kindergarten Week: For children GOING INTO KINDERGARTEN this Fall. Session begins on June 23 and ends on the 27th. Each day period last from 9:00 AM to noon. Members \$10.00 and non-members \$15.00

Sea Study : August 11 - 22. A two week program usually in the morning (except for field trips). This popular program will be open to students from ten years of age and up. Cost: 50 dollars non- members, \$60.00/

Junior Naturalists: A six week program for Jr. High school age students (12 to 15 yrs old). This is a morning program that involves both work and study in wildlife, nature crafts, field work, and camp craft. At least ten students must register in order to have the program. If your child has an intense interest in the our of doors this program is for her or him. Members, \$50.00 for the six week period. Non-members 60.00. The program begins on June 30.

REGISTRATION

I would like to register my child (children) for the following programs at the Norman Bird Sanctuary:

Nature Day Camp: Session I II III IV V VI
(Circle each session you want)

Kindergarten week (Circle)

Sea Study (circle)

Junior Naturalist (circle)

Name of Camper

Age

Address

Telephone

Payment enclosed Will pay when camp begins

For additional campers use the remainder of this page.

Kindergarten Week: For children going into the first grade. Each session begins on June 23 and ends on the 27th. Each day period last from 9:00 AM to noon. Members \$10.00 and non-members \$12.00.

Sea Study: August 11 - 17. A two week program usually in the morning (except for field trips). This popular program will be open to students from ten years of age and up. Cost: \$5.00 for non-members, \$8.00 for members.

Junior Naturalist: A six week program for Jr. High school age students (12 to 15 yrs old). This is a morning program that involves both work and study in wildlife, nature crafts, field work, and camp craft. As usual, all students must register in order to have the program. If your child has an intense interest in the out of doors this program is for her or him. Members, \$20.00 for the six week period. Non-members \$25.00. The program begins on June 30.

Memorial Day 1975

URGENT LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF THE NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

Dear Friends: The history of the land south of the Sanctuary's boundaries on Sachuest Neck and Sachuest Point, is a story of a quarter of a century of abuse. The salt marsh, that served the citizens as a catchbasin at the base of a big water shed (almost 3 sq. miles), has been used as a dump that now stretches across the marsh from East to West, interrupting the natural tidal flow. The sandy lane that once was, is now a full fledged 2-lane black top, further preventing tidal flows. A salt marsh is essential to the fishing industry. It is there the food that feeds small fish is born, swept out to sea by tidal flows, and so a small fish can grow "into a 30 lb." striped or cod!

As the Sanct. abuts the land now under dispute, we have not only the legal right, but the moral duty to make known our opposition to the plans held by the Town of Middletown's Council, and to endorse the plans projected by the Department of the Interior for the future disposition of this land.

You, as United States citizens, have the right to make known your wishes as to the expenditure of your tax money in regard to the future development of Sachuest Neck and Sachuest Point. To facilitate your expression of the D.O.I.'s plans, there will be 6 petitions for you to sign at The Sanct.'s office (Open 1-4, Weds.-Suns). They will be there from 5 June to 20 June 1975. Please read the suggested plans carefully and please do come and sign. It is most urgent that we back the D.O.I., as you will see if you read further.

Town's Plans. Never fully stated. A firm from out-of-town was hired. They recommended a Natural History Museum be built on The Point. (Half a mile from our Natural History Museum!) An out door amphitheater (in this climate!) A baseball diamond (no ball games of any sort could be held on The Point--it's too windy!). Extended camper-trailer (more toilets, lights, electricity, water!) (There are 35 trailer-camp sites in R.I. as of May 1st '75). Ice hockey rink (is that to be frozen by nature or are we to pay for artificially freezing of ice? Nature has not frozen our reservoirs of late years so skaters could enjoy the tremendous numbers of natural ice skating areas!). To extend the parking down from the Officers Club to the Boat Ramp (further weakening the already fragile sand barrier that exists along the east side of Neck.) Fishing from shore (O.K. accept that fishermen feel that they are a race apart, and that they should have rights granted to them alone, such as driving right up to where that 30 lb. bass is waiting for them!) Swimming (the entire shore of The Point is of thrown rocks--no sand; so it is very dangerous swimming.)

State's Plan: to follow Town's wishes

Plans of The Department Of the Interior. To maintain the entire area with special regard for wild and marine life. To have trails for individuals and groups interested in observing and studying wildlife etc. Specially, schools, scientists, photographers birders, hikers and bikers. To permit camping & picnicking- within the guide lines of common sense and sound conservation policies. To do away with the road that bisects the Neck and to open up the marsh to return tidal flow to the area. To have the compaction center closed by June 30 1975 and to have the cottages moved away. D.O.I. is doing a dicker with the Navy about the Officers Club (In all likelihood it'll stay where it is.) To use the abandoned Navy buildings as headquarters for their overseers.

The cost of all the plans

Town. Unknown. But the cost will be borne by the taxpayers of Middletown, R.I.

State " " " " " " " " " " Rhode Island

D.O.I. " " " " " " " " " " U.S.A.

Taxes in the Town are going up this year!

The State is broke.

We are helping support 32 million other acres in other parts of the USA, so why not let others help us?

Profits-

Town Plan. Questionable. One must consider the future size and shape of cars of the future. Can a 4 cylinder car pull a camper-trailer? Are its brakes of sufficient power for such a rig to travel on the streets in safety. One doubts it as very few 8 cylinder cars have brakes of proper strength to be safe when pulling a trailer--this safety factor no one wants to look into, even now! Gasoline prices are climbing and they will tickle \$1.00 a gal. by 1980.

State Plan. Altho' this state is a very tiny state--4 gals. long and 3 gals. wide--people who want to go camping will go to the nearest park to them. Rhode Islanders have their choices close at hand already. No one will come from Ohio or Indiana etc. in the foreseeable future. They have their parks!

Plan of the D.O.I. Guaranteed---- a \$7,000.00 deposit into the treasury of Middletown, R.I.--annually--

Policing of area

Town's Plan---by Middletown Police Depart.

State's Plan-- by State Police Depart.

D.O.I.' Plan--- by 4 men in residence at all times.

Those are the plans as put forth so far. To us, the plans of D.O.I. are the only ones acceptable. They do not plan to use the land to generate "glory" for themselves--only to pay the townspeople for allowing them to keep the land free for the future. Some of us old-timers remember when Second Beach was a small operation and then it paid as much as \$14,000.00 annually from profits, into the Town's treasury. What is budgeted for its upkeep now? It is no longer even self supporting! Every year someone has a plan to make it "bigger and better" an operation, so up go the expenses! Let's not fall into that trap on Sachuest Point and Neck. Let's keep it green so we won't have to support it,--but so we can enjoy it to the fullest.

Lee O. Gardner
Lee O. Gardner

Director, Norman Bird Sanctuary

Jeanette P. Szpinalski
Jeanette P. Szpinalski

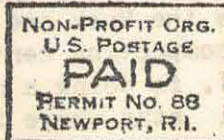
Chairman, Advisory Comm. N.B.S.

Four petitions to Washington Pastore, Pell, St Germaine and Beard

One petition to General Services Administration, Real Land Division, Boston

One petition to Town Council, Middletown, R.I.

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
THIRD BEACH ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, R.I.
02840



MR. & MRS. GEORGE SZPINALSKI
664 THIRD BEACH RD.
MIDDLETOWN, R.I. 02840