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Above and below: Birds & Breakfast, May 2003



Melissa Martin Ellis photos

THE FLYER

the norman bird sanctuary newsletter

The Sanctuary Welcomes New Executive Director

by Stacy Couto

We are delighted to welcome new Executive Director, Robert Cardeiro to the Sanctuary family! Rob arrived in mid-February and brings a wealth of experience with him, having been involved in the non-profit environmental field for over ten years. He is a New England native, but comes to us from Fairfield, PA where he most recently oversaw the operations of the Strawberry Hill Nature Center, a 600 acre preserve and environmental education center.

Rob has done it all! In addition to his experience in non-profit management, Rob has also worked in many other aspects of the field, including environmental education and facilities and ground management, at institutions such as The New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, NY and the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, MA.

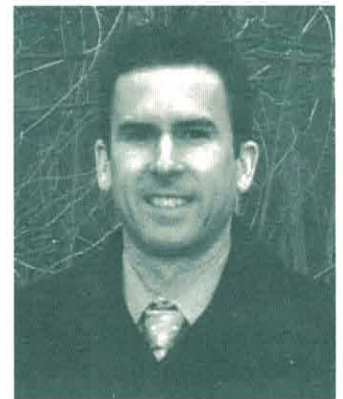
Rob received a Bachelor of Arts degree in zoology from Connecticut College and a Masters of Science degree in Natural Resources from Washington State University. His expertise in strategic development, fundraising and special event planning, financial management, as well as grounds and facilities management, is just what we need to guide us in upcoming projects and events, including capital renovations set to start this spring and our first ever Bird Ball, scheduled for August 21st.

After a nationwide search, we were certainly fortunate to find such a good fit for the organization. Rob definitely has a full plate to start, but he has jumped right in and is up for the challenges ahead! We are thrilled he has arrived and look forward to working with him in the coming years. Please join us in welcoming Rob and his family: his wife, Dawn and three children, sons Grady and Avery, and daughter Sonia to the Norman Bird Sanctuary and Aquidneck Island.

A Word From Rob Cardeiro

Many of you are curious to learn a bit about the new Executive Director. I am a native New Englander who grew up just outside of Worcester, Massachusetts. I have degrees from Connecticut College and Washington State University, and have enjoyed working with environmental non-profits for more than ten years. I am passionate about environmental education and conservation. I am impressed with the accomplishments of this institution and very excited to be a part of the future of the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

When February 11th finally arrived and I stepped into the Administration Building at the Sanctuary, I felt at home almost immediately. David Collins, Stacy



Dawn Cardeiro photo
Rob Cardeiro

Continued on Page 2

Board of Directors

Christopher Greene
CHAIRMAN

Lorrie Burns
VICE CHAIRMAN

Jean Lambert
SECRETARY

Charlotte Yeomans
TREASURER

Gail Abromitis • Larry Allen
Brian Arnold • Bob Barlow
Paul Croce • Laura de Ramel
Anne Howell
Nancy O'Brien • Constance Sullivan
John Woodhouse, Jr.

Staff

Each staff member has an identifying icon. Please follow the guide to identify articles in the newsletter.



Rob Cardeiro
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lauren Parmelee
DIRECTOR
of EDUCATION



Stacy Couto
DIRECTOR of DEVELOPMENT



Veronica Hinds
PROPERTY MANAGER



David Collins
EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Linn Lydon
EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Megan Bradley
OFFICE MANAGER



Melissa Martin Ellis
NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Sanctuary Update

Continued from Page 1

Couto, Chris Greene, Nikki Hinds, Linn Lydon, Jerry Moriarty, and Lauren Parmelee all welcomed me to the Sanctuary and my day began. As soon as my jacket was off, we set to work. Chris Greene briefed me on the most urgent projects and from that first meeting, I just kept moving right along.

Over the course of my first three days, I toured the Third Beach property and the Paradise Farmhouse; discussed the plans for the Bird Ball and the renovation plans for the Ed Shed and parking area; and welcomed the newest member of our staff, Megan Bradley, our new Office Manager, to the Sanctuary. It is such an exciting time here and the staff and board are so motivated to succeed.

On Friday, I had my first opportunity to walk around the Sanctuary. I set out on a meandering hike to Hanging Rock. The warmth of the sun took the edge off the biting wind and I had a wonderful walk. I took my time, walking slowly along the paths. I stopped often to look at the ice formations, listen to the wind, or smell the salt in the air. The view from Hanging Rock was, of course, breathtaking. What a truly special place this is.

At the close of my first week I had a moment to walk around the fields. I watched the sun set over St. George's as a skein of Canada Geese flew overhead. It was the perfect ending to a great beginning.

I look forward to the coming year, the Sunday Morning Bird Walks, the summer camps, the Bird Ball, and all the programs and events. I hope to meet many of you at the Birds and Breakfast program this spring.

Rob Cardeiro
Executive Director

Welcomes & Farewells

À bientôt to our former Office Manager, Suzanne Goulart! Thank you for all your hard work, your creative ideas and that wonderful sense of humor you bestowed upon us over the past two years. We miss you and wish you lots of luck in your new profession. *Ciao, bella...* but come back and volunteer!

We are thrilled to announce that Megan Bradley has taken on the role of the Sanctuary's Office Manager! Without a doubt, she is the best person to fill the large shoes that Suzanne Goulart left behind.



Stacy Couto photo
Megan Bradley

Megan has a strong background in office administration and is very familiar with the Sanctuary staff and programs. For the past two years, Megan has been an integral part of the NBS Education Department, both as a Teacher Naturalist in our summer camp program, and as our part-time weekend educator. She is personally responsible for the increasing popularity of our Birthday Party programs! This winter, she added weekend office work to her list of responsibilities and then applied for the Office Manager position as a logical next step.

Originally, Megan is from the Chicago area, but earned her undergraduate degree in English at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Last spring, she completed her Master's thesis on "Animal Imagery in the Works of Author Toni Morrison," and earned her graduate degree in English at U.R.I. Her love of literature, animals, and children, as well as her organizational and computer skills, make her an excellent choice as a permanent staff member of the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Welcome to 40+ hours, Megan!



Feature Article

Meet the New AmeriCorps Team

by Lauren Parmelee

AmeriCorps is here to get things done! We are pleased to welcome to the Norman Bird Sanctuary education team three individuals who have been chosen to serve with the Ocean State Environmental Education Collaborative (OSEEC) AmeriCorps project in the year 2004. Catherine Rosario, Jessica McCauley, and Jeanne Tierney will be working with NBS educators and summer staff to develop and present more environmental education programs on the island, particularly for the City of Newport schools, after-school programs and community centers. The project's aims are to increase our availability to work with lower income children and families, to increase the amount of time spent with individual children, to engage more children in environmental science activities and service learning projects, and to support the teaching of science in the public schools.

Who is OSEEC? The Ocean State Environmental Education Collaborative is "an ad hoc association of three environmental organizations with a shared belief: the quality of life in our communities is linked to the quality of environment". These three organizations, the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Roger

Williams Park, and Save the Bay, have been working together for well over a year to plan, research, and fund this AmeriCorps project. OSEEC recognizes that *all of our citizens* must be informed about the importance of natural resources in order to ensure that a healthy environment will be preserved for future generations. Hence, our proposal targets the "core cities" of Rhode Island, where the percentage of children

living in poverty is 15% or more: Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket. Does it surprise you that over 20% of children in Newport live in poverty? (2002 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook).

Who are these committed individuals who are willing to dedicate a year or two of their lives to this new initiative? Cathy Rosario, a native of the New Bedford area, holds a Bachelor's in English from UMass Dartmouth, and chose to work with NBS because of her love for birds. Originally from Chicago, Jessica McCauley is a graduate student at Salve Regina studying Holis-

tic Counseling. Jeanne Tierney, originally from the Bronx, now lives over the bridge in Wakefield and is pursuing a degree in History at URI. In return for their 1700 hours of service this year, the AmeriCorps members will receive training, a living allowance, health insurance, and an education award. Jessica, Jeanne and Catherine are part of a larger, diverse group of members who are working at Roger Williams Zoo, Botanical Garden, Natural History Museum, and Save the Bay. This larger group gathers regularly for trainings, team-building activities and service projects. Training sessions focus on a wide variety of topics including: conflict resolution, classroom management, first aid and CPR, science standards and developing lesson plans, basic biology and ecology, and more. The NBS education staff has also participated in a number of these training sessions and contributed their

expertise as well.

Kate Doughton, OSEEC's Program Director, is the human link that weaves these three organizations together, who oversees the members, deals with all the government paperwork, and generally ensures that everything runs according to plan. Kate is a graduate of Roger Williams University in marine biology, a former AmeriCorps member, and a professional environmental educator. Her organizational skills and sense of humor will no doubt carry us through this three-year project with great success!



Stacy Couto photo

AmeriCorps volunteers, left to right: Catherine Rosario, Jessica McCauley and Jeanne Tierney.



Article

Owl Prowls on a Winter's Night

By Linn Lydon

Children and adults walked into the darkness of a cold, clear winter's night, listening intently for owl calls at the Sanctuary. When all was quiet, the recording of the whinny-like call of the Eastern Screech Owl emanated from the speaker and traveled throughout the woods.

Each winter, the Norman Bird Sanctuary traditionally holds Owl Prowls for the community and local schools. During five early winter evenings, children and adults listened and watched for these birds of prey at the Sanctuary. Two of the species of owls that we listen for are the Eastern Screech Owl and Great Horned Owl. During the winter months, these owls select mates, set up their territories and nest.

These calls begin in the winter when males are staking out their territory. Eastern Screech Owls may claim more than one nest hole. The Great Horned Owls uses nests of large birds such as herons or hawks. They are also known to nest on ledges, in caves, and in hollow trees. When the male owls hear the recording, they think it is a male intruder and sometimes respond to the call.

The night began with a slide presentation of these nocturnal raptors. During family night and school programs, children enjoyed investigating and trying to identify what was on the owl's menu by breaking apart owl pellets (the undigested portion of the owl's meal consisting of fur and bones that has been regurgitated). Kids guessed

that the owls' favorite dish was rodents. Lastly, the group hiked down dark nighttime trails to listen and watch for owls.

On our first family owl prowls with twenty children, we heard a Screech Owl near the Red Maple Swamp pond after playing the Screech Owl call tape for only two minutes. Everyone was very excited to hear the screech owl call back. Near the southwest field that borders Hanging Rock Road and Third Beach Road, a Great Horned Owl replied after

hearing the distress call of a bluejay and a Great Horned Owl's hoots. Unfortunately, we were not able to see either of the owls.

In January, we had three more Owl Prowls. One night, we heard two Screech Owls responding to the Screech Owl tape at the Red Maple Swamp. Once again,

we played the call of the distressed jay and Great Horned Owl in the southwest field. Instead of hearing Great Horned Owls, we instead heard four to five different Screech Owls from different locations calling back. We were puzzled by this response, since the Great Horned Owl calling would normally be a threat to Screech Owls.

Our school groups were also pleased to be able to hear Screech Owls calling in response to the tape.

The Owl Prowls this winter were a great success.

A great follow up for these young owl prowlers is the story of the *Guardians of Ga'Hoole: The Capture*, by Kathryn Lasky.



Book Review

New Book in the Barn Owl Shop

By Linn Lydon

Guardians of Ga'Hoole: The Capture, by Kathryn Lasky is a wonderful adventure story for young readers, about a Barn Owl named Soren.

Soren, a baby Barn Owl, dwells in the tranquil Forest Kingdom of Tyto, with his family. Lasky weaves facts about owl behavior into the story, while adding a clever vocabulary to describe many of the habits of the owls.

At only two weeks old, Soren is pushed out of his family's comfortable nest and lands on the forest floor. Then, Soren is captured by a pair of evil Great Horned Owls and is taken to St Aegolius Academy for Orphaned Owls located in a deep canyon.

At the Orphanage, Soren meets up with a captured Elf Owl, Gylfie. They both realize that their only hope of escaping the Orphanage is to fly away.

What keeps them going is the legend from the *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, knightly owls, "who would rise each night into the blackness and perform noble deeds." Soren and Gylfie meet up with two other orphans, Twilight and Digger and journey together to search for their families and alert the owl world about the dangers of St. Aegolius Orphanage.

MAY 2004



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Plum Island Road Trip 1
Guided Bird Walk 2	3	4	Preschoolers W/Parents Session C 5	6	7	8
Guided Bird Walk 9	10	11	Preschoolers W/Parents Session C 12	13	14	15
Guided Bird Walk 16 Birds & Breakfast	17	18	Preschoolers W/Parents Session C 19	20	21	22
23 Guided Bird Walk 30	24 Memorial Day 31	25	Preschoolers W/Parents Session C 26	27	28	29

JUNE 2004



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Guided Bird Walk 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Guided Bird Walk 13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
Guided Bird Walk 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Guided Bird Walk 27	28	29	30			



Educational Programs

Sunday Morning Birdwatching

Every other Sunday at 8:00AM February 29 & March 14 Every Sunday at 8:00AM - beginning March 28

Spring birding on the island is a fabulous way to shed the winter blues! Put on your outdoor clothing and footwear that will keep you dry, grab your binoculars (or borrow a pair from us), and join us in the Sanctuary parking lot at 8:00 AM for a couple of hours of birding around the local area.

Woodcock Walk

Friday, March 19, 5:30 - 7:00PM

\$3 Members, \$5 Non-members

One parent free in each family

Family Program

During early spring, the male American Woodcock, a rotund short-legged bird, performs an unusual courtship display. Often referred to as a "sky dance", the Woodcock's flight is a joy to witness. Join an NBS naturalist on an evening nature walk to seek out this interesting bird and to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Maximum 20.

Herbal Spring Tonics

Sunday, March 21, 3:00 - 6:00PM

\$30 Members, \$40 Non-members (includes materials)

Adult Program

Join Clara and Hap Morgan for an herbal introduction to spring! For hundreds of years Spring Tonics have been used to facilitate a smooth transition into the new season. Tonics and bitters can be used for a healthy liver, to build more energy and to help with seasonal allergies. In this class, you will learn about specific herbs and some of the many ways they can be prepared, including tinctures, decoctions and herbal capsules.

Spring Star Gazing

Fridays, March 26, April 30

7:00 - 9:00PM

Free to the public

Join Kenneth Conca and the Gaudet Astronomy Club as they peer through telescopes at the moon, stars and planets. Learn more about constellations and the night sky in an informal setting.

These Friday night star sessions will take place weather permitting. Clear skies only! Dress for a chilly night, wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight to find your way to the field!

Dragonflies of Rhode Island

Thursday, April 1, 7:00PM

\$3 Members, \$5 Non-members

Adult Program

Virginia Brown is Coordinator for the Rhode Island Natural History Survey EIMS Program and the principal investigator for the RI Odonata Atlas that has been underway since 1998. In other words, she is our state's ex-



pert on the fascinating world of dragonflies and damselflies! Join us in the Studio for her slideshow presentation on the identification and life history of these beautiful insects.

Preschoolers with Parents

Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00PM

Session B April 7, 14, 21, 28

Session C May 5, 12, 19, 26

Ages 3 - 5 years

\$30 Members, \$35 Non-members

This series of four one-hour programs is an engaging and hands-on way to introduce your pre-school age child to the wonders of nature. We'll explore the outdoors using our five senses, songs, crafts, and explorations of the plants and animals of the Sanctuary.

Parents will have fun too! Marilyn has been teaching this program for several years and has quite a following, so register early.

Maximum 10 children.

Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 1:00PM - 2:00PM

\$8 per child for Members,

\$10 per child for Non-members

Ages 3 - 10 years

Welcome the spring season by participating in the Sanctuary's traditional Spring Egg Hunt! A short program about caring for animals will be presented by an NBS educator. This will be followed by an enthusiastic search for plastic eggs filled with sweets. Children will seek their treats around the barn, orchard, and upper trails of the Sanctuary. Dress for the weather and bring your own collection basket! Register early.

Maximum 35 children.

Piping Plover Project

Thursday, April 8, 7:30PM

Free to the public

Suzanne Paton, Senior Biologist for US Fish & Wildlife in Rhode Island will be speaking on the management of piping plovers on Aquidneck Island and around the state. If you are interested in learning more about the life history of these beautiful little shore birds, or if you are interested in volunteering to help protect and monitor their nest sites, please join us in the NBS Studio. Information and sign-ups for volunteers will be available.

Spring Vacation Camp

Tuesday - Friday, April 13 - 16

9:00AM - 3:00PM each day

Children's Program for Kindergarten - 4th grade

\$135 Members, \$165 Non-Members

Theme: Celebrate Spring!

Outdoor adventures at the Norman Bird Sanctuary are a perfect way for kids to welcome the warmer weather. Explore the fields, forests, ridges and wetlands of this beautiful wildlife



Educational Programs

refuge. All of our camps include science explorations, hikes, stories, games, arts & crafts, and a field trip or two. Dress for the weather and bring your lunch, snack and a water bottle, too.

Maximum 12 campers.

Newport Kids Fest

April 9-18

Newport, Rhode Island is the place to be during April vacation week, when the city plays host to the 1st annual Newport Kids Fest. The Kids Fest, a nine-day festival offering a plethora of activities in art, sports, theater, history and much more will take place throughout Newport County. Coinciding with many school vacations in New England, the event is coordinated by Newport for Kids and Families, an organization that promotes kid and family-friendly activities in and around the Newport area.

www.newportforkidsandfamilies.com for information.

See below for Sanctuary activities.

Stories and Science at the Sanctuary

**Tuesday April 13, Wednesday April 14,
Thursday April 15
10:00 – 11:00 AM**

**Free to Members & Kids Festival
Passport Holders, \$3 for Non-members
Activities and stories appropriate for
children ages 4 – 8 years.**

**Parents stay for the program and siblings
are welcome.**

**Location: The Orchard and Barn at the
Norman Bird Sanctuary,
583 Third Beach Road**

Listen to some of our favorite children's stories with a natural history theme. Participate in hands-on explorations around the grounds and along the trails. Meet some of our education animals. A different theme will be offered each day.

Third Beach Exploration for Families

**Saturday, April 17, 10:30 AM – Noon
Picnic afterwards!**

**\$6 Members & Kids Festival Passport
Holders, \$8 Non-members,
\$24 maximum fee for member families
PRE-REGISTRATION Required 846-2577
Minimum 10 Maximum 30.**

Celebrate Spring on the beach you help to protect! Join the Sanctuary staff for an exploration of the sandy beach and rocky shore. We'll use buckets, nets, and field guides to help us investigate the flora and fauna of the coastal zone. Look for shells, crabs, seaweeds, and birds. Dress for the weather and plan to get your feet wet! Bring a picnic lunch and relax after the walk. The Sanctuary will provide drinks for lunch.



Plum Island Road Trip

**Saturday, May 1, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM
\$25 for Members, \$35 for Non-Members
Adult Program**

We are hopping in the Bird Van for a day-long trip to one of the best birding sites on the east coast. Newburyport Harbor, Joppa Flats, and Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island provide habitats for a wealth of spring migrants from herons to warblers, raptors to shorebirds. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes, bring a lunch, binoculars, and your curiosity. We will provide birding expertise, snacks, bird guides, and humor. **Maximum 12 adults.**

Birds & Breakfast

Sunday, May 16

**Breakfast Seatings: 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 &
10:30 AM**

Bird walks: 6:30-11:00 AM

Tickets: Adults - \$15 in advance

\$20 at the door

Children - \$5 (ages 4-12)

Children 3 years and under are free

For reservations, please call 846-2577

Join us for a spring morning of guided bird walks, a delicious country breakfast, and fun education programs for the whole family.

Registration & Cancellation Policies

- Please come by the Sanctuary or call 846-2577 to register for programs that require a fee and/or have a maximum number of participants. Payment is required at the time of registration via cash, check, or Visa/MC.
- Free programs that have no maximum number of participants such as the Sunday Morning Birdwalk and Stargazing do not require prior registration.
- If you must cancel your registration, please call and let us know. Refunds will only be provided if you call at least 7 days in advance of the event. A check will be mailed to you within two weeks of cancellation.
- Programs that do not have a minimum number of registrants will be cancelled five working days before the event. (The minimum number is determined by Sanctuary staff and is usually based on the program's expenses.) In the case of program cancellation, your fee will be returned in full. In some cases, we will offer you the option of another date or a program credit.
- The Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp has different registration and cancellation policies. Please refer to the Summer Camp brochure for that information.

MARCH 2004



	1	2	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A3	4	5	6
7	8	9	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A10	11	12	13
Guided Bird Walk14	15	16	Preschoolers w/Parents Session A17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	Woodcock Walk19	20
Herbal Spring Tonic Class21	22	23	24	25	Spring Star Gazing26	27
Guided Bird Walk28	29	30	31			

Pull Out & Save Calendar

APRIL 2004



				Dragonflies of Rhode Island	1	2	Spring Egg Hunt	3
Guided Bird Walk / Palm Sunday	4	5	6	Preschoolers w/Parents Session B	7	8	9	10
Guided Bird Walk / Easter	11	12	13	Preschoolers w/Parents-Session B Stories & Science Npt Kids Fest	14	15	16	17
Guided Bird Walk / Npt Kids Fest Ends	18	19	20	Preschoolers w/Parents Session B	21	22	23	24
Guided Bird Walk	25	26	27	Preschoolers w/Parents Session B	28	29	30	



Norman's Activity Page

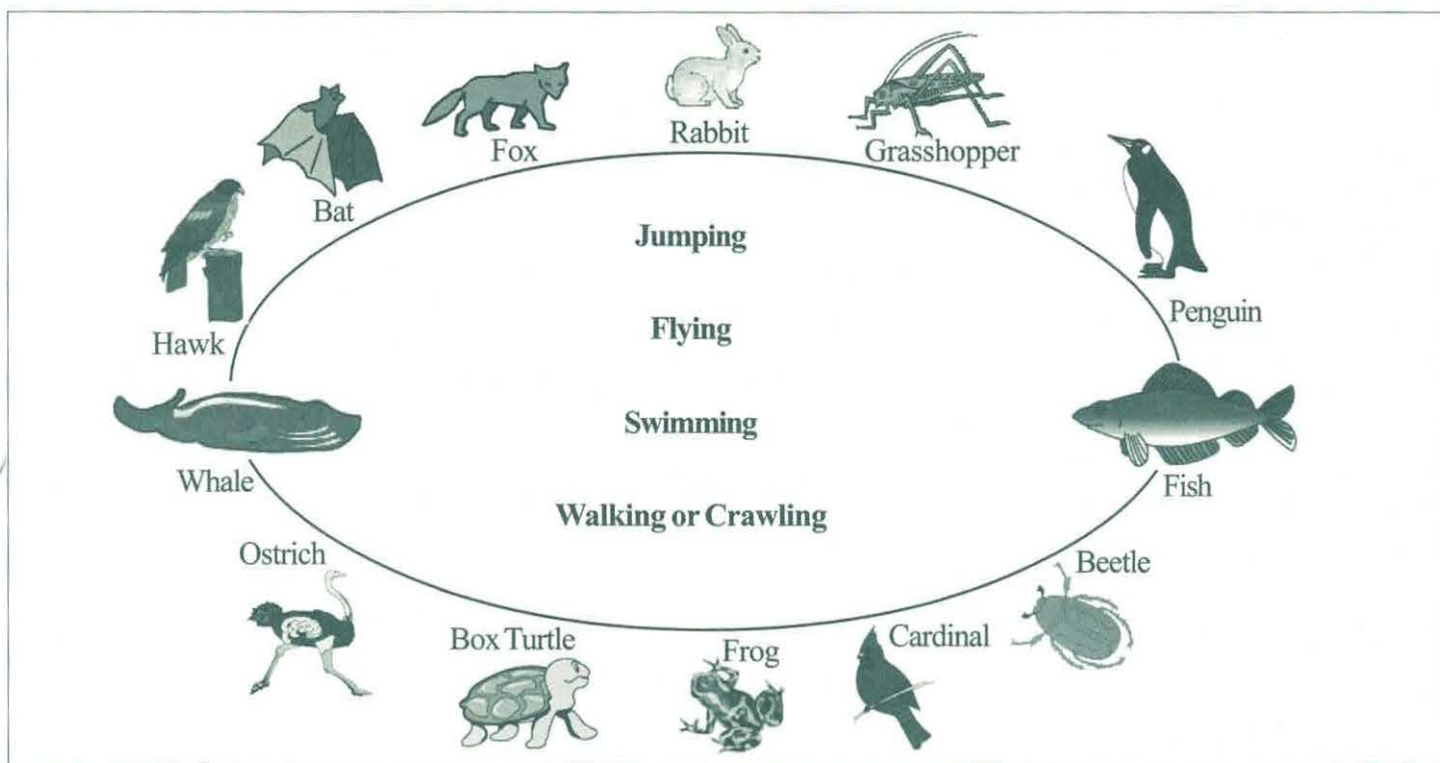


Cheerio, Everyone! Aaahhhh!!! At last, I can feel the sun beginning to warm my tail feathers! It's so nice not to have to thaw my beak before I eat. Well, all my animal friends are going to be very busy now that it's spring. Let's go outside and see what they're doing!

'Loco'motion

Have you ever noticed the way that animals move? They move in different ways depending on where they live, what they eat, and how they capture their food. Animals that we think of as being very different can move in the same way.

In the circle below are pictures of animals. In the center are words that describe how some animals move, like jumping, swimming, flying, and walking or crawling. See if you can draw a line from the picture of the animal to the way that it moves.



Before (Spring) and After (Spring) Pictures

These are snapshots of my animal friends. There is a picture of each friend in the winter and in the spring. Some of my friends do very different activities depending on the season of the year. See if you can guess which picture of each of my friends is a winter picture and which one is a spring picture. Then write a 'W' for winter or an 'S' for spring next to the picture.

1. Ground hog hibernating



Groundhog walking etc.



2. Snake hibernating



Snake in a tree



3. Bat flying



Bat hibernating



4. Frog jumping



Frog hibernating



Answers:

Before and After Photo's
Groundhog hibernating - W
Loco'motion
Jumping: Rabbit, grasshopper, frog.
Flying: Cardinal, bat, hawk
Swimming: fish, penguin, whale.
Squirrel climbing - W
Groundhog standing - S
Snake in a tree - S
Bat hibernating - W
Frog hibernating - S
Squirrel climbing - S



Volunteers & Events



Save the Date!

by Stacy Couto

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is pleased to announce its **1st Annual Bird Ball** gala event on **Saturday, August 21, 2004.**

Enjoy a beautiful summer evening and our breathtaking water views from the Paradise Farm meadows, complimented by the spectacular atmosphere created by Richard Carbotti and Perfect Surroundings, Inc. Tickets are scheduled to go on sale in June. Stay tuned, more details to come...

Worker Bees Needed!



Spring is quickly approaching and we have some fun opportunities for volunteers this season. One of our most popular events, **Birds & Breakfast** is just around the corner. Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving breakfast and clean up on the day of the event.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in set-up and clean-up activities for our upcoming **Bird Ball** on **August 21st!** Join the excitement and assist us in making this new event a great success!

If you are available to lend a hand, please call the Sanctuary at 846-2577.



*Join us for a spring morning of guided birdwalks,
fun educational programs
and a delicious country breakfast buffet!*

Sunday, May 16th, 2004

Bird Walks - 6:30- 11:00 am

Breakfast Seatings - 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 am

TICKETS

\$15 in advance - \$20 at the door

\$5 - children 4 to 12

Children 3 and under - Free

For reservations, please call

846-2577

583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02840

www.normanbirdsantuary.org



Trails & Tails

Birds, Birds And More Birds

by Veronica Hinds

It's all about the birds! We had some great birding experiences this winter and we've got great birding to look forward to this spring.

The Rhode Island Rarities Trip (January 24, 2004) was incredibly cold, yet it was a day that warmed all our birding hearts.

We left the Sanctuary at 7:30am, and headed over to Jamestown's Beavertail Point in hopes of seeing a **Barrow's Goldeneye** or a **King Eider**, but to no avail.

Back into the van and over to Wakefield and the Saugatucket River, where we checked out the **Tufted Duck**.

Next, we drove up to Coventry and the Tiogue Pond to pick up the **Tundra Swan**, then over to East Providence and Watchemoket Cove to find the **Common Black-headed Gull**.

Finally, we returned down to Middletown and Sachuest Point to view the Short-eared Owl.

We arrived back at the Sanctuary about 4:30pm, happy and exhausted! All in all, we tracked down 69 different species of birds, including the many rarities to the state which we set out to find.

The Essex Eagle trip, (February 8th, 2004) was another cold and windy day. The Connecticut River is home to a number of **Bald Eagles**.

Sure enough, as soon as the van approached the bridge crossing the river, we got our first glimpse of our magnificent national bird! Although much of the Connecticut River was

frozen, which can keep the Eagles at a distance, we did get some great views of both adult and juvenile **Bald Eagles**. On our way home, we picked up a couple of other rarities to add to our list.

In Groton, Connecticut, we sought out the rare **Iceland Gull** and in Ashaway, Rhode Island, we found the wintering **Black Vultures**.

Up and Coming Birding Adventures

Woodcock Walk: Friday, March 19th, 5:30-7:00pm. Join us as we marvel in the "sky dance".

Piping Plover Lecture: Thursday, April 8th, 7:30-8:30pm. Suzanne

Paton, senior wildlife biologist at USFW, will be talking about the history and management of Rhode Island and Aquidneck Island Piping Plovers.

Plum Island Birding Trip: Saturday, May 1st, 7:30am-5:30pm. Another great birding adventure. The spring migrants are fabulous at Parker River Wildlife Refuge.

Birds and Breakfast: Sunday, May 16th, 6:30-11:00am. An annual favorite. Bird walks every half hour!

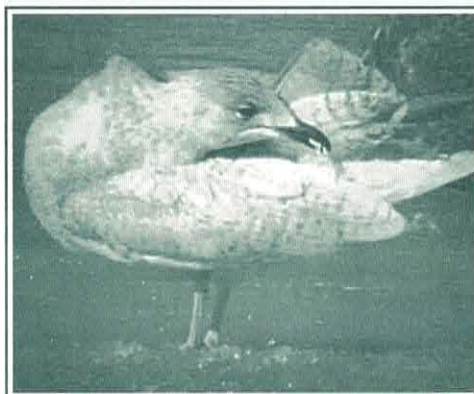
Check out our full list of programs* on pages six and seven, for complete information on these trips, as well as additional information for all of our other upcoming spring activities.

(*Editor's note: For easy reference to upcoming Sanctuary programs & events, pull out the center spread, pages 6 & 7, with program listings and handy calendar on the reverse side.)



Top, below left : Two amazing shots of Rare Iceland Gulls.

Below right: A closeup of a Common Black-headed Gull, all three courtesy of avid birder and nature photographer Bill Saslow.



William Saslow photos

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