

Hi! Summer came, as always, with crashing tides and sea birds screaming after storm-tossed food, during the full of the moon. (Do you think of footprints on its surface and a lost golfball when you see the moon?). The countryside was blanketed in heat, flowers, bird songs and the smell of new mown hay, with fire flies glowing at night. But at the Sanct. things were pulsing as Day Camp got underway. Altho' classes brought in \$4,000.00 most of it went out in salaries for 13 qualified young teachers. Day Camp was followed by a highly successful Sea Study Class. Would that we could have run the course for less, but, as it is, we made nothing. But then, money isn't our objective. Teaching is! The many farms at the Sanct. flourished altho' it was almost a drought summer. Perhaps they did so well because they were presided over by a scarecrow in hot pants! Did you ever think a scarecrow could look sexy? It was not enough however to combat the army worms that descended on the corn. The TV announcers looked skeptical as they read the words "the caterpillars are borne great distances on the wind until eventually they come to rest miles from where they were hatched". But it is true. Even in the ice of both polar caps, web-spinning insects are found frozen solid. Winds catch up the tiny worms and their webs, lifting them until they may be caught in thermal drafts. They are carried until the warm air deteriorates, then they come back to earth. This year they came down on R.I. especially Middletown. They grew big and fat on corn.

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Simply loads of animals spent the summer in and around Drury Court. The one that worries us is a fawn we call Adam Apple. He suffers from super-dry skin. He is almost hairless! (Thanks in part to Nasturtium. She pulled and ate his hair! Most unlamblike behavior!). Adam gets lanoline* lotion on his skin, walnuts in his food plus a dollop of vegetable oil, hi-potency vitamins and brewers yeast plus wormy corn. Can anyone think of any other oils a fawn will eat? (*Lanoline comes from the fat of sheep and that must be a warning to Nasturtium.) Stags are called spikes while their horns are growing in the first months of their lives. First little bumps appear on the tops of their heads, then they push upwards causing the skin to stretch and split. Eventually the bumps are like two exclamation marks!! Next year they will start to branch, then everyone will call him Monarch and no one will dare to pull his hair. The most outgoing creature at the Sanct.,--the one to greet you at the car, is Poe Crow. He will eat or steal anything. His very friendliness is a cover as he is sizing up your possessions, food, buttons, or better yet, car keys! If there were room to write of Ms. Bloomerton, Hooter, Archimedes (owls), tiny O.P. and older Blossom O. Possum, there'd be more to say than "All's well". The hens almost did in the rooster until a marauding raccoon killed and ate: 2 fan tails, 3 Kohouteks, the R.I. rooster and 6 of his harem. The killer had to be dealt with, and was--humanely. A new rooster and 6 brides have been pecked raw by the old gals. So Himself is to be alone in the henhouse and the girls caged for 2 weeks. Then when they are together again, Cock Of The Walk will see to it that they get on with the business at hand, i.e. laying eggs for humane consumption. Behind the Ed Shed Nasturtium and her completely black daughter, Dahlia, are bottomless pits. Peggoty folds up her long goat legs each night and crawls into a dog house to sleep. It is quite a stunt! When she comes out, she walks on her knees. People wax lyrical about sheep and make fun of goats. After a summer of Nasturtium & Peggoty, the goat gets the thumbs up. She's intelligent, has a sense of humour, she is a dainty eater, handsome, friendly to people but not above butting Nasturtium around when needed.

Goats are helping to keep the grass down on the old earthworks at Fort Adams. And they are joining the US Forest Service to clear a firebreak in the Cleveland Nat'l Forest. They are supposed to eat an access road that will serve as a safety area for wildlife and people. We only hope that they don't get too many Peggotys--our girl doesn't eat just any old thing.

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It was a great summer for animal stories--all the way from the love of a tale of two circus escaped elephants on a three week holiday in an impenetrable forest, to the shocker that was the death of Ruffian--an athlete who died young. The shocks piled up as we learned that she had broken a leg bone before that 100,000 horses die at race tracks each year; that Ruffian's owner received the loser's purse of \$125,000.00 and that he had raised her insurance just before her last race to one million dollars. Still one wonders what a foal by Secretariat out of Ruffian would have been like. What would it have been worth. In Italy a broodmare was horse-napped. In the midwest a blind dog has a seeing-eye cat, and in Oregon a male mallard swims in front of his blind mate that she doesn't bump into obstacles.

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All summer long, while you were in/on/beside Narragansette Bay, you were growing the largest squash, the best corn, the fanciest apples etc., for the Harvest Fair, weren't you? You have almost finished that woodworking or needlework, and you will get it done by the first weekend in October, won't you? Yes.

Friday, October 3rd-----Square Dance in P.M.

Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5-----Country Fair, both days.

Picklers! Pickle. Bakers! Bake. Needlers! Needle. Get ready. There'll be competitions in all fields and this year we hope more of you will enter the contests, there'll be stuff and things for sale, amusements for young and old and in between, fresh squosed apple cider, raffles, guessing games, foods, fruit, vegs and gifts to buy. The profits end up with the Sanct. (Last year's financed the Gift Shop. Who knows maybe this year they will purchase a Freeze-Dry Unit to feed \$\$\$ into the Sanct.)

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But before we get to the Fair we have the Benefit Cocktail Party. Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Superb food, all the liquid refreshment you want, delightful people in an interesting setting. And the price has not risen one whit in 5 years! Hows that for being anti-inflation? Our annual cocktail party is a perfect way to pay off your social obligations!

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The Delaware River is the last of the whitewater rivers in the east. It is good to know that the decision has been made, after years of dispute, to let it run free and not to dam it as the Army Corps of Engineers suggested. The plan was to create a huge lake for recreational purposes. Sometimes it seems that, as a nation we have gone recreation mad! We have lakes! Let's clean them up and make them enjoyable again. (reports say that Lake Erie is coming along fine) From USSR comes the news that it is illegal there for businesses to dump any wastes downstream of their intake valves! That's a good idea.

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The appeared to be many more orioles around this year than before. One is not supposed to call them "Baltimore Orioles" any more. Rather their official name is Northern Oriole. That is a bit sad as they were named after Lord Baltimore, 'tis said, and tis also said that he had a passion for orange satin vests, black velvet jackets and white knee breeches. That bit of folklore is to be lost to future birders. It is too bad, because what does it do but add charm?

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The following is a conversation between The Norman Bird's writer and a 4 or 5 year old boy during Fathers' Day breakfast in the orchard last June 15.

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Young Man: "I'm going to eat my egg first and save my doughnut 'til last, because a doughnut is, a doughnut--is--- a doughnut--"

Norman Bird: "A doughnut is heavenly?"

Y.M. "Jesus loves me"

N.B. Yes. He does

Y.M. And He watches me all the time except to-day maybe because its foggy & He's so high up there.

N.B. When I first learned about Jesus I learned that He can see us even in the dark and He knows when a tiny sparrow falls out of it's nest, so, I believe that He can see us, no matter what.

Y.M. Yes. And He loves me except when I colour yukkie.

N.B. Even then. If you have done your very best at colouring and it comes out yukkie, Jesus still loves you. If you set out to colour yukkie, well, that's not something Jesus would like, but if you do your very best and it turns out not so hot, He loves you. You know that an angel can do no more than his very best, so whatever you do, do your best.

Y.M. Yes. I'm going to eat my doughnut now. I can do that very best.

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The Chinese used to say: To repay evil with kindness is the proof of a good man. A superior man blames himself, a common man blames others.

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Calendar of Coming Events

Let's Dry Wildflowers and Tame ones too! First 3 week series begins Mon. Sept 8
Please call Gloria Hanlon 846-9726 for information and registration.

FALL PROGRAM

BIRD WALKS AND NATURE TOURS

10:00 AM on the following dates:

Sunday, Sept. 14th and 21st.

Oct. 19th and 26th.

Each trip will be either in the Sanctuary or other "good birding" area in the state. Contact the Sanctuary for details. (open to members and their guests)

UNIOR STAFF

A work-study program for young people. Designed to allow young adults to learn wildlife and museum management. They help with building displays, giving tours, maintaining trail systems, and caring for animals. Registration is Sunday, Sept. 14th and Sept. 21st. at 2:00 PM.

Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10:00 AM Orientation for Education Program Volunteers.