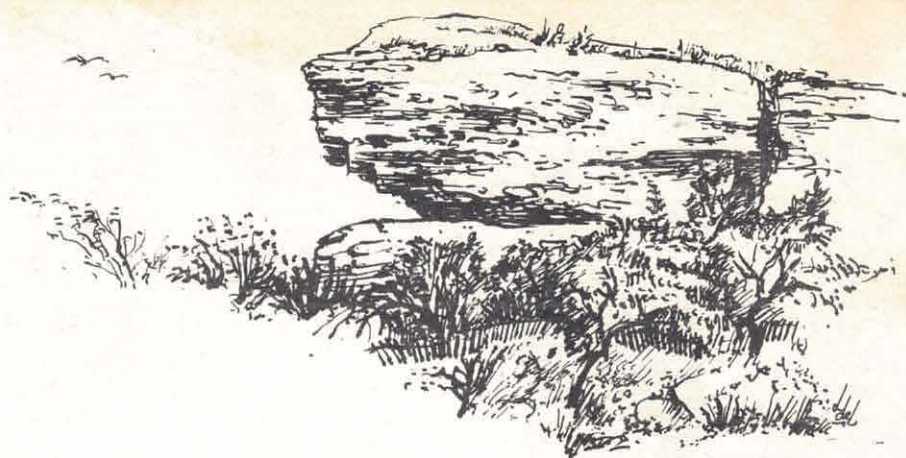


THE NORMAN BIRD A FLYER



A quarterly publication of
the Norman Bird Sanctuary.
Volume 2, Number 1
Fall, 1980.

BISHOP BERKELEY'S ROCK, MIDDLETOWN, R.I.

A NATURAL SPHINX-
HEAD AND SHOULDERS-
THRUSTS OUT OF THE LANDSCAPE
AND STARES AT THE GREAT BOWL OF OCEAN BEFORE IT:

ITS JAWS, ONCE FILLED WITH SOFT SOAPSTONE,
HAVE BEEN PRIED AJAR BY TIME:

WHERE TIMOTHY GRASS GROWS IN THE PUDDINGSTONE,
BISHOP BERKELEY SAT, WHERE YOU AND I

ARE SITTING NOW:...

COPYRIGHT 1980 BY RUTH WHITMAN

This is the first stanza of a poem about Hanging Rock from Ruth Whitman's new book of poems: Permanent Address: New Poems. Other poems in the last section center on the sanctuary, Sachuest Point and the surrounding area. The Sanctuary and the Book Bay invite you to an autograph party to celebrate the publication of this new book on Saturday, November 1 at 4:30 in the Education Shed. Wine and cheese will be served.

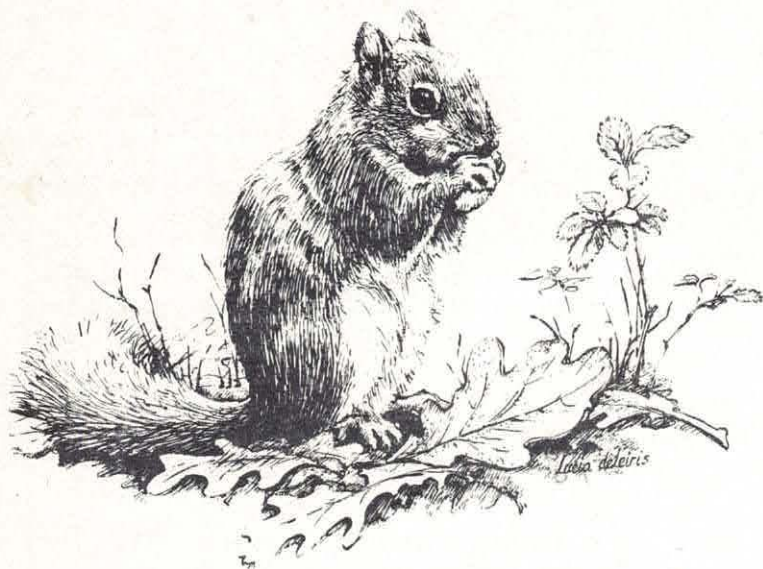
ISLAND BIRDS

Low water at Easton's Pond has created excellent birding opportunities for island dwellers and visitors. Shorebirds, ducks, and waders can be viewed at any time from the dike behind Easton's Beach. Cross the stream behind Easton's Inn to get there. You may see the ruddyshelduck!

HANGING ROCK

On all levels there is change. Seasons come and go along with the color of leaves and flowers. Life cycles, evolution, succession, and geological time are all words that suggest in some way change. For most of us there are constants though - Hanging Rock - jutting out over the ocean for hundreds of centuries seems changless, yet even it is changing and will continue to.

Composed of an igneous bedrock overlain by a conglomerate rock commonly called pudding stone, Hanging Rock is a rarity. Pudding stone is composed of basalt which boiled for millions of years while tossing chunks of hardened granite in it much like a simmering stew. As the earth cooled, rain fell, eroding away the loose basaltic rock and exposing the smooth eggs of granite. Continental plates came together and folded the rock formation causing the eggs to elongate. The ridges formed with the advent of glaciers which steamshovelled the softer material out of the valleys between the folds. Frost loosened the granite eggs and they eroded away in places forming pots for juniper. The dwarfed junipers now growing on Hanging Rock closely resemble the black spruce-balsam fir patches of Krumholtz, meaning twisted wood, associated with alpine zones. Our trees are dwarfed by a lack of water and soil. Many a windy day and night have knarled them, but they survive and do their share in the complex ecosystem of the "Rock" and its surrounding marshlands.



NO-TILL PLANTING?

The sanctuary may be host to a Soil Conservation Service program this spring to demonstrate the new no-till planters. No plowing means healthier soil with less need for fertilizers and herbicides. Better for the pocketbook, better for the birds.

NORMAN BIRDERS - OUT AND ABOUT

A small group of Norman members ventured to Block Island in late September for a breath of fresh salt air, a ramble through the salt dunes of the North Point, and a search for warblers along the lushly vegetated road back to town. A peregrine falcon was spotted perched on a driftwood snag. He left his perch to climb up in a few rapid wing beats and spirals to finally disappear behind a dune escarpment. Some members were more interested in insects and introduced the group to such wonders as the rove beetle and the thread-waisted wasp, while others had their eyes on the flowers. Most unique and perhaps most endangered of all species viewed was 74 year old Omar of Omar's Taxi Service. One of a dwindling number of native Block Islanders, Omar gave us a brief history of the island on the trip out. "Yes," he said, "There are, as the saying goes, as many fresh water ponds on Block Island as there days of the year...I know, I've counted them."

NEW ADDITIONS

- * A beveled driveway laid out with culverts and drain pipes to keep spring thaw at boot sole level.
- * A new flag.
- * Electricity for the animal house and shop area.
- * Cedar fences, stone walls, and a stone patio for the back courtyard.
- * Daffodil bulbs for the front garden and a trillium root for a secret spot in the forest.

The Annual Cocktail Party is a chance for Sanctuary members to get to know one another and to support the sanctuary at the same time. Please accept this as your formal invitation, and please come!

*The Advisory Board
of the
Norman Bird Sanctuary
cordially invites you
to their
Annual Benefit Cocktail Party
Saturday, November 15, 1980
Six-thirty to Eight-thirty
at the Sanctuary*

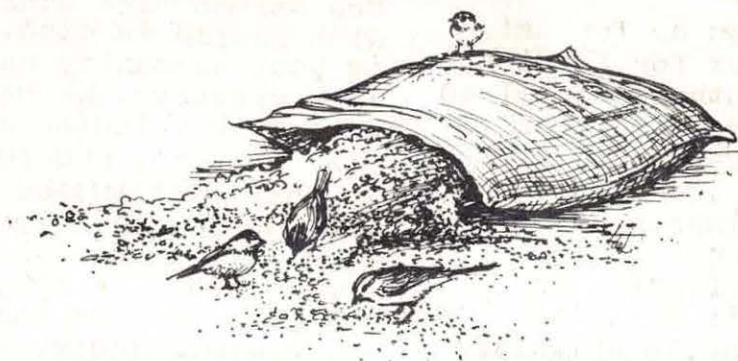
RSVP

Robert Edenbach
62 Annette Drive
Portsmouth, R.I.
683-4011

Donation
\$12.50
per person

NOTE

Richard Ellis, renowned marine artist will be speaking and showing slides of his work at the Armchair Sailor Bookstore at 7:30 on November 10. Mr. Ellis is a member of the American Delegation to the International Whaling Commission. His work has appeared in National Geographic, Oceans, and American Artist, as well as in his Book of Whales. No charge. The bookstore is in Newport.



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

BIRD-SEED SALE

STOCK UP NOW FOR THE LONG WINTER AHEAD. FEED THE BIRDS AND HELP SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT YOUR SANCTUARY AT THE SAME TIME. GET HIGH QUALITY WILD BIRD FOOD AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE. TO ORDER:

- ① FILL OUT COUPON BELOW AND MAIL IT WITH PAYMENT TO NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY BIRD SEED SALE, BOX 378, MIDDLETOWN, RI 02840. ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 14, 1980.
- ② PICK UP YOUR SEED DECEMBER 6th or 7th FROM 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM AT THE SANCTUARY.

* * * * *

BIRD SEED ORDER BLANK

NAME _____ PHONE _____ MEMBER: ^{NO} _____ _{YES} _____

ADDRESS _____

# BAGS	TYPE OF SEED	PRICE PER BAG INCLUDING TAX	AMOUNT
_____	SPECIAL MIX - 20 LBS	\$ 5.20	_____
_____	SPECIAL MIX - 40 LBS	\$ 10.10	_____
_____	SUNFLOWER SEEDS - 25 LBS	\$ 8.10	_____
_____	SUNFLOWER SEEDS - 50 LBS	\$ 15.40	_____
_____	MIXED SEED - 25 LBS	\$ 5.15	_____
_____	MIXED SEED - 50 LBS	\$ 10.10	_____
_____	FINE CRACKED CORN 25 LBS	\$ 3.75	_____
_____	FINE CRACKED CORN 50 LBS	\$ 7.20	_____
_____	THISTLE - 5 LBS	\$ 5.60	_____
_____	THISTLE - 10 LBS	\$ 11.20	_____

TOTAL _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

VOLUNTEER POWER

It's amazing what you do for us! Thanks to Nancy DeLux for leading school groups, to Guthrie Nicholson for his hours of electrical work, to Jill Hall - ace gardener, to Rich Barker for his cedar bench and much more, to Lincoln Barber for his insect collecting, to Kay Atkins, Lucia deLieris, and Anne Potter for their artistic touches, and to Jeanette Spinalski for many thoughtful details. Also thanks to Stevey, Warren, CJ, Jimmy, and friends for their spirit and to Jeff Hall, Ray Young, Bill Coogan, and Tim Moore for maintenance, landscape, and trail work!

FEED THE BIRDS

There are few things more satisfying than watching birds in your feeders on a cold winter morning. If you are a novice bird watcher, birdfeeders are a great way to start learning some of the different species. Sunflower seeds attract the greatest variety of birds to the feeder: goldfinches, purple finches, house finches, evening growbeaks, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, cardinals, and blue jays. Thistle is adored by redpolls, goldfinches, and pine siskins, while a seed mix will attract sparrows, juncos, towhees, and mourning doves, among others. Grub and insect eaters like woodpeckers and wrens will cherish the suet net. Don't miss Barney Schlinger's talk on winter feeder behavior. We will also have some feeder ideas prepared for you on bird seed pick-up day.

SCHOOL GROUPS

Thanks to your support, about 820 school children from 44 groups have been able to tour the sanctuary so far this fall. During their visit they explore the natural world and the interrelationships that exist between it and human culture.

* NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS *
* Lucia deLieris *
* Bill Coogan *
* Jeanette Spinalski *
* Thoughts, articles, ideas for *
* the newsletter are welcomed. *

WE NEED YOU!

The Norman Bird Sanctuary was set up with people in mind. The bird sanctuary is your community nature center and land preserve. We need you as a corps of active volunteers, a base for financial support, and an interested group to take part in the programs we offer. Two people can accomplish 4 times as much as 1 person - think what can be accomplished by 50 people! Call and add your name to the growing list of teenagers, middleagers, and senior citizens who are able to give a little bit of their time each month to the bird sanctuary. It really makes the difference.

GIFT IDEAS

Are you looking for the perfect present for a nature loving friend, or for a little something to perk yourself up this fall and winter? Try us! We're offering a belt pack designed to carry 2 - 3 field guide books, complete with a pocket for notepad and pencil. Made locally of weatherproof Cordura fabric, with a velcro closure to keep things dry. Look for the NBS logo! Color: Rust. \$10.50 plus 50¢ postage. Call, write, or come in yourself.



Also, back again by popular demand the Norman Bird Sanctuary T-Shirt! Stop in the museum store, or write for more information.

MONOMOY ISLAND

Monomoy Island is a low thin ribbon of sand extending south from Chatham on Cape Cod for almost 20 miles. Once a part of the mainland, it has twice been broken through during hurricanes, and is now two separate islands. Behind the sand and dune barrier are hundreds of acres of salt marsh and tidal mud flat. Several thousand terns nest in the sandy drier parts of the marsh. Louisiana and yellow-crowned night heron frequent the marsh along with egret and oyster catchers. The mudflat host flocks of south and northbound shorebirds. Luckily Monomoy is protected as a national wildlife refuge. The Sanctuary canoe field trip to Monomoy was plagued by high winds, but the birding was fine. Just to walk along the barrier beach made the trip worth the effort!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BIRD SANCTUARY?

VERY WEEK

Sunday Morning Bird Walks - 8:00 AM
Everyone welcome! Meet in the parking lot. Dress warmly. Back by 10:00.

Sunday Evening Story Hour - Every
Sunday through Dec. 14. 7:00 -
8:00 PM. For kids, parents, and young
at heart adults. Stories, singing,
surprises. Wood stove and popcorn
will be cooking!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Halloween Party and Haunted House -
October 31, 6:00 - 9:00. Stop by
as you breeze through the neighborhood for a spooky supper, games, and other hobgoblinery!

Autograph Party - November 1, 4:30 -
6:00. Please see announcement on
page one.

Annual Cocktail Party - November
15, 6:30. Please see invitation on
page two.

Christmas Tree Party - December 14,
2:00. Come help us make Christmas
tree decorations the birds will love
to eat, then join the fun of hanging
them on the entrance tree amidst
Christmas cookies and carols.

THURSDAY EVENING SERIES

Birds of Aquidneck Island - November
13, 7:30. Slides, discussion,
and a browse through the extraordinary
100 year old study skin
collection of Edward Sturtevant.

Birds of Peru - November 20, 8:00.
Chris Rimmer of Manomet Bird Observatory
will speak on his experience leading
birding safaris through the jungles and
rain forests of Peru. Slide illustrated.

Point in Conflict - December 4,
7:30. The movie that helped
Sachuest Point become a National
Wildlife Refuge.

Social Behavior of Common Wintering
Birds - December 11, 7:30. Come learn
why the birds at your feeder act the
way they do! Barney Schlinger of Arthur
D. Little and BU will speak on various
aspects of his avian research, including
his work with microwave studies.
Slide illustrated.

FIELD WALKS

Briggs Marsh Field Trip - November 1,
9:00 - 2:00. A birding field trip to
Brigg's Marsh and Emilie Ruecker Wildlife
Refuge. Bring binoculars, scopes,
lunch. Call 846-2577 to register.

Plants and Animals Prepare for Winter -
November 2, 2:00. We'll explore the
sanctuary's trails for signs of the
changing seasons. Everyone welcome.

Beachcombing Ecology Walk - November
8, 8:00 - 12:00. Walk with a naturalist
along the shore from Purgatory Chasm
to Third Beach. Meet in Sanctuary
parking lot. Bring a snack.

Star walks - November 12 and December
9, 8:00PM. Learn the myths and legends
of the stars. Dress warmly. Weather
permitting - call 846-0616 to check.

Full Moon Walk - November 22, 8:00.
Bring a friend! Dress warmly.

Winter Ducks Walk - December 13, 1:00 -
3:00. We'll search for the over-wintering
ducks. Bring binoculars if you
have them.

PREPARE FOR WINTER

Work Party - November 22, 10:00 - 4:00.
Come help us repair the summer's
damage to the Red Maple Swamp. We'll
find a job for everyone!

Make Your Own Christmas Presents -
December 2, 7:00. Come learn new and
old ideas for Christmas presents you
can make yourself from natural materials.

Bird Seed Pick-Up Days - December 6 and
7, 9:00 - 5:00. Collect information
on bird feeders and houses as you pick
up your seed.

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY EVENTS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

● NEW ○ FIRST QUARTER
○ FULL ○ LAST QUARTER

031
HALLOWEEN
PARTY. STOP BY
BETWEEN 6-9:00

BRIGGS MARSH FIELD
TRIP 9:00 - 2:00
WITH WHITMAN 4:30 -
AUTOGRAPH PARTY 6:00

BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PLANTS AND ANIMALS PREPARE FOR WINTER STORY HOUR 7:00 PM	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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