

Hi! The 1st day of Fall plunged us back into heat & humidity. That night saw the births of millions of tiny spiders. Blown off trees onto grass their eyes sparkled like diamond dust in reflected light. This event continues until killing frost. In the day no spiders seen -so small or they! Four raccoons trapped elsewhere were released on NBS Land, and a red-tail hawk (shot!) was brought to us for doctoring. X-rays show that he will never fly again. By Sept. 15th our Barn Owl had laid her 4th egg. We talked about running up a heating pad as we do not know how the chicks will fare in the cold water tower. But a predator got up and ate the chicks. Mama Owl was confused--February is Romance time for owls. Things seem so peaceful at the Sanct, it is hard to accept the fact that a fight for dear life is going on all the time. Very early every morning there is a cawing and a crowing back of 3rd Ridge. It is a battle between crows and their mortal enemy, a Great Horned Owl. If they can get him, they will peck him to death. On the other hand, if the owl can, he'll eat crow. ***The State sprayed the marshes against encephalitis carrying mosquitos. As 3 horses in the state had the disease, no humans, some pheasants, the cost seems excessive--\$400,000! Surely oil dropped by hand-Scouts, 4Hers, garden clubbers, ecologists etc. the cost could have been pennies.*** Our annual cocktail party was a great success. The Museum was a joy to the eye, the hors d'oeuvres were haute cuisine (many thanks to the donors). 70 people came, those who couldn't were dear to send in their checks--we raised \$700.00! *** The Oct. Lunch-Lecture were put off 'til Nov. for the reason that there was no room in the Ed Shed. It's great to have the Sanctuary so popular but Gee Whiz! ***The Dutch Elm disease is being battled with 2 chemicals on a yearly basis. It is hoped that a medicine will be found to immunize a tree for life. The spread of the beetles was made easy by us humans who love to plant rows of-a-kind, or fields all of a kind. We loved our Elm lined streets. So did the beetles! When one tree was dead they popped to the next one. If they had had to travel a few blocks to find an elm, they would have been eaten by predators. Nature seldom if ever plants two of a kind together.*** URI has launched a program called "Foster Parents of Elms" Anyone wishing to be a foster parent picks his elm, and undertakes the price of the chemical treatment for the year--\$50.00***A swan may live to 102! A Great Horned Owl, if not eaten by a crow, may live to 68. Wolves live to 16 as does a squirrel. A giant tortoise, largest of the reptiles, goes for 152 years, while a tiny chipmunk may make it to his 12th birthday. In our marshes our box turtles may be reaching for their 123rd years!*** It is nice to read that the gardeners at the White House have changed their policy about Xmas trees. No longer will glorious trees be cut annually and shipped to Washington to die on the White House lawn. Nor will the 50 smaller trees be shipped off to witness the death of a giant while they too are dieing. Instead a tree is to be transplanted, to be a Xmas tree at the proper season. ONLY the tree picked for the honour is already 75 years old. It is doubtful that it will survive. Could not a small tree be planted, so that at our 300 anniversary it will still be growing, a symbol of our great nation?*** Rocky, the timid timber wolf who visited us last Fall is now a sophisticated wolf-of-the-world. He has taken up the task left unfinished by the deaths of Clem & Jethro. At the ripe old age of 16 mos. he is touring the continent teaching the fact that wolves are pleasant creatures, not to be killed by shot, trap or poison. (Thanks for all the letters etc. to Congress everyone--you were just great.) Sweden has past laws protecting wolves.*** The Migratory Bird Act, which Teddy Roosevelt drew up to protect birds in migration, is coming into action with a vengeance. 7 oil companies have been charged on 113 counts for maintaining open oil sludge ponds in Colorado. 30,000 waterfowl annually mistake them for water ponds. (It is not the oil on their feathers that kill birds. When they preen their feathers to free the oil, and swallow the goo that they die.)*** Vegetables planted in gardens last spring must have yielded all the farmers wished as many were left to go to seed. Could it be that the deliciousness of green tomato pie or relish is unknown? Lots of "campenoin planting" was used and seems to have worked as the crops were not consumed by bugs! Lack of root vgs. was noted. If gardeners do not have storage space the Sanct. does! Next year huh? ***The caravaning was great fun. 4 came to the first but we grew in number to 17. We went to Jamestown! Interesting birds were seen--golden plovers, blackcrowned night herons, great blue herons, geese, ducks etc., Wish more of you would rouse from thy beds and join the fun!

END OF CONDENSED BIRD FOR. OCT. No. 21.