



New Birds of Prey Join Sanctuary

AUTUMN 2008

By Catherine Arning, Director of Education

The Norman Bird Sanctuary is thrilled to announce the arrival of its newest education team members: two new birds of prey! In October, a Red-tailed Hawk and Eastern Screech Owl were transferred to NBS from nearby rehabilitation centers. Both birds are considered non-releasable, meaning that they would be unable to survive on their own in the wild. Instead, they will be used as "animal ambassadors" in the Sanctuary's environmental education programs, helping to teach school and public groups about bird adaptations, behavior, and conservation efforts.

Acorn, an Eastern Screech owl (*Megascops asio*), traveled to NBS from Wind Over Wings, an education and rehabilitation center for birds of prey in Clinton, Connecticut. Like other screech owls, Acorn is a small bird with reddish-brown feathers and big, bright eyes. The name "screech" is well-deserved; for such a tiny animal, the owl communicates with a shrill, trilling song. Screech owls can be found throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada—often living in hollowed out woodpecker holes, tree cavities, and even man-made nest boxes!

The new hawk is the second of its species at NBS. The injured red-tailed was transferred from A Place Called Hope, a raptor rehabilitation center in Connecticut, where he was rehabilitated after being struck by a car. Red tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) are common Rhode Island residents and can frequently be spotted perched on utility poles or soaring high above open fields, parks, and wooded areas as they hunt for rodents, snakes, and other prey.

All three birds are housed in the Sanctuary's newly restored aviaries. You can help us welcome our animals to their new home by making "Hawk Housewarming" cards (card making stations will be set up throughout October in the NBS Visitor's Center); animal enthusiasts can also choose to sponsor any of our education animals with our "Animal Adoption" program. Finally, NBS invites school groups to help us name our new red tailed hawk! Names should help to teach something about the animal; one suggestion may be submitted per PreK-12 class. The winning classroom will receive a free NBS Birds of Prey program! Please call or visit our website for an application form and additional details.



Acorn, an Eastern Screech Owl, is unable to survive in the wild due to an eye injury.

It's in Your Nature: New Fall Programs at NBS!

Over thirty children in grades PreK-5 discovered their inner artists during the Sanctuary's *Naturally Crafty* Vacation Camp. The September program, held on Primary Election Day, helped to kick off the busy fall education season. In addition to the new vacation camps, NBS has launched a number of Saturday courses, interactive workshops, and afterschool programs.

The Sanctuary hopes to reach over 10,000 students in 2008, with a wide variety of programs for learners of all ages. Early childhood offerings include our *Bird Tales* storytime series, Preschoolers with Parents, and a new Saturday class, *Teaming with Nature*. This age-appropriate preschool class features animals, outdoor exploration, songs, and crafts.

Other new Saturday Explorers Club programs include *EcoExplorers* (for children in Kindergarten-3rd Grade), the *Green Team* (an environmental club geared at students in grades 4-6), and *Scientist for a Day* (a behind-the-scenes



research workshop for families). Explorers Club programs will run from October through May, with monthly sessions for each age group.

Held on Thursdays throughout the school year, the new Neighborhood Naturalist Afterschool Program will provide an opportunity for children in grades K-2 and 3-5 to discover new NBS habitats, meet animals, and explore the environment through hands-on activities.

For more information about any education program, please visit our website, www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org. The site includes school program information, interactive calendars, a kid's corner, and education resources.

NBS EcoTours Begin with Fall Sustainability Weekend



By Caitlin Luderer

Launching this October, the Sanctuary's new EcoTour program will expand its mission to a more diverse audience from throughout the Northeast. Each

program will engage visitors in a quality environmental experience, making them more aware of their connection to and impact on the natural world. Proceeds from NBS EcoTours will be reinvested in our diverse environmental education programs.

The inaugural program, a Rhode Island Local Foods and Sustainability Weekend, will be held on October 24-26, 2008. The EcoTour is inspired by a resurging interest in local foods and the bountiful harvest season in New England. Participants on this sensory journey will learn about how eating locally and organically-produced food fits into a more sustainable lifestyle. The trip will also include visits to Rhode Island's picturesque farms, vineyards, and historic sites. For more information about any of our new EcoTour programs, please call (401) 846-2577 or visit www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org.

Education Open House to Preview 2008-09 School Programs at NBS!

Calling all teachers, administrators, and other educators from across Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts! Mark your calendars for the Norman Bird Sanctuary's Education Open House on Tuesday, October 21, from 5:00-7:00 P.M.!

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to preview the Sanctuary's all-new education programs for grades PreK-12. The evening will feature hands-on activity stations, live animal presentations, and a special "Nocturnal Nature" night hike. A delicious catered meal and drinks will be provided, and all participants will be entered to win raffle prizes, including a free NBS outreach program, restaurant and spa gift certificates, and other coveted prizes. Educators will also receive a 10% discount on all programs booked during the Open House!

To participate in the Education Open House, please call NBS at (401) 846-3577 or e-mail education@normanbirdsantuary.org. The event is free, but pre-registration is requested by Monday, October 20.

New Interpretive Exhibits Added to Historic NBS Barn Museum

It is an exciting time at the Norman Bird Sanctuary! In addition to the new birds of prey, the Sanctuary recently unveiled interpretive murals and exhibits in its historic Barn Museum!

Visitors can now explore the "Seven Wonders of NBS" as they journey through ocean, beach, salt marsh, stream, pond, forest, and ridge habitat displays. Added touch stations and exhibits include tactile biofacts and craft stations. Guests can also get to know the Sanctuary's education animals with the help of new signs and fact sheets. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to explore Rhode Island's unique natural history and wildlife through these hands-on exhibits.

The education murals were designed by staff members Jess daSilva, Caro Roszell, and Rachel Holbert; other dedicated volunteers and staff donated their time to paint, clean, and restore the historic space. Special thanks to Caitlin Luderer, Stephanie Zanati, Jen Klein, Natalie Coletti, Dee Doucette, Lisa Larson, Dorothy and Amelia Kracik, Derek and Graham Gibbs, Cam Muir, Nick Rommel, Nico de Luca-Verley, Anastasia Patterson, and Kara and Gillian Lessels.

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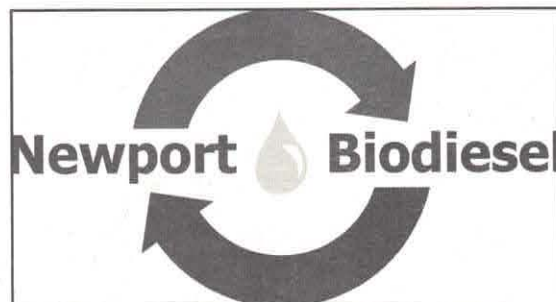
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Events & Programs

For more information visit us at www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org
Pre-registration is required. To register, please call (401) 846-2577

Oct. 1, 15, 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 10 10:00 am Bird Tales

We'll read a story, meet an animal or go on a discovery hike, and complete a craft. Suggested donation: \$2 per child (members), \$4 per child (non-members). Adults free.

Oct. 2-30 (1); Nov. 6-Dec. 11 (2) 4-5:30 pm Neighborhood Naturalists Afterschool

Join the NBS Naturalist club! We'll investigate habitats, meet animals, and explore the environment with experiments and activities. Age-appropriate sessions are held for grades K-2 and 3-5. Members \$35, Non-Members \$40.

October 10 7:00 pm

The Nature and Science of Harry Potter
Don't miss this family evening! We'll make our own wands, take Care of Magical Creatures, study Potions and Herbology, and brew "butterbeer!" Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children. One adult free per paid child.

Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 10 am-12:00 pm EcoExplorers

Monthly Saturday program for grades K-3. New activities each session, including Nature 101, Campfire Gourmet, and Hooray for Herps A night hike will conclude the program in May. Members \$6 per class; Non-Members \$8 per class.

Members may enroll for a full year (8 classes) for a reduced price of \$40.

October 12 4-5:30 pm

EcoHome Series: Home Fermentation
Monthly series on sustainability. Learn to reduce amount of off-season, long distance produce in winter by preserving garden veggies. Fermenter Nick Fox teaches Sauerkraut and Carrot-Ginger Pickle recipes. Please bring a wide-mouth jar to use. Members \$6 adults 13+; Non-Members \$8 adults.

October 12-November 19 1-2:00 pm Preschoolers with Parents

Marilyn Lyell leads our series for preschoolers, ages 3-5. Features discovery walks, animals, games, songs, and more! Members \$50 per child; Non-Members \$60 per child.

October 16 7:00 pm

Speaker Series: Diamonds in the Marsh
Join biologist and author Barbara Brennessel for a talk on diamondback terrapins, salt-marsh turtles that are endangered in RI. Learn about terrapin biology, conservation efforts, and information on local populations. A book signing will follow. Members \$6 adults 13+; Non-Members \$8 adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 10 am-12:00 pm Green Team

Monthly Saturday series for grades 4-6. Take an active role in helping the environment! The year ends with a spring overnight at NBS! Classes build on each other; sign-up for entire session (8

classes) suggested. Members \$40; Non-Members \$50. Call for single program cost.

October 21 5-7:00 pm

Fall Education Open House

We'll showcase over 75 new education programs, for grades preK-12. Enter to win prizes and scheduling discounts. Free to educators. Please call to register.

Oct. 25, Nov. 22 10 am-12:00 pm

Scientist for a Day

Families participate in local environmental research projects! Collect data, monitor species, and help determine ecosystem health. Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children.

October 24-October 26 EcoTour: RI Local Foods and Sustainability Weekend

A full weekend of environmental programming, highlighting RI. Organic cooking classes, winery tour, bird watching, natural history walks, and a visit to an oyster farm. The 3 day package includes overnight lodging, trips to Newport landmarks, evening lectures and more. Please call for pricing.

October 27, November 17 6-7:30 pm

Environmental Book Club

Bring a pot-luck dish to share while discussing environmental issues. Geared towards adults and older teens. Call or visit website for monthly book selection. Free

November 1, December 6 10-11:30 am Teaming with Nature

Monthly Saturday program for preschoolers aged 2-4, and their parents. Themes include *Nature's ABC's*, and *Winter Wonderland*. Members \$4 per child; Non-Members \$6 per child.

November 1 5-7:00 pm

NBS Halloween Extravaganza

Wear costumes to our environmentally-themed Halloween Festival! Characters guides host games, seasonal crafts, ghoulish treats, campfire sing along, live animals, night hikes, and costume awards! Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children. One adult free per paid child.

November 4 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Brr, Rabbit! Getting Ready for Winter Vacation Camp

Learn how animals prepare for winter months as we explore ecology of some cold weather habitats. Campers will meet winter-ready animals, make a winter craft, and learn the history of hot chocolate. Before and After-care available. Members \$35 per child; Non-Members \$40 per child.

November 7 7:00 pm

Mysteries of the Night

Families discover how animals (including humans!) use their 5 senses to survive after dark. We'll test our night vision, go on a night hike, and

meet nocturnal animals. Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children. One adult free per paid child.

November 9 4-5:30 pm

EcoHome Series: Composting at Home

Autumn is the perfect time to start your compost pile. URI Master Composter Sejal Lanternman presents a workshop on making your own fertilizer out of garden and kitchen waste. Members \$6 adults 13+; Non-Members \$8 adults.

November 11 9:00 am-3:00 pm

It's All Thanks to Nature! Vacation Camp

Celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving by taking a look at the many gifts nature gives us. Earth-friendly crafts, games, and even a little drama are included in this fun-filled camp! Before and After-care available. Members \$35 per child; Non-Members \$40 per child.

November 12 6:30-8:30 pm

Local, Organic Cooking for the Holidays

A cooking workshop helps you craft a seasonal feast using local and organic foods. Our local guest chef will help you prepare several recipes for Thanksgiving and other gatherings. Materials and food provided. \$55 per participant.

November 20 7:00 pm

Speaker Series: When Whale Sharks Fly

Aquatic animal veterinarian Dr. Howard Krum shares his adventures treating some of the ocean's most amazing animals. Book signing to follow. Members \$6 adults 13+; Non-Members \$8 adults. Children 12 and under free.

December 5 7:00 pm

Holiday Wreath and Candle Making

Families create earth-friendly holiday decorations. Participants leave with a candle and wreath of their creation! Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children. One adult free per each paid child.

December 13 4-5:30 pm

EcoHome Series: Recycled Holiday Gifts

Save a shopping trip to the mall by creating earth-friendly gifts and cards. Members \$6 adults 13+, \$4 children 3-12; Non-Members \$8 adults, \$6 children.

December 22 and 23 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Home for the Holidays Vacation Camp

Give Mom and Dad a chance to shop and celebrate the sights and sounds of the season at NBS! Campers will explore winter habitats and the ways that animals get through the coldest season. Members \$70 per child; Non-Members \$80 per child.

December 29-31 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Winter is the Coolest Vacation Camp

Outdoor fun with a winter twist! We'll bundle up for hikes, study the science of snowflakes, and make frosty treats! Members \$105 per child; Non-Members \$120 per child.



The Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, RI 02842

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Our Wish List!

- Tanks, aquariums, and cages
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Hand towels and blankets
- Microscopes
- Children's games, puzzles, and toys
- Children's storybooks
- Puppets
- Digital camera
- Area rugs for classrooms
- Framed pictures and art for classrooms
- Craft and art materials
- Double boiler and hot plate
- Passenger Van
- Volunteers



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY!!!
Saturday, October 25th, 2008 4-6pm at NBS
Sponsored by *Tito's Cantina & Coca-Cola*



Please RSVP at 846-2577 x17 or lmuir@normanbirds sanctuary.org

To thank our many volunteers who have given their time throughout the year—ALL are welcome

- 80 Roger Williams University freshman moved sand as part of the Dune Restoration Project at Third Beach
- 40 volunteers helped with Birds & Breakfast in May
- St. Georges Varsity Girls Lacrosse Team helped eradicate invasives in a south field
- Salve Regina University students helped with Harvest Fair, refurbished aviaries, eradicated invasives, prepared for summer camp by cleaning, painting, and organizing books & supplies
- Students from area high schools and middle schools helped paint shelves, walls and floors in the barn (be sure to stop by and see our colorful and educational new exhibits in the barn)
- 300+ volunteers helped in all areas at the Harvest Fair
- Corporate groups came to town and helped paint our animal rooms
- 35 volunteers helped with the NBS 2nd Annual 5K in June
- 50 volunteers & committee members helped make the 5th Annual Bird Ball in August an overwhelming success
- Individual volunteers have fed animals, maintained trails, stuffed envelopes, installed birdhouses, pulled weeds.....