

Members and Friends! You are just GREAT! You didn't mind two appeals in one envelope at all. Your response was, well, just great. Bids have gone out for remodelling the shed. Plans may be seen if you inquire at The Barn. Those of you who elected not to send in membership dues will suffer the horror of not receiving The Bird in the mail. That should jolt you into action! There are other goodies that come along through the year that you'll miss out on. So, if you're not a member, do be. We'd love to have you join, and you'll love it too.

You may have read in the paper of a gift of money from the NBS to the three communities of the Island for "Project ID". That money was given us for the express purpose of community relations. Project ID is a needed deterrent to crime, and the only PR thing we could think of that would benefit every person on the Island. You'll like it once it gets into high gear. Robbers won't like it at all. Your dues this year go 100% into teaching. Two years ago some were diverted into plumbing, and you didn't read a thing about burst pipes, did you, all winter long? Last year some went into a tractor--and just in time. The school children have expressed interest in agriculture. We have the land plus the tractor! Plows, harrows and mulcher are going daily. Again this year The Bird will be a gift, as were the Canada Goose prints to those of you who have \$25.00 plus.

You should be darned proud of the Director's April report -- it was your dues that made it possible.

"The visit of the wolves was a great success. They have been invited back next year. 2700 school children saw the film and met the wolves.

550 children received instruction in nature studies, involving 3,360 hours given free to Island schools.

April Lunch Lecture series netted \$241.00. Repeat in October.  
Class in dried flower arrangement netted \$120.00. Repeat in June.  
Adult classes popular, fees went to teachers.

Under auspices R. I. S. P. C. A. a program on the care of house pets has been given to 47 classes on the Island.

On the job training is being given to three high school students.

Island Ecology, Volunteers In Action, and our membership has answered the call for volunteer teachers for the rush of schools expected from Off Island in May.

The Alice L. Mayer Fund gave us a grant of \$198.00 with which the mulcher was bought.

Capt. Hawes gave us a gift of a 1948 Ford pickup truck. Next year it can bear a Veteran Car Club license plate--as if it weren't of great value as is!

April membership dues totalled \$1850.00. Funds for the Ed Shed came to \$4800.00.

A Caravan for those who can't walk and love to Bird was held. Repeat - End of report. Aren't you proud of yourselves?

In May the Naval Choristers gave a benefit concert and we received \$500.00 from that effort for the Ed Shed.

✓ We had a gift of another Strawberry Bank fireplace from that nice Post family in Little Compton. If you see the plans for Ed Shed you will see how the two fire-pots are to be used. Woodchoppers, mindfull of their own well being, are reclaiming a former cow pasture by cutting down the trees that have grown there in the last 70 years! The results of the chopping are healthy choppers, full wood bins and heat for Ed Shed in winter.

A group of ardent lady gardeners have asked to be "The Sanctuary's Garden Club". Wouldn't it be great if they construct a small but perfect garden for the handicapped and blind in the east end of the Orchard?

✓ Scouts have been sleeping out in the Orchard all spring. Day before Easter pup tents were drawn up in military precision, the flag was raised, fire going in the pit, a huge baggie ready for refuse. Early Easter morn they raised a cross, a Navy Chaplain had a sunrise service. By 7 A. M. they were gone. Not so much as a bent twig showed they had been there, not one bit of litter. Scouts are always welcome!

✓ Whiffy, our skunk, had a gentleman caller. He got into her cage and couldn't get out. Fearless Leader said that there is nothing to removing a wild animal "Slow and easy does it". His philosophy worked. When caller was free, by way of saying "Thanks" perhaps, he took aim. Fearless Leader's clothes hung on the line for 10 days!

✓ An oil soaked Great Gannet arrived at our doors. The gang washed her. She was beautiful! The children named her Garnet. We hasselled our fishermen as a gannet is a bird that must take fresh water from the fish eaten. Some seabirds have a desalinization sack, but gannets don't. They get their water from the fish they eat which have already desalted it. Garnet couldn't take our usual diet of dog food. She had smelts yet! But alas, as all birds preen their feathers to clean them, Garnet had tried to remove the oil by preening. She had swallowed oil. That big beautiful bird died in convulsions from ingested oil. Birds can not be taught to change their habits of cleanliness. Man must be taught to mend his stupid ways. Stupid is the word for the man who left a pumper pumping oil all night into a tank. When the tank was full, 500 gallons of oil spilled into Lake George. We know the amount of oil but how much life was lost?

✓ A copy of The Providence Evening Bulletin of 1872 shows that we haven't changed much. There are just more of us. A bunch of teenagers camped on the banks of the Colorado River murdered and robbed a cattleman. A Mrs. B. in Providence claimed that Mr. B. had deserted her and their children. She needed help. A man was fined for soiling within the city limits. (He'd cleaned his outhouse and dumped the gleanings within the boundaries of Providence!) Mrs. Astor's jewels had been stolen. And Congress finally got around to voting a pension for that poor tortured woman, Mary Todd Lincoln, \$5,000.00 a year. It could almost be 1972!!

9 On June 30, at one second before midnight, all the master clocks in the world will be pushed back one second, a Leap Second (in Leap Year too) It seems the earth is revolving more slowly around the Sun. If it goes too slowly we will spin off into space, as we are held on by centrifugal force. Some one suggested that we don't want an extra day in February. They said June 31st would be welcome. How about July 4th A and July 4th B? Or two Mondays on Labor Day weekend every four years? And the ice cap is melting. Mercy! If that melts we'll tip over. But first it will cause water to rise. That will wipe out urban blight and the urbs with the blight! The top of Hanging Rock is only 40 feet above sea level.

✓ Died in Nigeria. Pa William. Born 1712. Died 1972. At 260 years of age he was man's oldest known living animal. He was a tortoise.

On a 2 mile stretch of freeway in California air pollution has killed all vegetation. The highway beautification department planted \$80,000.00 of plastic trees. This so infuriated people that every "plant" was torn up and shredded. There will be no further planting until emissions from cars are low enough to allow plants to grow naturally.

Parasites are usually unpleasant things---ticks, lice and various worms. Some are lovely tho' --- orchids, mistletoe, bittersweet -- poison ivy is half and half -- lovely to see especially in the fall. None of these parasites feed on their own kind except lampreys. They are fish and they feed on salmon.

How tiresome it is to hear people say that our society is sick. Now someone says that our national dis-ease is boredom. And that makes sense. How else to explain nine million alcoholics, 40,000 OD deaths per annum, vandalism, etc.? What is the cause of boredom? Lack of imagination? It has been noted that we Americans will travel to Cape Kennedy to see the rockets off for the moon yet fail to see the fireflies in our own back yard. Kipling had the cure--"Get a large hoe, and a shovel also, and dig til you gently perspire". Before you know it you'll have a garden for your fireflies!

In Maine a new coyote has appeared. It is the Eastern Coyote. Coming from the west through Canada, it has mated with the wolf. This shy and beautiful coyote is protected in Maine. Now that we all know and love wolves---we who have been kissed by the four legged kind, will never forget! Forever we shall love wolves and all their gentle relatives.

Good Year Tire Co. will use old tires to make new ones. We throw away 200 million old tires annually. Good Year has a smokeless emission free furnace in which to burn tires--rubber gives off more heat than coal per pound. From this furnace will come new tires. That's the spirit!

As there are over 100 viruses that cause the common cold, doctors have given up on a vaccine.

Pro-abortionists say that a woman has the right to control her body. Indeed she does! Control should be exercised quite some weeks before she might need an abortion! Strange that we should have abortion but no death penalty for murderers. O. K. to kill babies, but it's a no-no for convicted killers. Now British Doctors want the aborted babies to use in cancer research. Will the "tissue" be kept alive in test tubes and injected with cancer, so that convicted murderers may not die of cancer? Haven't our priorities gotten a bit mixed up?

In 1971 car fatalities numbered 59,215---nine thousand more than were killed in 10 years in Vietnam---safer there than here! When you are driving your car, never forget that you are driving a potential instrument of death.

Among the interesting birds seen in the NBS this spring have been rose breasted gros beaks, Indigo buntings, a Peregrin falcon and bob-o-links. The forsythia this spring didn't amount to much but it didn't matter--never have there been so many gold finch making the bushes brilliant yellow. Could it be because so many of us are feeding these charming little creatures?

Thank goodness the Governor has finally put purity standards on organic food. It will have to meet the standards as ordinary food we've somehow scraped by on all these years. Someone should control their prices--soy flour used to sell for .05 a lb.--now that it's in the price is .48.

If you see a sign-board reading "Do It For A Lark" read further. We've been offered two billboards. "Do It For A Lark--Visit The Norman Bird Sanctuary"!

*Take A Bird Under yr. wing -*

Coming Events:

Bird Caravan will leave The Barn June 21st at 7 A.M.

Nature Day Camp Ages 6-12 - Starts June 26 - \$10 for members - \$15 for others.

Special Kindergarten Class will be held this year as an experiment. For ONE WEEK ONLY - ~~June 26 - June 30~~ inclusive. Price as above. Size limited

*August 7-11*  
Call 846-2577 to make reservations.