

Hi! None of us should ever complain about the weather after the Fall we had. Were it not for the probing finger of autumn we'd have had tomatoes from our gardens on the Thanksgiving table. There were tiny white violets in bloom in marshy spots, primroses in the garden & quince fruit laying under bright pink blossoms! But everyone kept dreaming of a white Christmas, so we got it. (Next year specify snow white or ice white!) The Almanac(k) says winter would start off crazy & it did. Between snow, ice, rain, fog, did you ever see the surf more beautiful?. In the middle of the cold, someone brought it a cattle egret. In a heat wave an egret looks cool. Can you imagine how cold a cold egret looks in a cold snap! He's in the Ed Shed. With a heat lamp. Anyone flying to Fla. willing to carry-on an unmigrated egret?

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In early Fall a Canada goose was brought in with a wounded foot. Infected, treated, healed and crippled, she stayed with us until the honking overhead made her try to join the migrations. One cold morning she clumsily took to the air. She circled the Barn-Museum honking a soft goodbye, then headed west for the mainland. She was a tiny speck, flying much too low and slow, when her kind were no longer visible to the naked eye. We wished her well and hoped she could somehow find her mate, if he still lived, in all that waste land called The South. It was a sad but happy thing to have her go. Next morning on the frosted alfalfa field was one Canada goose with a gimpy leg and a gleaming chin strap! Golly Gee! It was good to see her--sad but happy again.

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The Kohouteks are glorious, entering their third year of life at the Sanct., which is a fair life for bantams. Mr. Kohoutek holds his own with the handsome white rooster that is keeping the R.I. Red hens happy, since their first (and henpecked) spouse became supper for a raccoon.

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Fish farming has started in Warren R.I. It is called Aquaculture. The Blount Sea Food Co. is raising a crop of Coho salmon. also called variously; silver, Skowitz and Hoopid. The fish tanks are full of "smolts", 18 months old & weighing less than an ounce. By next summer they will have eaten enough of the refuse of the Blount Fish industry to sell at \$2.00 a pound. (Blount sells clams & quahogs to Campbell Soups) Our ancestors settled these shores in part because of the salmon. (In 1700 the Merrimac was alive with salmon.) But like their descendents they overfished and dammed up the rivers too, so that by 1865 the N.E. States tried to restock the Atlantic with eggs from Canada, and failed.

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We had a lunar eclipse on Nov. 18th--the last one for the next 7 years. Did you know that the moon is orbiting further and further away from the earth all the time? Did you know that Earth is getting fatter in the middle all the time too? The Society that believes the earth is flat had better hang in there for a while longer--quite a while at that.!

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Did the first blast of winter find you not ready to feed the birds? Invest in an embroidery needle (.05¢) to string apple quarters and raisins together. Or buy a Fruit-ka-bob at the N.B. Gift Shop. Get some of yesterday's brown breads & do-nuts--they'll keep in the freezer. Get some cheap peanut butter and dog food, a net for suet--wire will do, but tiny tongues may freeze on metal. Store extra seeds to be used only in storms, & get a lb. of corn meal. If you've noticed, corn meal disappears in snow, so scald it with boiling water to form lumps; let cool before tossing it for the boarders. It is guaranteed to disappear in birds.

If you find a sick bird, remember its first need is food. Get it inside to a shoe box with a net cover, or, failing that, to any sheltered "nest" of leaves or grass anywhere, back porch or garage. Poke some dogfood into its beak by piling some up on a matchstick or twig. You may have to force the beak once, but after that the bird will get the idea. Do not soak bread in water or milk! Birds need little water getting mostly what they need from foods. They never eat bread, and milk is totally unknown in a bird's life. If all you have is bread, crumble it in vegetable oil for a starving bird. If there is a wound use a good antibiotic cream. And, if there is a break, make the creature as comfortable as possible. When the storm is over, talk with Fearless Leader. By spring migration time we'll have some simplified directions for carry on with wings and legs.

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This is the season for open fires. Long years ago you learned that one log alone will not burn. Two are needed. The secret of a good fire is to place two logs close enough together to keep each other warm, yet far enough apart to allow air to circulate. Some wit said that this is also a valid recipe for a good marriage.

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The Mediterranean Fruit Fly, introduced into the Los Angeles area accidentally, threatens a \$700 million dollar fruit industry. To put a stop to this non-American pest the strategy of saturating the area with sterilized male flies was decided on. Thus a collection of 400 million fruit fly eggs was exposed to radiation, and the trays were put into a rented trailer to await the emergence of the full grown flies. Unbeknownst to the scientists the previous trailer-leaser had hung several Shell NoPest Strips. Can you imagine 400 million dead flies? Just about all of our pests are introduced accidentally into our country with no natural predators. Thus our Gypsy moths were brought in to mate with silk worms, escaped to mate among themselves, they cost us annually! There's a worm that eats buds of pine and cost us annually! Now a scientist has brought some wheat stem worms, (the pest that cost USSR annually,) over here to study and he LOST them! Time will tell if they got to food before someone accidentally stepped on them. What the world needs is a pest in the wheat fields of America.

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For over 2½ centuries the firm of Davison Newman Ltd. have been selling tea. Founded in 1650, when tea was literally worth its weight in gold-- a pound sold for as much as £20. It was indeed a beverage for the rich. Pepys records his first cup of tea on Sept 25th 1660. But the price came down over the years as competition entered the field against the East India Tea Company, until in 1728 tea was down to 13 shillings a pound. It was the Davison Neuman Co. Ltd. that shipped tea to the Colonies when the tax was laid upon it that so infuriated our ancestors. That tax ultimately lead to war. For 1976 that same tea company has blended together the same teas for our bi-centennial celebration. One can find it in the better food shops in one pound canisters. It is a nice honey-flavoured blends of blacks. (registered under the name of "Bawstonaba Tea CO")

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In the coming year the Cousteau films in connection with NASA will be shown on P. B.S. They will show how all those space ventures are serving us! The 30 min.

broadcasts will show the resources of Earth--The Oasis In Space-- the pollutants flowing from California to the Antarctic, the refuse from NYC flowing to N.J. ! We'll see which crops will prosper and which will fail, which parts of the earth can support dense population, and we'll see the monitoring of fresh water reserves and locate food in the seas. It will be an important series of broadcasts and you will want the kids to see them. The satellites are already foretelling a poor winter wheat crop in USSR!

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The Audubon Bird Count, Dec. 20 showed a tremendous number of birds wintering over--the final count is not in yet. But right on our own property was a very exciting--and odd for winter-- osprey!

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The following is not meant for NYC alone. It applies to all of us. "If you fail to tailor your outgo to fit your income, your upkeep will be your downfall".

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After all you feasting did you join in with the oldetymer in saying, "I've et so much and drunk so free, that I can neither sit nor lay"?

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Happy Birthday U.S.A.!

