

Spring 1986

COMMON SCENTS

With the onset of Spring, sightings of our local wildlife are becoming more frequent. So too, are human/wildlife interactions, and the number of calls the Sanctuary receives regarding injured, "orphaned" and "nuisance" animals.

In the past month we have received numerous calls from people who suspect that a skunk is residing near or under their house, and want to know how to get rid of it.

The skunk's defensive ability to spray its musk makes it an unwelcome house guest, but not a fearsome creature. The musk is a pungent, sulphur - alcohol compound that although very unpleasant, causes no permanent ill effects, even on contact with the eyes. The scent can be removed with a mildly acidic solution such as vinegar or tomato juice. Use only WATER to flush the eyes.

Luckily, a skunk will spray only as a last resort, and will warn an intruder first. It will stamp its front paws, raise its tail and shuffle off backwards. If the intruder doesn't get the message then it will arch its back, turn in a U shape, with front and rear facing the target, and spray with accuracy. It can hit targets up to 15 feet away.

The striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), is the most adaptable member of weasel family. It can be found all over the U.S. from sealevel to timberline, and in a variety of habitats except for the desert. It is a burrowing animal but will take advantage of ready made cavities such as abandoned

fox dens, woodchuck holes, culverts and in buildings. It is omnivorous, and feeds on rodents, carion, fruit, and insects (including Japanese beetles, gypsy moth caterpillars and grubworms). It in turn is preyed upon by foxes and great horned owls in this region.

If you suspect that a skunk is residing under your porch and want to remove it, first find out if it's there by sprinkling a thin layer of flour at the alleged entrance, and check for tracks soon after dark. If you see tracks leading out, block up the hole. Moth balls or flakes sprinkled around the hole may deter it from digging again. If you wish to catch and relocate it, the Sanctuary has a small number of "Have-A-Heart" traps available for a small fee.

The Sanctuary staff will be happy to assist you with any information regarding injured, "orphaned", or "nuisance" wildlife. Due to limited staff and facilities, we cannot make house calls or operate as a wildlife rehabilitation center to all animals. An animal care brochure is available that has some basic "dos" and "don'ts" if you wish to learn more.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

BIRD WATCHING FOR BEGINNERS

Three Tuesday evening classes:
April 22, 29, and May 6th. 7:00 - 9:00
and one Saturday field trip: May 10.

Birding can be a focus for outdoor activities or a social event. It can develop into scientific study or just be an aesthetic experience. You can watch birds from the kitchen window, or stalk the elusive migratory varieties.

Held during the peak of the spring migration season, this course will help you enjoy birds more. You will learn how to identify birds, how they are grouped, what and where to find them, and how they survive.

Instructor: Lee Gardner

FEE: \$30.00

(NBS Members \$20)

Pre-registration
is required.

FROGS, TOADS AND SALAMANDERS

Wednesday April 23 7:30 pm.

Learn about these amazing creatures of the night through slides, discussion and maybe some live specimens, with DEM Biologist Chris Raithel. Then meander down to the Sanctuary ponds, flashlight in hand, to find them in their natural habitat.

Very little is known about the population of reptiles and amphibians (collectively called herps) on Aquidneck Island. Your sightings can be helpful. Come to this program and see how you can be a part of the R.I. HERP WATCH.

No fee. Pre-registration is required.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday April 27. 1:00 pm.
(rain date May 4.

Every year the forest floor is ablaze with wildflowers for a brief period when the soil is warm, but the trees haven't yet leafed out to shade the ground.

Join Millie House, Field Botany Instructor at Roger Williams College and the Author of "The Joy of Wildflowers", for a guided tour through the sanctuary to view the ephemeral beauty of Spring Wildflowers.

FEE: \$3.00 (NBS Members \$2.00)

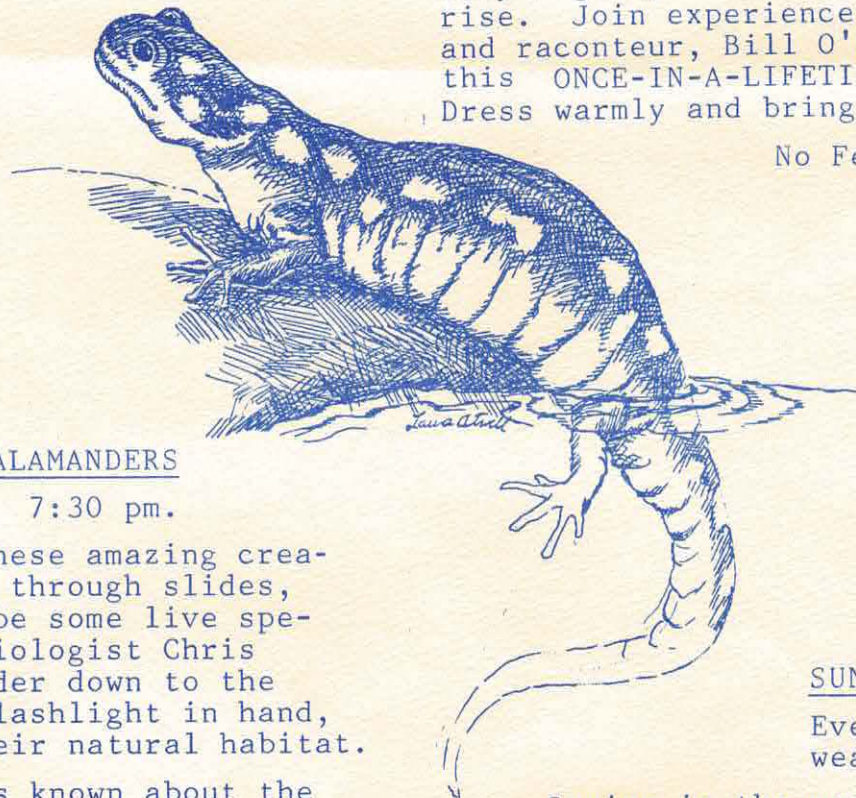
Pre-registration is required.

COMET WATCH

Saturday, April 12, 3:30 am.
(weather permitting)

Halley's Comet is visible in a cloudless, southern sky, away from city lights, 1 1/2 hours before sunrise. Join experienced sky watcher and raconteur, Bill O'Connell for this ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME event. Dress warmly and bring binoculars.

No Fee.



SUNDAY BIRD WALKS

Every Sunday 8 am.
weather permitting

Spring is the most exciting time of the year for birding, and the best time to start if you're a beginner. You can increase your repertoire gradually as the colorful songbirds migrate through our area. Join us! These informal walks are free and open to everyone.

Camp Schedule

June 30 - July 3

Nature Day Camp 1 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9-11:30 T,Th.

July 7 - July 11

Nature Day Camp 2 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9-11:30 T,Th.

July 14 - July 18

Nature Day Camp 3 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool A 9-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge I 9-2:30 M-F.

July 21 - July 25

Nature Day Camp 4 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9-11:30 T,Th.

July 28 - August 1

Nature Day Camp 5 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9-11:30 T,Th.

August 4 - August 8

Nature Day Camp 6 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool B 9-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge II 9-2:30 M-F.

August 11 - August 15

Nature Day Camp 7 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9-11:30 T,Th.

August 18 - August 22

Nature Day Camp 8 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9-11:30 T,Th.

August 25 - August 29

Nature Day Camp 9 9-2:30 M-F.
Preschool C 9-11:30 T,Th.
Summer Challenge III 9-2:30 M-F.

Illustrations by:

Becky Kasdon, Nick Hill & Rachelle Cook



Norman Bird Sanctuary Nature Day Camps 1986



583 Third Beach Road • Middletown, Rhode Island 02840 • (401) 846-2577

Registration

To register, please send this registration form with full payment or a \$20 per week deposit to reserve space for all summer camps. We cannot accept any phone registrations. Full payment must then be made no later than two weeks before the registered weeks. Upon receiving the registration, we will send you a confirmation letter and an emergency medical form to be filled out by the first day of your child's camp week. Nature Day Camp participants will be limited to three weeks enrollment unless there are available spaces after June 23. Parents with Preschoolers and Summer Challenge participants are limited to one session.

Please make all checks out to the NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY



Parents Names _____ Tel. _____

Address _____

Are you a Norman Bird Sanctuary Member? Yes _____ No _____ Joining*, check is enclosed _____

Names of Camper(s)	Age	Entering Grade	Session(s)	Fee
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Family membership is \$20 per year and includes Adult and Children Program discounts, free admission to the sanctuary's trails and the NBS Flyer newsletter.

Total Balance _____

Total Enclosed _____



BIRDS and BREAKFAST

at the

Norman Bird Sanctuary

A spring morning of
guided walks, slides and bird exhibits
followed by a home cooked breakfast.

May 18, 1986

Walks will leave from the barn continuously
throughout the morning, beginning at 6:30.
Breakfast seatings at 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30..

BIRDS AND BREAKFAST MENU

A Variety of

Breakfast Casseroles

Homebaked

Muffins, Rolls, Breads, Coffeecakes

Sausage

Pancakes

Juices

Fruit Salad

Coffee and a Variety of Teas

FOR INFORMATION CALL 846-2577



All proceeds from Birds And Breakfast
will go toward the completion of the Trail-
side natural history museum in the Norman
Bird sanctuary's barn. These funds are being
matched on a one to one basis by the Rhode
Island Foundation.

Additional contributions toward this
project are welcomed.



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Ticket Reservations

☐ Please send me ___ adult tickets and ___ child tickets to Birds and Breakfast.

Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00

My preferred breakfast seating is:

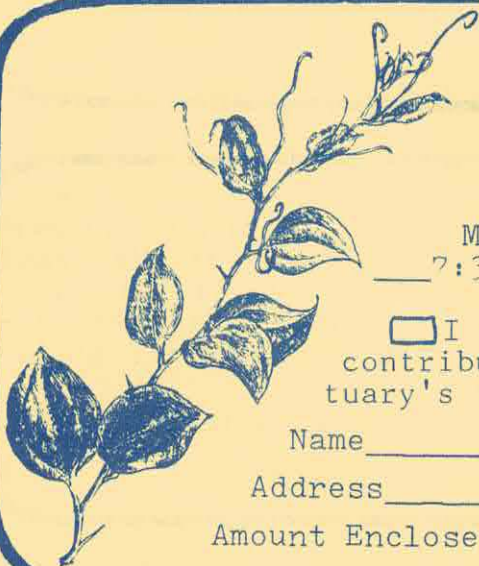
___ 7:30 ___ 8:30 ___ 9:30 (1st & 2nd choice)

☐ I am unable to attend, but I would like to contribute _____ to the creation of the Sanctuary's trailside natural history museum.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

PRE SCHOOL NATURE HOUR

Wednesday afternoons 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 23- May 14

This Spring series of parent-child Nature programs is being offered for Parents with young children, ages 3-5, to explore the changes the Spring season brings. The sessions will include observations of native plants and animals, crafts and stories designed to nurture positive feelings toward the natural world.

April 23 Cold, Hard, Warm, Soft

10 Discovering the Colors of Spring

May 7 Let's explore the Pond

14 Slugs, Bugs, and Other Crawly Things

Limit 10 children

FEE: \$8.00 (NBS Members \$6.00)

Pre-Registration and Pre-payment is required.



SPRING WEEK

April 14-18 9:30 am.- 12:30 pm.

Based on our Nature Club program, the Norman Bird Sanctuary Spring week offers adventure, excitement and fun learning. The week will include hikes, crafts, games and discovery for children ages K-4

Limit 20 children

FEE: \$30.00 (NBS Members \$25.00)

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required.

NATURE CLUB

Saturday mornings. 9:30- 12:30 p.m.

April 26- May 17

Hikes, Crafts, games nature discovery and fun learning can provide a Saturday morning alternative for your child. Nature Club is a place where children in grades K - 4 can safely do things that have always excited their curiosity, under the guidance of a Naturalist.

Activities each week will revolve around a theme.

April 26 The Sea Shore

May 3 Reptiles and Amphibians

10 The Secret Life of Plants

17 Animal Homes

Limit 20 children.

FEE: \$24.00 (NBS Members \$20.00)

Pre-registration and Pre-payment is required

Summer Camp

Did you receive your 1986 Summer Camp brochure?. If not please call the sanctuary office and we will send one to you.

This year there will be some changes in the organization of our Summer Camp which are intended to create a more in-depth program as well as accommodate the growing demand for available spaces.

Nature Day Camp which is being offered for children entering K through 4 will now have longer days, starting at 9 am. and ending at 2:30 pm. These longer days will allow campers and staff to spend more time exploring the various habitats and getting more involved with lessons and activities. This will help to enrich your child's camp experience. Nature Day Camp will be held for the full nine weeks.

(continued)

(Summer Camp Continued)

Summer Challenge, which is being offered to children entering grades 5 - 7, will be held for only 3 weeks. With the longer format, it will combine the elements of all the previous Summer Challenge programs: nature study, camping, rockclimbing and adventure education.

For children ages 3 - 5, we are offering a Parents with Pre-schoolers program which will provide a special opportunity for parents of young children to share in nature exploration and fun with their kids. Each session will be held for three weeks on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

In response to the growing demand for spaces in our camp, we must place a limit on the number of sessions a camper can initially enroll. For Nature Day Camp the limit is three sessions, and for Summer Challenge and Parents with Pre-schoolers, one each. After June 23, campers may enroll for additional weeks if spaces are still available.

This year we will not take registrations over the phone. To register, please fill out the form attached to the summer camp brochure and send it in along with your deposit.

Our 1986 summer camp promises to be a special one. We hope your child will join us and discover new secrets in nature at the Norman Bird Sanctuary!



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
THIRD BEACH ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, R. I. 02840



Sponsor a Child

Would you like to give a child, who otherwise could not afford it, the opportunity to spend a week at the Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp?

In the past, sanctuary members have sponsored children in our Nature Day Camp program, providing for them an exciting, active and productive experience outdoors, learning about the natural world and challenging themselves.

With your support, Newport Child and Family Services will locate and provide transportation for a few children from low income families to come to camp this summer.

If you wish to be a sponsor, please send a check for the membership fee for one or more summer camp programs of your choosing (see brochure), to the Norman Bird Sanctuary Summer Camp Sponsor Fund.

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