

Hi! Oct. 18 a monk parrot was sighted. It was our first. You remember that these birds escaped from a crate at Kennedy Airport a few years ago. Since then they have adjusted to the outdoors & to seed eating. Sighted at feeders in Conn. for some years, they have been in Little Compton this summer past. The lovely emerald-green bird with long parrot tail, was eating seeds at the Sanct. Keep your feeders full so they'll not be driven to fruit eating and so become a pest to orchardists! Remember some birds (chickadees) lose  $\frac{1}{2}$  their body weight overnight. With winter coming, don't go to bed knowing you have an empty feeder.

In the Museum there is a new exhibit--a hive of bees in plastic--it is travelling the school route now, but will be back. This is the gift of The Bee Man and we are very grateful to him. It is wonderful to hear of the kids who have taken up beekeeping as a hobby. In one of the connecting states(Arizona?) there are no wild hives left--so much spraying!

One hundred invitations were sent out for the Halloween Party--145 children came! Groups of kids were directed to various points on the NBS to spread the crowd. While a fortune teller told the futures of 27 in the teepee others went thru the TUNNEL OF HORROR in Drury Ct. which led to the SPOOK ROOM(Ed Shed.) The TUNNEL OF HORROR was made of several cardboard wrappers from fridges. One had to crawl thru this dark place to arrive in the SPOOK ROOM where moans and groans came from various coffins, gravestones, mummies etc. all presided over by Hermann Munster amid flashing blue lights & screams! Up in the Loft a horror film was shown, while downstairs kids bobbed for apples and played "Pass the Donut"(whoever dropped it--ate it ). In the alfalfa field was a hayride with Fearless Leader at the tractor's controls. As it went the rounds of the field Lady Deer came to join the fun, coming to the teepee where the children petted her! Is it possible to envision Mrs. F. Leader as a toothless hag with only half a head? Mr. F.L. was voted the best uncostumed as he forgot to put on his famous disguise! We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who gave of time, talents, donuts etc. It was a fine party and a beautiful example of volunteer power. When it was over the Sanc. was put back in perfect condition ready for upcoming classes.

All warm weather that comes to us after Labour Day is loosely called "Indian Summer" True "Indian Summer" comes after the first killing frost--originally it was called "Indian's Summer" as the Indians harvested their crops after frost, not as we do, before.

On Cape Hatteras settlers in 1700's built their homes on the lee side of the Cape. The present population is 3,225. Hotels and motels daringly face the Atlantic--some have been swept away. Coastlines are eroding due to merciless currents & rising sea levels due to melting bergs. This has been going on since 1930's. The Nat'l Park service has spent billions of \$\$\$ trying to hold the Cape. Now they have decided to call it quits and leave nature alone. Man's efforts against nature are puniness itself. A costless hobby is to watch the Creek at 3rd Beach. Man has decided that that Creek should run in a straight line from reservoir to ocean. Some years ago stone walls were built to hold the water in this nice confine--some sad remnants of wall can still be seen! In spring & Fall each year nature sends the Creek wandering. It goes east up to Mrs. Peabody's store or SW across the Navy Beach, depending on the wind. It's fun to watch man's efforts to stop it! The Bird has watched all this for years'n years coming to the conclusion that nature intends to join 2nd & 3rd Beaches by water. Regardless of man's plans and horrendous efforts, nature will do as it pleases. The American Indians believed in roundness. They saw that the sun & moon were round, they believed the stars to be round. They could walk to the horizon & still see a new one beyond, so they reasoned that the earth was round. Millions of small ponds are round, trunks, branches, and fruit are round. Peas, pebbles & bird nests are round, so they built their teepees and wigwams round. The Hollywood version of teepees stretched out in a line is wrong, they built their teepees in a circle round the teepee of the chief. Often they have Plains Indians living in teepees. Only those who lived in forests



or near woods, made their homes of wood-the skeleton of a teepee. Have you been inside the teepee at the Sanct. to see how cozy it is? The covering is canvass instead of authentic buffalo hide.

Dr. Olav Braenden, head of the U N Laboratory on Narcotics has made known 7 reports on international research into marijuana. They contest the belief of pot as an "innocent diversion". Pot is composed of 50 substances-not all of them fully explored as yet. One that has been studied is Delta-9-THC which has a residual effect (building up in the brain as alcohol does not). It induces brain damage, personality change vegetative torpor, and memory impairment. Psychological effects include a tendency toward paranoia & in some cases, psychosis.

The Bird has a squirrel so old he has cateracts! He must be close to 16! (Don't mind squirrels at your feeders-they have to eat too). Newly borne creatures don't see much of anything. Babies play with their toes because that's as far as they can see. The children of Kashmir embroider the exquisite rugs called "The Jewels of Kashmir" until they are 10. Then they are taken off rug work, not because their hands are too big for tiny stitches but because their eyesight has begun to fail.

A gentleman who knows EVERYTHING there is to know about wines says that we are suckers to pay the prices now asked for French wines. He says to explore the wines of Greece, Spain, Portugal, Jugoslavia, Switzerland, Chile and Austria. HE says, finding a wine you like buy to put bottles down for aging. Reds must age, whites must be drunk young. A wine in a screw-on top is a dead wine & will not age. Never, he says, spend money for a rosé which is a mixture of red & white, save \$\$\$ by mixing your own rosés. Lots of people brew their own wines. Not mindful of the Biblical teaching "Never put new wine in old bottles" they have found several bottles have exploded!

In NYC Zoo a donkey has mated with a zebra. The baby will be called a Zonkey--poor thing, such an ugly name! A farmer in Alaska put down 2700 acres to barley. Figuring 90 bushels per acre, each selling for \$2.80-he had visions of sugarplums dancing in his head while he slept. He did not count on early migration of 250 bison. They gorged themselves on barley, rolled & wallowed in the richness destroying a crop worth \$680,000.00+. Next year stubborn farmer plans to plant barley on a roadside to entice herds past his farm! How's that for perserverance?

Please cross everything that you can, eyes, fingers, legs, arms and teeth, that an article written for "Yankee" will be accepted & published. It's about the NBS and called "It's for the birds--and humans". If accepted it will appear in two months. The Bird noted with delight the number of out-of-state plates on cars in the lot over Veterans Day holiday--perhaps an article will spread our charms even further.

In Dec.-Jan. we shall have the experience of a lifetime. A comet, larger, nearer and brighter than Halley's Comet that we have all read about in history books, will be visible in the western skies. It's tail will cover 1/6 of the arch of sky! There will be loads about this in the papers as the time nears. So, in December "wait for the honeying of the moon, love" (Joyce)

Jules Verne had his mythical hero circle the globe in 80 days. An astronaut did it in 93 minutes! He was exercising his legs when confined in SkyLab! Anita & Arabella died--poor spiders. Either they couldn't adjust to weightlessness or they didn't like filet mignon!

In years past we have taken  $\frac{1}{2}$  fee for  $\frac{1}{2}$  year membership at the NBS. But no more! Each new member pays full fee, then the names are coded (just like Time Mag. yet!) To think that the membership has grown from names filed in a receipt box & dues in a cigar box, to coded names and computed bills! Sometimes one longs for the good old days-especially when time and activities squeeze one (and cause a condensation of The Norman Bird like this!) Plus new mimeograph machine and new typewriter. IT all comes out in lots of errors. Please forgive.

The French word for "swan" is "Le Signe"--hence our word for immature swan "Signet" A male swan is a cob. We had some 40 on our ponds last summer--even Cerie Pond had one!