

Hi! The Jan.thaw, which usually comes Jan.20-25, came this year on the 11th & lasted thru the 31st! Bless its heart--all that fuel oil unburned. The trails demanded rubber boots as the water ran deep in spots. On Feb.2 the ground hog got ice in his eyes as he popped back into his burrow but promising a milder winter for the remaining 6 weeks. IT immediately got colder than ever. Fearless Leader set forth each morn with an ax to break the ice on Cerio Pond for the geese & mallards. The teepee blew down in the wind--no harm done. No pipes have burst since we used some due\$ to repair them. After the cold the 1st crocus, flocks of redwings, whitewinged cross bills, killdeer came to feed at different spots. The green monk parrots are reported in all 3 Island communities. Altho' these birds are new to us, they are nt new in the truesense. Once in a great while a new bird is reported. It happened recently in the Rain Forests of SE Asia. They have 400" of rain a year there!

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The work going on at the Sanct. is tremendous. Eccles Room is turning into a committee room-library--new shelves are being made for books. In the Barn-Museum new displays and cages are shaping up. When weather is milder there'll be lots to see that's new! Orientation classes are being held in schools' class rooms so the student will know what they're seeing when they come in better weather, to the largest living classroom in New England.

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As Spring approaches we all long for the outdoors. Visions dance in our heads of the gardens we will have THIS year. And don't the seed people know this? From Jackson & Perkins Seed Co. of Oregon comes permission to reprint their plans for small veg. gardens. Those plans are reproduced on the back page of this Flyer. We don't usually do this sort of thing, but feel that these plans are too good to miss.

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Near Santa Fe N.M. a mountain lion ( puma/panther/cougar) has killed a boy. It was believed that they do not attack humans--few cases have ever been reported. The puma was shot & found to be starving--47 lbs. vs. normal 75 lbs. It is believed to have been someone's pet. The owners, tiring of it, freed it in an area that could not sustain it even if it did know how to hunt for rabbits--normal diet. The puma never had a chance since the humans decided to have an exotic pet. One tragedy lead to another. The owners are happy to be free of their pet. The boy's parents will mourn him the rest of their lives. One boy in Philly is near death because he w/ rabbits by his pet, a poisonous snake; another touched a poisonous fish. How about the wild boar, tusks and all, found roaming the streets of Queens NYC? Exotic pets!

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Our Secretary of Agriculture has said in a speech, that we must decide whether we want the howl of coyotes or beef at reasonable prices. Coyotes weigh 25 lbs A newborn beef calf weighs 75-100 lbs. The only way a coyote could bring down a calf is to find one that is already dying, or to hunt in packs. To poison coyotes is the cruellest way to kill and one which can not be aimed at the offender alone--any scavenger will eat poisoned bait. And, coyotes don't howl--they bark.

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There's a question afoot now as to whether or not our bird feeders may be a source for spreading infection among birds. Because of feeders a number of birds find New England a good place to winter! Ornithologists will study to what extent feeders may be a mixed blessing for birds. The only bird they speak of as being diseased is pigeons, who feed their young thru regurgitation. If there is any form of population control for pigeons, let's not disturb it!

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Increased state control is being sought for the protection of wetlands in R.I.



The new amendments would strengthen the Depart. of Natural Resources & set penalties for misuse of wetlands. Do you know that there are 8 types of wetlands? And why they are important? A wetland is land covered with water seasonally, temporarily or permanently. There are: open water, deep/shallow marsh, meadow, seasonally flooded flats, shrub/wood swamps & bogs. Their value lies in water supply, flood control, recreation, education, scientific research, open space, wild life & fishing industry. All wildlife requires water, food & cover. Cover is anything that provides concealment from natural enemies & weather. Water is to drink & is a means for travel (waterfowl, muskrats, otters etc.) Waterfowl perform their ritual courtships on water. Wetlands are the nurseries for tiny food stuffs small fish at before they find their ways to the seas to be eaten by bigger fish! Food for birds & animals grow in wetlands--leaves for beaver, insect-bearing barks for other birds, rooted plants that produce seeds for many species, free floating plants like duck weed for, you guessed it--ducks. And watercress for thee & me. Etc. Added together wetlands are very important.

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Final tabulation of birds in Newport County on Dec. 22 '73 is in--120 different species--the third highest one ever. The fabulous Frigate remained the most unusual. There were 78 mocking birds seen, 83 cardinals, neither one of which was with us 12 years ago. Summer birds seen on that day include wood duck, tree swallow, house wren, brown thrasher, yellow throat, yellow breasted chat & chipping sparrow. Maybe they will become regulars!

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Public outcry is rising over the cruel use of animals in the making of movies. 15 movies have been made in which they are killed for "realism", 12 where horses have been cruelly misused, & 4 where others have been mistreated.

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Just when did hair become a sex symbol? Since it started, lice, both head & body, have had a fine time. There is an epidemic across the nation of these unpleasant parasites. One school closed down until all heads were free of live stock; one sent out an SOS for lice killing shampoo. But no one thought to check on body lice! Highly contagious--all one need do is to use a doorknob used by an infected person, and one can go home with a pregnant female. She will live only 30 days but will lay 300 eggs!

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500 copies of this Flyer are mailed out each month, many addressed to Mr & Mrs. Roughly we guess we have 1000 members, not counting kids. We need 500 more family memberships to continue on as we plan. Dues now support the entire Sanctuary with the exception of a salary for Fearless Leader. To the increased membership the Advisory Comm. is undertaking another Membership Drive. You can help. Does the family on either side of you know about the Sanctuary? The people across the street? If not, tell them about the privileges of membership. Tell them that our primary concern is not with birds, but with the future of their children. (Altho' if you saw Hellstrom's Chronicle on TV you do realize that birds are our first line of defence against insects!). EVERY WHERE YOU GO, TALK SANCTUARY!

April coming up means dues month for you ol'timers, new members will be notified as their dues fall due. We need a volunteer to work on this an hour out of each month. We feel the Navy outback somewhat. We can only hope that people will realize that their money is well spent. Every cent is squeezed until its backside shows on its front!

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Our printing bill last year was \$1400.00! Mostly class instruction sheets. We wish to cut it down by buying a duplicating machine for \$800.00. Other small clubs may rent the use of this from us. It will save us all money in the long run.



8' X 10' Vegetable Garden supplying enough for 2

Jackson & Perkins  
1 Rose Lane  
Medford Ore.  
97501

6" space between rows

radishes

9"

peas

12"

bush beans

9"

cucumbers

9"

onions

9"

carrots

9"

tomatos

9"

lettuce

6"

icicle radishes

12"

zucchini

6"

to order group

No. P-10

\$5.25

to order group

No. R-66

\$ 7.65

Sweet Corn Nut?

It freezes well!

Early, mid & late

corn. To order:

No. R-70 \$1.55

25' X 50' Veg garden for Four People

2' space between rows

cucumber

2½'

zucchini

lettuce

2½' between rows

carrots & radishes followed by beets

2½' between rows

early peas followed by late peas

3' between rows

wax beans followed by broccoli

2½' between rows

bush beans followed by caulifleur

2'

tomatos & green peppers

3½'

early tomatos

2'

A bit of oriental wisdom: If you find you have two loaves, sell one and with the gold buy hyacinthes to feed your soul.