



# The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4 NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY, THIRD BEACH ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02840 PHONE: 401-846-2577

## ART FAIR

You are invited to the Flock of Artists opening on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The idea for the art fair evolved out of the desire to celebrate the natural beauty and wildlife heritage of Aquidneck Island. We also wanted to have a "barn warming" party. After a winter of being picked and poked at, the barn, we felt, deserved at least that. So this opening shall satisfy both desires. We are building 2 benches with 1 stone! We will bring together up to 80 works from local artists. Some of the pieces will be for sale others for exhibition only. Proceeds from a 15% commission on any works sold, a cash bar, and the raffling off of a painting will go to the bird sanctuary museum fund.

Carpenters began last November renewing the barn's interior. Fabricating, insulating, and heating a permanent office, and restoring-winterizing the barns were top priorities. Work continued into the winter with the addition of a new stairwell, a new pine floor for the mezzanine, and a row of broad barn sash windows for the wall above the doors on the south wall. Details, like painting the floor and east walls, remain to be accomplished.

For a relaxing evening and a ramble through a barn full of more than a flock of images, come on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

## WHALES AT PLAY

Norman Bird Sanctuary whale watchers aboard the Provincetown II for a New England Aquarium trip were treated to a rare display of humpback whale water ballet and playful curiosity. For an hour watchers gazed into the blue-green waters of Stellwagen Bank at a pair of humpbacks lolling, arching, diving and bumping the hull of the ship. Quite an awe inspiring sight!

These were two of eight humpback spotted. Six finbacks passed more swiftly and at a greater distance. Finbacks are second only to Blue Whales in size, growing to 70 feet  
(continued)

A  
FLOCK  
OF  
ARTISTS

EXHIBIT and SALE  
of NATURALIST ART

At 'The Barn' Opening-June 26 • 6-8pm  
Daily - June 27-July 5 9AM - 5 PM  
NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY



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and weighing up to 60 tons.

Many of the individual whales found in the Gulf of Maine, which stretches from the Bay of Fundy down to Cape Cod Bay, can be recognized by their particular markings. "Salt" was one such whale seen by the group. She was a female with distinctive white streaking on the underside of her fluke, possible evidence of a brush with a killer whale, or Orca.

As well as witnessing the play of two humpbacks along the boat, we watched one humpback breaching, or lunging up out of the water, often-times twisting around on its back before coming back down. We also saw a humpback "spy-hopping", or bobbing up and down with its head out of water.

These whales are making their yearly migration from the calving grounds of the Caribbean to the rich northern waters of the Gulf of Maine and beyond. Stellwagen Bank, like Georges Bank and Grand Banks is a ledge of shallow water where there is an upwelling of nutrients. Zooplankton and phytoplankton flourish, feeding the copopods and small fish which feed the whales. Whales frequenting these rich fishing grounds give another reason for protecting them.

Not only did we see the whales. Northern phalaropes, small shorebird-like pelagic birds, skittered off in front of the boat. Large, mostly immature gannets dove after fish, and a curious bird, exhausted from being blown out to sea during migration actually landed on the boat. This was later identified as a chuck-will's-widow. An all dark goatsucker, much like our wipporwill, this bird is not usually found north of New Jersey.

But whales were the main attraction. As the announcer said, it's hard to believe such a wild creature lives just 26 miles from Boston. "All things by immortal power near or far, hiddenly, to each other linked are, that thou canst not stir a flower without the troubling of a star."

Francis Thompson

A HOME

The co-directors need a home! If you know of any apartments or houses in close proximity to the sanctuary, please notify them at the sanctuary. Thanks!

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR  
WHO ISN'T A SANCTUARY MEMBER ?

The Norman Bird Sanctuary  
PO Box 378  
Middletown, RI 02840

### Annual Membership

- Individual...\$10	- Business...\$30
- Family.....\$15	- Patron....\$100
- Sustaining...\$25	- Life.....\$1000

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions and membership dues are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

DO YOU HAVE...

An outdated lawnmower taking up space,  
Old tools gathering dust or just  
laying waste?

A tire pump that you no longer need,  
A copy machine (or any hot leads)?  
Some pictures of the sanctuary when  
it still was a farm,

Any old wooden tools to decorate the  
barn?

Books on nature, any extra two by four  
A donation to the sanctuary will help  
spring-clean your drawers!

Anonymous



*tartarian honeysuckle*





## A CHILDREN'S SANCTUARY ADVENTURE

featuring Ming, the Samurai Chicken

Ming stopped pecking at his feed and looked up. "That's a strange sound" he thought, jerking his head around, wondering what it was. Then he saw what had made the noise: a girl creeping towards him, legs bent, head low... she crept toward the cage in a sneaky way. She thought she was being very, very quiet but Ming heard her shoes scuffing in the dirt. "She must have food for me," he thought, even though he was already eating. Ming was mostly a sensible chicken but he had a tendency to think people were bringing him things whenever anyone approached.

The door to Ming's cage was open, as it sometimes was now that the air was warm. Ming said, "Buk, buk," and began walking, in his short-stepping, chicken-like way out the door of the cage to meet the little girl, who was very close by now.

"Here, lil' chickie," the girl said, holding out her hand.

Ming was quick to see there was nothing in her hand. She was very close and she didn't have food and suddenly Ming realized he'd better get away fast, or he'd soon be in a lot of trouble, and she was close, lunging, whoops! And Ming, the Samurai Chicken, leapt away in a chicken-run, wings flapping and his head snapping back and forth.

Ming found himself by the new flight cage, on the other side of the yard. He looked up, and the aloof red-tailed hawk looked down.

"You must realize," the hawk said, eyeing Ming with a patient stare, "that I would eat your neck if given half the chance." He spoke in the special silent way that birds do with each other.

"Buk, buk, well," Ming replied, preening the fan of feathers on his ankle (which was, by the way, the reason he was known as the Samurai Chicken--that and his noble stature). "Well," he said, "you're in a cage, however, and I'm outside, so it's frozen Purdue chicken necks for you, my friend.

"Indeed," said the hawk, looking away.

It was then that Ming noticed that this little girl who had come to visit was a naughty, mischevious girl. She was poking a stick through the wire mesh of the cage with the geese. The two geese were squaking and squeeling with fright and anger, baring their funny geese teeth and sticking their geese tongues out.

Ming, who prided himself on keeping things under control when no one else was around, saw his duty...he stepped over, double-time, and pecked at the leg of the girl's pants.

"Ow," she yelled, dropping her stick and turning around with a surprised sort of look. "Hey," she said to Ming, unsure whether to run away or to peck back at him or just what to do.

"Oh Juuu-lie," someone called. Ming looked around with a questioning cluck.

"Here I am, Mom," Julie answered, walking over to her mother who appeared from the courtyard.

"You weren't bothering those geese, were you?" her mother asked sternly, "they're making an awful noise."

"Nope, wasn't me," Julie lied.

"Well, OK. Come on now, it's time to go home for dinner."

Ming watched Julie and her mother walk away. Julie looked back once and gave Ming a wink. Then the two disappeared out to the courtyard.

"Well," Ming thought, "no sense telling on her. She's learned her lesson." He clucked with amusement at what a fierce chicken he was.

Then he remembered he couldn't tell on her even if he wanted to. Chickens can't talk.



# *What's Happening at the Sanctuary?*

## EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday Morning Bird Walks - 8:00 am  
Our weekly Sunday walks will continue throughout the summer. Everyone welcome from first-timers to experts! Meet in the sanctuary parking lot.

Public Tours - 2:00 An introduction to the sanctuary including barn, animal care facilities, and a natural history trail walk. Great for summer guests or newcomers to the community.

## CRAFTS FROM NATURE

Wildflower Pressing - Part 1, June 13  
Part 2, June 20 2:00. In Part 1, we'll collect summer wildflowers and learn to press them, preserving their color and form. In Part 2 we'll learn to mount them for both decorative and scientific uses. Come to either or both. Lead by Delia Clark.

Printing from Nature - June 16 7:30 pm  
An introduction to a variety of techniques for printing natural forms including printing off glass, stenciling, and fish printing. Try them all! Lead by Jan Goodland.

Natural Dyeing - Part 1, July 7, Part 2, July 14 7:30 pm. In Part 1 we'll collect and preserve the materials for making a variety of colored dyes. In Part 2 we'll process the materials and try some dyeing! Bring a piece of fabric or yarn (cotton or wool) to Part 2 to be dyed. Lead by Jan Goodland

## SPECIAL EVENTS

New Alchemy "Farm Saturday" Field Trip  
June 6 all day. A day of workshops and tours of the New Alchemy Institute's organic gardens and appropriate energy structures. Call the Sanctuary for details and to register.

A Flock of Artists - The Norman Bird Sanctuary Art Fair. A display of local landscape, plant and wildlife art.  
June 27 - July 5 9:00am - 5:00pm.  
Opening Festivities - June 26 6:00-8:00pm including a cash bar.

Nature Songs for Children - July 2 7:00pm. "Banjo Sam" Bartlett will present a program of songs about nature designed for children of all ages. Come sing along!

## FIELD WALKS

Star Walks - June 4 and July 3 9:00  
These popular walks will continue each month through the summer, as we study the summer stars and constellations and learn the myths behind them.

Evening Bird Walks - June 17, July 1, and July 15. Our bird walk program is now extended to Wednesday evenings during the pleasant summer weather. Stroll with an experienced birder who will point out birds of interest and answer questions. Everyone welcome!

Herb Walk - June 21 2:00 An introduction to plants that can be used for simple medicine and to edible plants. The walk will cover harvesting techniques of individual plants, how to properly dry each one, and a brief description of the medicinal use of each. Lead by Hap Morgan.

Shore Birds Walk - July 11 2:00 A walk along some nearby shores to identify our local shorebirds and examine their habits and habitats. Everyone welcome. Lead by Jeff Hall.

Full Moon Walk - July 16 9:00. The forest comes alive in a different way under a full moon. We'll walk together and experience this special event.

Trees of the Norman Bird Sanctuary  
July 18 2:00 The Norman Bird Sanctuary is the site of an old tree nursery whose remnants and escapees are now flourishing. The sanctuary also includes many trees planted to attract specific kinds of wildlife as well as a wide diversity of natural trees. Join us as we examine and identify these marvels. Lead by Delia Clark.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

June 29 - Nature Day Camp Session #1  
begins, 9:00 - 12:00 M-F  
July 13 - Nature Day Camp Session #2  
begins, 9:00 - 12:00 M-F  
July 13 - Summer Challenge Program  
Session A begins 1:00 -  
4:00 M-F

All programs are free to members. There is a \$2.00 charge for all programs for non-members.



### Indoor Classroom Facilities

Print making, natural dyeing, plant pressing, salt water aquariums, insect collecting, microscope studies, and more.

### Live Animals

Learn about wild animals close up, then explore their natural habitats.

### The Norman Bird

A 19' swampscott dory for exploration of waters off 3rd beach

### Nature's Classroom

450 acres of ponds, forest, fields, open ocean, beach, and all the creatures (plant and animal) dwelling within.

### Limited Enrollment

Each session limited to 60 children (10 per instructor) Group trust and confidence building activities.

### SUMMER CHALLENGE

A chance for boys and girls entering grades 7, 8, and 9 to challenge themselves. Camp will focus on outdoor no-trace camping skills, conservation techniques and gardening. The highlight of each session will be a three day hike in the mountains of New England.

### Fresh Air & Sunshine

Campers spend the morning in a healthy atmosphere participating in physically and mentally stimulating activities.

### NATURE DAY CAMP

AGE: Boys and girls entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

SESSION DATES: 9 a.m. to noon

Two Week Sessions	One Week Sessions
#1 June 29-July 10	#2 July 13-July 17
#3 July 20-July 31	#4 Aug. 3-Aug. 7
#5 Aug. 10-Aug. 21	

COST: One week session - \$25. member  
\$30. non-member  
Two week session - \$50. member  
\$60. non-member

### SUMMER CHALLENGE

AGE: Boys and girls entering grades seven through nine.

SESSION DATES: 1 to 4 p.m.

Session A July 13 - July 31  
Session B August 3 - August 21

COST: \$75.00 members  
\$90.00 non-members

WHOLE SUMMER DISCOUNT - 15%

## SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATION FORM 1981

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Child's Name	DOB	Grade entering	Session
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1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount included: \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to NBS

Norman Bird Sanctuary, Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 02840  
Phone: 401-846-2577

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD?  
There many children who would benefit from a session of outdoor study at the Nature Day Camp, but who are not able to attend. If you would like to sponsor one of these children, send

in the application form with "SPONSOR" written where the child's name would go and include a check. We'll locate needy children through the Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth school systems. Thank you for your consideration.



# Norman Bird Sanctuary Events

<b>JUNE</b> 1981	1	2	3	4	5	6 NEW ALCHEMY "FARM SATURDAY" TR
7 BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PUBLIC TOUR 2:00	8	9	10	11	12	13 WILDFLOWER PRESSING 2:00 PART I
14 BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PUBLIC TOUR 2:00	15	16 PRINTING FROM NATURE 7:30 PM	17 EVENING BIRD WALK 7:00 PM	18	19	20 WILDFLOWER PRESSING 2:00 PART II
21 BIRD WALK 8:00 HERB WALK 2:00 MEDICINAL & EDIBLE PLANTS SUMMER SOLSTICE	22	23	24	25	26 ART FAIR "A FLOCK OF ARTISTS" OPENING FESTIVITIES 6:00 - 8:00 PM	27 ART FAIR
28 BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PUBLIC TOUR 2:00 ART FAIR	29 NATURE DAY CAMP SESSION #1 9:00 BEGINS ART FAIR	30 ART FAIR	<b>JULY</b> 1 EVENING BIRD WALK 7:00 PM ART FAIR	2 NATURE SONGS FOR CHILDREN 7:00 PM ART FAIR	3 STAR WALK 9:00 PM ART FAIR	4 ART FAIR
5 BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PUBLIC TOUR 2:00 ART FAIR	6	7 NATURAL DYEING PART 1 7:30 PM	8	9	10	SHORE BIRDS WALK 2:00
12 BIRD WALK 8:00 AM PUBLIC TOUR 2:00	13 NATURE DAY CAMP SESSION #2 BEGINS 9:00 SUMMER CHALLENGE "A" 1:00	14 NATURAL DYEING PART 2 7:30 PM	15 EVENING BIRD WALK 7:00 PM	16 FULL MOON WALK PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE 11:46 PM	17	18 TREES OF THE NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY 2:00

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

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