



VOLUME NO. 14 ISSUE 4

The Norman Bird Flyer

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fire: The Lost Piece in Our Ecological Puzzle

by Keith T. Killingbeck

Fall/Early Winter 1993

Fire. Just the mention of the word immediately brings visions of destruction and terror to most of us. It is unquestionably one of the most feared natural forces in our daily lives. We have fire extinguishers, fire escapes, fire insurance, fire ladders, fire detectors, fire security safes, fire departments, and a dog's best friend, fire hydrants. In fact, when you were a kid, what was the one school-sanctioned safety exercise that afforded respite from the classroom? Naturally, it was the omnipresent fire drill.

But the word fire uttered in the confines of a Nature Conservancy conference room recently brought looks of anticipation and satisfaction, not fear and loathing. The group meeting in that conference room was the Rhode Island Fire Management Steering Committee and the business at hand was the development of a plan to introduce prescribed fires into some of Rhode Island's important natural areas.

In virtually every ecosystem on our planet that has been visited by periodic natural fires, fire means renewal and rejuvenation. In North America alone, an incredible diversity of community types rely on the benefits of fire for their very existence. The tallgrass prairies that grace the heartlands of this continent would vanish under a sea of woody competitors were it not for frequent fires. Included in the benefits of frequent, periodic natural fires are:

- * reductions in plant litter which minimize the chances for an intense, damaging fire
- * rapid transfers of nutrients bound in dead plant tissues back to the soil where they can again be taken up to support new plant growth
- * destruction of fungal pathogens
- * elimination or reduction of invading species that threaten the integrity of the natural, steady-state community type
- * increases in the quantity and availability of high-quality plant biomass utilized by herbivores

In Rhode Island as in the prairie states, the frequency, duration, and extent of natural fires plummeted as a surge of humanity not only actively put out fires, but also replaced natural fuel (live plants and litter) with asphalt and manicured crops. The once vast expanses of contiguous fuel were dissected into tiny parcels bounded by roads, cities, and plowed fields. Wide rivers and wet weather (continued on next page)



(continued from front page) used to be the mainstays in stopping the progress of a natural fire. Now it is the actions and trappings of an enlightened citizenry.

But just as our actions can stifle natural fire, so too can they reintroduce fire in a way that is more palatable than simply allowing natural fires to race through timber and towns alike. Enter the prescribed burn. Such a burn, also termed a managerial burn, is the ecological equivalent of a natural fire yet is orchestrated by trained professionals when wind, moisture, and temperature conditions permit the ignition of a highly controlled fire. The bounds of a burn are circumscribed by natural or artificial fire breaks and a fire crew is always on hand to snuff out sparks that jump the breaks.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary sets ready to play a pivotal role in the introduction of prescribed burns into the state of Rhode Island, for in the winter of 1994, three acres of old field within the Sanctuary will be burned.

Presently, invading trees and shrubs threaten to extirpate the flora and fauna that normally dominate this old field community type. The Sanctuary burn is critical to the success of a wide-ranging program of prescribed ecological burns that the Rhode Island Fire Management Working Group and its Steering Committee plan to conduct, since a successful effort here will pave the way for future fires.

There is no escaping the stigma attached to the natural process we call fire. It can be destructive. It can be catastrophic. It can be unrelenting. Yet its absence, not its presence, in many ecosystems worldwide is an ecological travesty of monumental proportions. In Rhode Island, the prescribed burn at the Norman Bird Sanctuary will be the first step toward replacing a lost piece into our ecological puzzle.



Dr. Killingbeck is the Chairman of the Botany Department at the University of Rhode Island.

Director's Notes

As mentioned in the preceding article, the Sanctuary will attempt to conduct a prescribed burn in an old field clearing just to the west of the "Indian Rock" out-cropping this winter. The purpose of the burn will be two-fold; to restore habitat and to train Rhode Island wildlife managers in the practice of ecological burning.

If this sounds vaguely familiar—you're right. The Sanctuary had planned to conduct a burn in the same area in 1989 under the direction of Dr. Peter Dunwiddie of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Unfortunately, weather conditions did not cooperate that year. Each of the several days that we had scheduled the Mass. Audubon crew to conduct the burn, were either too wet or too windy to meet the specific safety conditions necessary to pull off an effective burn.

This winter, weather permitting, we plan to hire Dr. Dunwiddie again to conduct the burn. Assisting us in this project will be the Rhode Island Fire Management Working Group, which consists of representatives from the Nature Conservancy, RI Audubon, URI, DEM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Norman Bird Sanctuary. We hope this will be the beginning of a state-wide program to reintroduce fire into the local ecology.



Donations

The Sanctuary is the grateful recipient of a \$10,000 gift from Robert L. McLaughlin given in memory of his late brother, Walter S. McLaughlin. The gift will be put into a special "raptor fund" and will be used to rebuild the cages that house our resident hawk and owl, and to provide for long-term care and maintenance of the Sanctuary's raptors.

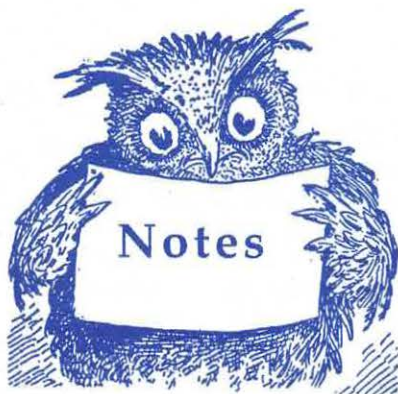
Project ISLLE Has Local Sponsors

The Norman Bird Sanctuary's **Project ISLLE** (Island Schools Learning about their Local Environment) is an environmental education program offered to twelve 4th grade classrooms on Aquidneck Island. The program consists of 5 classroom presentations and 2 field trips in which the students learn about the local wildlife and habitats as well as the Island's natural resources. The curriculum wraps up with each student researching a local wildlife species to contribute to an Island Wildlife Guide that is produced by the whole class.

Over the past few years this successful program received start-up support from the Rhode Island Foundation and the North Family Trust. This year we hope to continue it with the support of the local business community, by asking that a business sponsor one classroom with a donation of \$800. So far, Project ISLLE has the following sponsors and we are most appreciative:

Newport Electric Corporation
PDQ Printing and Copying, Inc.
Seaside Properties, Inc.
The Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary
Martha Ullman, M.D.

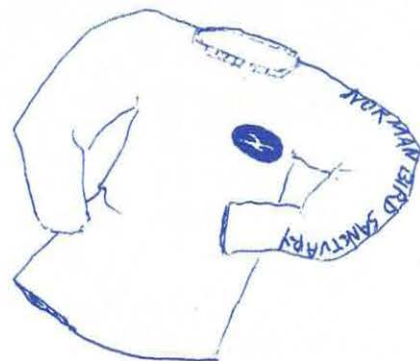
More sponsors are needed. If you would like to help support this program, please send a check made payable to the Norman Bird Sanctuary (Project ISLLE). Donations of any size are appreciated.



FROM THE BARN OWL SHOP

As the weather turns colder...and the Sanctuary more tranquil....we hope you will visit us at the **Barn Owl Shop**. For the first time, the shop will be heated and will serve as a reception area (and warm up station!) for folks enjoying the Sanctuary trails.

It is also the time of year we start thinking ahead to the holidays... and let's start with staying warm! We have created a new long sleeved T-shirt with our familiar gull crest and a bold sleeve design. The shirts are expected in the store on or about November 1st.



Thanks to the support of **Bank of Newport**, the Norman Bird Sanctuary will be featuring an exclusive seasonal greeting card by local artist, **Peggy McCrea**. We think the quiet winter watercolor rendering of our refuge speaks of the beautiful open space of Aquidneck Island and the peace of the season. The card sale proceeds will go directly to underwrite educational programs at the Sanctuary. Stop by and view the original watercolor and reserve cards now. Delivery is anticipated by November 10th.



So many choices for great winter reading and references. Just a few ideas:

For adults... with perhaps an individual NBS membership tucked inside for a holiday gift to be enjoyed year round, Audubon Society's Encyclopedia of North American Birds; Stokes Nature Guide series, Nature in Winter, Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (just recently available)

For family enjoyment...with a family NBS membership as a wonderful activity-oriented family gift, Dickenson's Exploring the Sky by Day
Headstrom's Nature Discovery with a Hand Lens
Mary Jo Koch's Egg, Feather, Nest ... beautiful!

and just for the little ones...

Palotta's Bird (or) Frog (or) Icky Bug Alphabet
Webster's Explore Nature Around the Year



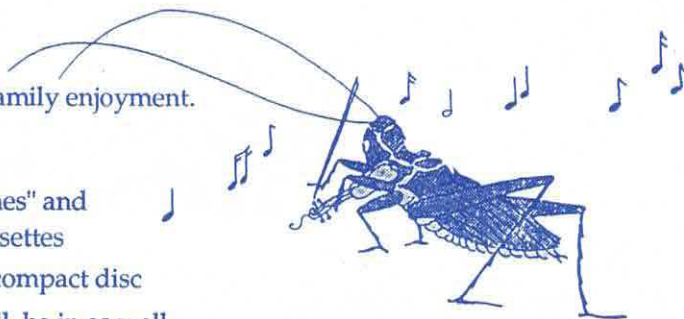
The wonderful jewelry collection of **J.H. Breakell** may be ordered at the Barn Owl Shop for holiday gift giving. A great opportunity to use your **10% membership discount** and support NBS! It is important to note... orders must be placed at the Barn Owl Shop to receive this discount. We recommend placing orders before November 10th to insure Christmas delivery. A special thanks to **Mr. Breakell** for his support of the Sanctuary in making this generous offer possible.



The shop will feature some excellent seasonal music for family enjoyment. Come and listen to our samples:

For Halloween: Jack Torrences' "Tales for Scary Times" and Jay O'Callahan's "Mostly Scary" cassettes

For the Fall Season: George Winston's "Autumn" compact disc and... more cassettes and cds for the winter holidays will be in as well



Holiday Entertaining and Hostess Gifts...some suggestions:

Norman Bird Sanctuary's Own Honey available in 8 oz and 16 oz jars
Beeswax candles in wooden gift boxes
NBS unbleached cotton aprons (with a front pocket suitable for gourmet gift stuffing!)



This year we have expanded our collection of Droll Yankee feeders. Come by and look at the selection. It is a great gift to give yourself, your family and the birds. A reminder! Come in and support the NBS annual seed sale. Ordering deadline is October 28th.

We have been expanding our selection of educational children's gifts including storm watch and weather watcher's kits and crafts such as papermaking for a dreary winter day. And for those clear winter nights, we are featuring products for sky-watching with children including; planispheres, glow-in-the-dark star poster, meteorites and books to support these activities.

Thinking ahead to Spring....

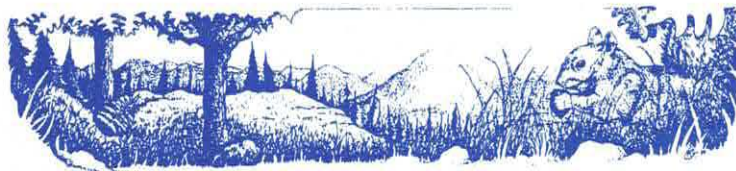
Bird Houses...come by and see our lighted bird house village during December.. and our new "colorful" collection by Mike Taft.



For the Gardener...consider beautiful leather gardening gloves, Burt's Bee's garden soap and salve, porcelain and terracotta herb markers, or Sharon Culberson's gathering baskets.

Basket Note: Remember to check out the terrific range of special order baskets from Sharon. A custom made tote, which makes an interesting briefcase, in a favorite color would make an inspired gift!

*We hope we have offered some interesting gift-giving ideas.
All of us at the shop hope to be a part of your holiday fun in the season ahead!*



Children's Programs ■■■■■■■■■■

Preschool Nature Classes

As Fall returns to the Sanctuary, so do Marilyn Lyell and Marybeth Hunte, two very special volunteers who teach the following preschool classes. Participants must be ages 3-5 and be accompanied by an adult (no more than two children per adult) for the Preschool Nature Hour, and ages 4-5 for the Fledgling class. Register per session only. All are encouraged to dress for the weather.

Preschool Nature Hour

Wednesday afternoons 1-2 pm

Welcome new 3-5 year olds, parents, and returning children as well to celebrate the Fall season through games, stories, crafts, and hikes. Marilyn will make you giggle for the hour! Limited to 10 child/parent pairs.

Fledglings

Wednesday mornings 9:30- 11 am

For those 4-5 year olds ready to venture on their own, Marybeth awaits you with lots of fun. Themes explored for each day will include crafts, stories, games, hikes, and even a nature snack. Limited to 8 children.

Early Fall Session for Preschool

Nature Hour /Fledglings:

10/20: Crickets and Hoppers
10/27: Let's Look Up!
11/3: Don't Scare the Crows
11/10: It's Harvest Time

Late Fall Session for Preschool

Nature Hour/Fledglings:

11/17: The Fall Secret Garden
11/24: How Now Pow Wow
12/1: I See the Sea
12/8: Moose, Wolves & Bears

Fee per session: \$20 (\$15 NBS members)

Nature Club

Sat. mornings 9:30-12:30 pm

Come and join the Nature Club! Keep Saturday mornings free for crafts, nature walks, games and songs. Nature Club is a great alternative to Saturday morning television! A different nature theme will be explored each week. Nature Club is open to boys and girls in grades K-4. We will supply a mid-morning snack and children should dress for the weather and outdoor walking.

Session I

10/23 Birds in the Fall; 10/30 Trees and Seeds; 11/6 Bats; 11/13 Fields and Field mice, Hawks and Owls

Session II

11/20 Seashore; ; 11/27 Native Americans/Wild Edibles; 12/4 Turtles and Reptiles; 12/11 Getting Ready for Winter

Fee: \$48 (\$40 NBS members)

Limit: 10

After School Hikes

November 3 3:30 - 5 pm
or November 10 3:30 - 5 pm

What better way to shake off a day of sitting in a classroom than to take a hike along the trails of the Norman Bird Sanctuary's forests, fields and rocky ridges. We'll explore nature closeup, watching for migrating geese, roaming foxes, curious squirrels and we'll be listening for the squawking of blue jays and the singing of other birds. The hikes are open for boys and girls in grades K-4. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes or sneakers. Please specify which date you would like when registering.

Fee: \$4 (\$3 NBS members)

Limit: 10 children per walk

Natural Holiday Crafts

Sat. Dec. 11 or 18 1-3 pm

Nature will supply the materials when children create their own holiday crafts. Each child will have the opportunity to make three different natural crafts which can be used for gifts or for your own home. This is a wonderful way to give handmade holiday ornaments and gifts. This class is for children in grades K-4. (Older children are welcome to come as helpers- please inquire). Please specify which day when registering.

Limit: 24 per class

Fee: \$8 (\$6 NBS members)

Special Event

for Children ■■■■■■■■■■

Night Hike with the

Newport Children's Theatre

Friday eves. Oct. 22 & 29 7-8:30pm
(Raindate: Sat. Oct. 30)

October is bat month at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. To celebrate and learn about bats, come take a guided walk through the Sanctuary at night with our creative friends from the Newport Children's Theatre. We will learn about the the mysteries surrounding the night and our furry flying friends. Wear a comfortable costume to hike in or come as you are (scary)! There will be lots to see and do and there will be some goodies to bring home too. The walk is open to boys and girls in grades k-4 and parents are welcome if needed. Please specify which night you would like to come when registering.

Attention: If you are 12 or older and would like to help out as a volunteer at the night hike please call us at the Sanctuary.

Fee: \$8 (\$6 NBS members)

Limit: 30 children

■ Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs unless noted otherwise ■

Programs for Families and Adults

Natural History Walks

Sat. mornings 9:30-11:30

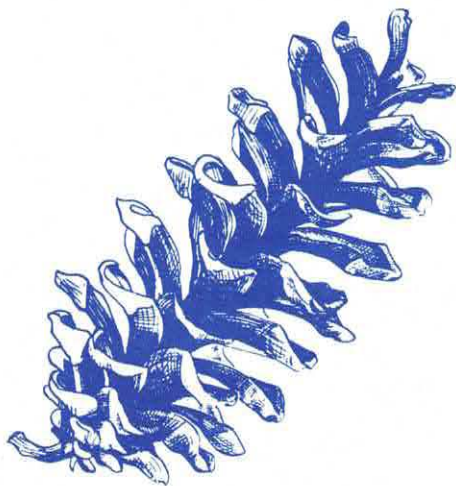
Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, and March 5

This guided walk by a Sanctuary naturalist will take you through the various habitats around the refuge. We will experience nature as the subtle and not so subtle changes occur throughout the fall and winter seasons. Tracking wildlife in the snow, watching migrating geese, discovering how animals adapt to the harsh winter cold and enjoying a brisk walk all will be part of this experience. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Please specify which morning when registering. Fee: \$2 (Free to NBS members)

Full Moon Walk

Tuesday, November 30 7 pm

Enjoy a Fall evening trail walk by the light of the full moon with NBS staff member Karin Lucci. We will stop at the Quarry Trail field to take a closer look at the rills, craters and "seas" of the Earth's only natural satellite, the moon. Please dress warmly and wear shoes for walking. Also bring binoculars if you have them. Call the NBS, 846-2577, before 5 p.m. on the 30th in case of cloudy weather. Fee: \$5 (\$3 NBS members)



To register for all programs, please use form on page 9

Going to Bat for Bats

Wednesday October 27 7-8 pm

If you are intrigued by these ecologically important, but misunderstood animals, you're invited to join Edith Anthony, Associate Professor of biology from Rhode Island College as she discusses the natural history of the world's bats. Find out about the bats we have flying in Rhode Island and how to help them. Older children accompanied by an adult are welcome. Fee: \$3 (\$2 NBS members). Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Programs for Adults

Fall Migration Bird Walks

Every Sunday morning at 8 am through December 26th



Larry Taft, NBS Director will lead these Fall walks in search of song-birds, hawks, and waterfowl as they fly through or settle for the season. Walks may take place on the Sanctuary trails, or down along the shore. Meet in the Sanctuary parking lot, bring binoculars, and guidebooks, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. If weather is inclement, walk will be cancelled. Pre-registration is not necessary.

WREATHS AND BASKETS

Sharon Culberson, our instructor for the Sanctuary's wreath and basket classes, is the owner of Hilltop Gardens in Tiverton, Rhode Island. She brings her love and talent of craft and gardening to each class. We are happy that she'll be offering the following this season. Pre-registration is required for all programs. Please note: Class and material fees have been separated. Class fee should be paid in advance during registration. Materials fee should be paid to Sharon at the time of the class.

The Moses Cradle

Saturday afternoons
October 23 & 30 1-5 pm

For the experienced weaver, this is a wonderful basket to give to a child or the "child-at-heart" for cradling dolls or stuffed animals. The final presentation of this spoked basket is 10" wide and 15" long. Colorful fall tones will accent the canopy and base.

Class Fee: \$28 (\$24 NBS members)
Materials fee: \$14
Limit: 10



Good Beginner Baskets for Giving Sat., November 13 and 20 1-4 pm

Create 2-3 simple baskets for gift giving with an assortment of materials provided. Squared bottomed, round bottom, or flat wall baskets will be demonstrated. You be the one to choose based on your skill and time flexibility. Adults and children ages 12 and older are invited to this class. Class fee: \$25 (\$22 NBS members). Material fee: \$10*. Limit: 12

Grapevine with Greens Wreath Saturday, December 4 1-4 pm

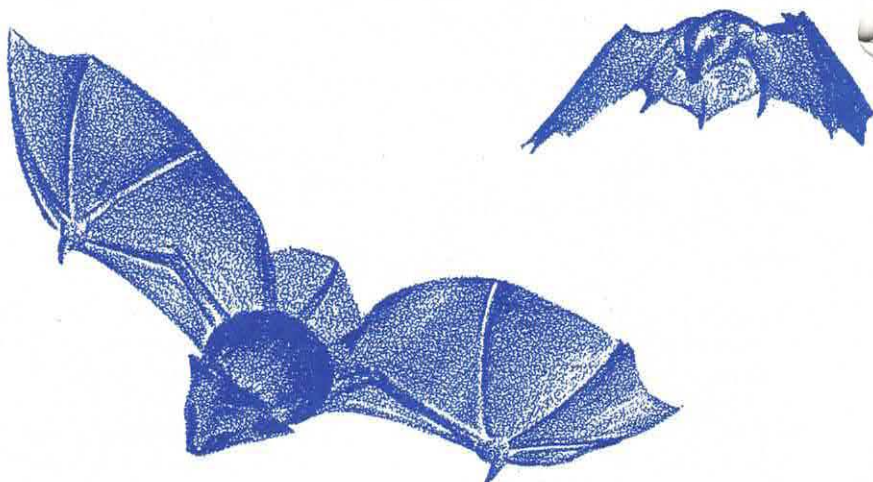
Combine the rustic look of grapevine with the holiday touch of greens during this class taught by Sharon. The vines will be provided, but we're asking participants to bring in a grocery bag of collected greens- the more variety, the better! To finish the wreath, choose from berries, pinecones, and pods that have been collected. Bring clippers, if you have them. Class Fee: \$13 (\$11 NBS members). Material Fee: \$ 5.00 * Limit: 15

Bats and People: An Unwitting Partnership

by Edythe Anthony

Bat enthusiasts get interesting mail. Recently I received a copy of a photograph taken in 1915, depicting an odd-looking structure that appears to be a church steeple (cross and all) perched atop a sturdy 25-foot tower. A boldly lettered sign declares it to be a "MUNICIPAL BAT ROOST." Text on a second sign is barely legible even under a microscope, but I believe it reads as follows:

"This structure is a BAT ROOST.
A home for bats and belongs to the city of San Antonio. Bats are one of man's best friends because they eat mosquitoes, and mosquitoes cause chills, fever and other diseases. By protecting bats you protect your fellow man. All persons are warned not to in any manner disturb this roost or the bats under penalty of the LAW."



Apparently the idea of bat houses is not so new after all--nor is the understanding that bats and humans share a mutually beneficial relationship.

It is now well documented that mosquitoes are a staple in the diets of our New England bats. We also appreciate what voracious appetites these bats have, each picking over 1000 insects out of the air in just one night. And not only do bats control populations of insects that bug us, they also convert undigested parts into what some consider to be gourmet fertilizer. What a deal!

So what have we done for our bats in return? Probably more than we meant to!

Structures built as New England was settled (barns, sheds, attics of houses, and yes, belfries) have become the preferred summer roosts of our bats, especially for females and their young. Over the years people have unintentionally increased the availability of good roosting sites, which previously may have been limited to tree hollows. Under these conditions, little brown bats and big brown bats have flourished. However, declining agriculture, such as we have experienced locally, threatens to reverse this trend, as old barns and sheds are demolished and bats are displaced. Recent studies indicate that bat houses constructed in such areas of disturbance are quickly inhabited if and only if careful consideration is given to design and proper placement (see Bats, Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring 1993 for details). Any individual or group can experiment with this, and who knows...Municipal Bat Roosts might even make a comeback!

Edythe Anthony is a "bat fan" and is an Associate Professor of Biology at Rhode Island College. She will be presenting a lecture on bats at the Sanctuary this month. See Family programs page 7 for more details.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Tag & cut your own Christmas tree and benefit the Sanctuary's education programs! We have about 20 White Spruce Trees in a nursery bed that are too big to transplant safely, but would make beautiful Christmas trees for those who prefer a more natural looking tree. These trees are 100% organically grown. Sizes range from 8 to 12 feet and all trees are priced at \$30. Proceeds from this sale will go directly to support our Project ISLLE environmental education program for local schools.

Tag weekend: Sat. & Sun. Nov. 13 - 14

Pick-up weekends: Dec 11 - 12 & Dec 18 - 19

Fall/ Early Winter Program Registration

Please complete and return with payment for program registration. If you need more space for additional registrants, please copy this form.

Name : _____ Grade : _____
Address: _____ Age : (if child) _____
Town : _____ Phone: Home : _____ Work : _____

	Program Title	Date(s)	Program Fee
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL PROGRAM FEES: _____

Parent Authorization Emergency Form

For children ages 16 and under attending NBS programs for 3 hour duration or more, parents must complete the following. Two siblings can use the same form as long as there are no special needs for either child:

Child's name : _____ Parent or Guardian: _____
Phone Number(s) where we can reach you during program hours: _____

Neighbor or Relative: _____ Phone: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies/Medications/Special Needs: _____

Waiver: In the event that I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give my permission to the Norman Bird Sanctuary's staff or medical personnel to take emergency measures as necessary.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Norman Bird Sanctuary Fall Bird Seed Sale

Saturday and Sunday November 13 & 14 1993 from 10 am to 2 pm

Throughout the weekend, the "Barn Owl Shop" will have bird feeders and accessories for sale. Stock up now for the long winter ahead. Feed the birds and at the same time, support the programs at the Sanctuary. Receive a 10% discount on feeders, identification guides, and feeder accessories when purchased this weekend-this is in addition to the regular membership discount of 10% !

To order: Fill out the order form below and mail it with payment to the Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 02842. Orders must be received by **October 28, 1993**.

Please make checks payable to Norman Bird Sanctuary. P.S. If you would like to volunteer to help in the store during the Bird Seed Sale pick-up days, please give us a call.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Type of Seed/Quantity	Price per Bag
Song Maker (25 lbs).....	\$ 7.00
Song Maker (50 lbs).....	\$ 13.00
Black Oil Sunflower (25 lbs).....	\$ 9.25
Black Oil Sunflower (50 lbs).....	\$ 17.75
Thistle (5 lbs).....	\$ 4.50

TOTAL: _____

Members take off 10 %: _____

Add 7 % R.I. Sales Tax : _____

TOTAL BIRD SEED FEES: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership

Last Spring we conducted our first active membership campaign in at least a decade. The objective is to increase our membership by 20% by the end of the fiscal year to help support our programs and activities. Below is a list of new members for 1993. Subsequent newsletters will also list new members each quarter.

PATRON

Jay Repass
Mrs. Allan T. Schumacher
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Tucker

INSTITUTION

Mt. Vernon Inn
Parvo's Paint and Wallpaper
Sparrow, Johnson & Ursillo, Inc.
Wayside Guest House

SUSTAINING

Mr. and Mrs. Hans L. Carstensen
Mr. and Mrs. Alan de Leiris
Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon
Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey
Leila Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. John Merritt
Florence L. Perry
Gary J. Post
David Pritchard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sinclair
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Trbovich

CONTRIBUTING

Mr. and Mrs. G. Spencer Berger
Blackstone Caterers
Casten, Victor & Co.
Charles P. Columpar, Jr.
Michael Dwyer
John Gacher
Carlos Godoy
Henry S. Grew
The John Lawrence Agency
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew
McConeghy
Louis L. Meier, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Halloran
Barbara van Beuren
Betty Vanderbilt

FAMILY

Marie Garforth and Kent Ackley
Suzanne M. Albright
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Allen
and Family
Gertrude Mercer Altemus
Geri Aponowich Somerville
Karen Behan
Mr. and Mrs. Milo Scott Bergeson

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bergman
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bernhard
Elizabeth Bessette
The Bessinger Family
Ann Boyer
Julie Brigidi and Family
James Broome
Mr. and Mrs. William Brownell and Family
Fred Buccì
Robert Buehn and Family
Brig. Gen. and Mrs. J.C. Burney
Mr. and Mrs. John Burnham
Mr. and Mrs. Christian Canova
Mr. and Mrs. Andre Carrier
Rudolph A. Carruba
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Casey
Mr. and Mrs. John Caswell
Kathy Champlin
The Coletti Family
William A. Collins
Robert W. Comery
Clay Commons
Patricia Connors
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cox
Marguerite Crocker
Karen Hellquist and Chris Cush
Anne DeCotis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Dixon
Janet and Susan Erdey-Nunley
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Erhardt
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Esons
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ethier
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Everett
Valerie Fagan
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fairchild
Alice Fitzpatrick
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Folcarelli
Katherine Cole Fucile
The James Gallipeau Family
Mr. and Mrs. George Gillis
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Gillispie
Thomas Ginnerty
Mr. and Mrs. Stanaly Goldberg
Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Gronneberg
Sharon Bulach
Cliff Hamm
Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hilliard
William Hoffman and Family
Arlen Hogan
Mrs. Frederick E. Hood
Heather Hornbeck
David Houghton
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hoyt
Margaret Hughes
Martin Hyman
James Hyman
Washington Irving
Mrs. George F.B. Johnson, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnstone
Mr. and Mrs. Tasso Kaper
Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Kelley
Nancy Kesson
The Kibble Family
Mr. and Mrs. George Kirk
Anne Kuhn-Hines
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth LaMantia
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Lee
Linda Levitt
Mary B. Lindsay
Mr. and Mrs. John Linnens
Col. and Mrs. G.M. Bruce Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacDougall
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Madden
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Magnus
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mankofsky
Carmen Marandola
Major and Mrs. Clarence Mariney
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mathias
Mr. and Mrs. William McCaffrey
Jim McCamphill
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. McGovern, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McMahon
Dr. and Mrs. B. Mellow
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Merritt
Patricia M. Meyer
Elizabeth Minifie
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Molander
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Morley
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Morrow
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Moses
Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Muir
Lisa Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Neale
Carol Wooten and Hans Nef
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Neilan
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Newman
Darcy Nickerson
Raymond Offenheiser
Donna Ohlman
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Palsgrove
Restcom E. Peabody
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Peppercorn
Mr. and Mrs. George C. Perry, Jr.
Suzanne Pettit
Melisa Joly and Eric Picard
Dawn C. Pigott
Jean Poirier
Mr. and Mrs. James Purviance
Christine and John Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rego
Mr. and Mrs. Andre Resz
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Reynolds
Sylvia Rinaldi
William F. Rommel
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rudolph

Rosemary Sadlers
 Mr. and Mrs. John Sanders
 Gisele Sardinha
 Richard Sardinha
 The Schultz Family
 Tia G. Scigulinsky
 Mr. and Mrs. George Seidl
 Betsy L. Shaw
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Shaw
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shea
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sieben
 Stephen Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan Souza
 H.G. Squire
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter St. Jacques
 Dr. and Mrs. Sydney Stillman
 The John Sullivan Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Teufel
 Terry Tefft & Bob Tommassone
 Mr. and Mrs. John Tucker
 Dr. and Mrs. James Valente
 Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Valmy
 Christine Vuolo-Fecteau
 Kori Waldhelm
 The Walker Family
 Barclay Warburton, IV
 Robert Watt
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Watterson
 Mrs. William Webster
 Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Whitford
 Mr. and Mrs. Morton Whitman-Sacks
 The Wilkinson-Decker Family
 The Russell-Willett Family
 Mr. and Mrs. John Wojtowicz
 Mr. and Mrs. Hert E. Wood
 Richard Youngken
 Mr. and Mrs. K. Vocke Ytterberg
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Zaff

INDIVIDUAL

Gail Abromitis
 Mary Ann Amrose
 M. Therese Antone, R.S.M.
 Ronald Barr
 Virginia Beltz
 David E. Boenning
 Linda Brodin
 Mary C. Carson
 Thomas W. Christopher
 Mrs. Alan P. Clark
 Wanda Coderre
 Mrs. Betty Conklin
 Mrs. Charles W. Cooke
 Isabel Coyle
 Mark D'Andrea
 Murray L. Davis
 Mrs. D. Reynolds Doreau
 Pat Dorkin
 Mrs. Thomas Driscoll
 Aldrich Durant, Jr.
 Julia Eveleth
 George A. Ford
 Dorsey B. Given
 Marcus Graham
 Hon. Roderic Henderson
 Charles Henoch
 Janet H. Hensle
 Samuel H. Howell

Bennett D. Katz
 Ethel E. Kelley
 Jeffrey Kilmer
 Joan B. Kalserner
 Iva J. Lipton
 Jennifer M. Lutke
 Roberta Majewski
 Jay Manning
 Beth McCann
 Russ McClain
 Diane McGee
 Lynne Moden
 Allen G. Moitoza
 Natalie N. Nicholson
 Kim Norris
 Sheila O'Brien
 Ruth M. O'Brien
 Jared O'Connor
 Marjory Packer
 Don Palen
 Clarissa Palmer
 C.B. Perkins
 Frank D. Ribera
 Jack Richardson
 Shirley F. Riess
 Lloyd M. Rives
 C. Joseph Rossi
 Lois Shapleigh
 Patricia C. Sherman
 Richard Skinger
 Patricia Stevenson
 Richard E. Sullivan
 Paul Sullivan
 David Tanner
 Virginia B. Tate
 Brian Thomas
 Mary L. Tyler
 James Van Alen
 George Vranesh
 Carol Watkins
 Dorthea B. Wellings
 Jeannine M. Williams

STUDENT

Nicole Brown
 Myles Gabriel Byrne
 Dana Chrostowski
 Paul D. Conroy
 Jean S. Cookinham
 Justin Miller



Teacher/Naturalist Karin Lucci
 with "Bea" the bantam

New Face at NBS ■■■■■■

This Fall, we welcome to our staff, Karin Lucci who has been hired as a part-time Teacher/Naturalist. Karin, (pronounced "Car - in") has a bachelor's degree in Biology Education/Science and is certified in secondary education. She brings with her much experience as a substitute teacher in the Middletown and Portsmouth school systems. Last Summer, she worked as a Naturalist aboard the Old Colony Railroad, based in Newport, teaching passengers about life in and around Narragansett Bay. As the Sanctuary's Teacher /Naturalist, Karin will be conducting environmental education programs for local schools and the general public.

Help support the cost of publishing this
 newsletter by
 advertising your business here.
 Send us your business card or
 camera-ready ad (3 1/2" x 2 1/2")
 and a check for \$35.00

(The Norman Bird Sanctuary reserves the right to refuse
 to accept an ad for any reason)

Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, R.I. 02842

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Newport RI
02842
Permit No. 43

To current resident or







Animal Pause

In the past few months one of the oddest, but timely situations involved the Governor of Rhode Island and three raccoons. Though the Governor got himself in trouble for shooting what appeared to be "rabid" raccoons, the faux pax quickly brought the deadly disease of rabies to the public's attention.

Rabies has recently crossed the Connecticut border into R.I. via two bats that tested positively. Sources say bat rabies is mostly unrelated to the rabies carried by foxes, raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs and woodchucks, thus is not a threat to humans. Nevertheless, precaution should be taken now to ensure pets and humans are safe from this deadly outbreak. Those animals that do not carry the virus include rabbits, opossums, squirrels, hamsters, rats and mice. Never has the virus been found in birds or fish.

Because this fatal virus is transferred through saliva by a wound or bite from a rabid animal, contact with wildlife in our area should be minimal.

To protect against this disease, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association has outlined the following do's and don'ts:

-  Vaccinate your pets-cats, dogs, ferrets and livestock
-  Feed pets indoors and know their whereabouts at all times either by leash or fenced in area.
-  Make sure garbage is stored in tightly closed cans so as not to attract raccoons, known for their nocturnal trash eating habits.
-  Enjoy wildlife at a distance. Never feed or tame a wild animal.
-  Spread the word to children and neighbors by knowing the facts about the disease (dispel myths that every animal has the disease, for example).
-  Report any unusual animal behavior/stray to your local animal control officers or by calling DEM, Division of Enforcement (277-3070) or 1-800-498-1336. For more information, pamphlets for distribution and bumperstickers (like Governor Sundlan's: "Rabies Kills, Vaccinate your Pet") call RI Vet. Medical Association 521-7242.

About the Sanctuary

The Norman Bird Flyer is published quarterly by the Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit corporation organized to support the mission of the trusts established under the Will of Mabel Norman Cerio. Our mission: to preserve the 450 acre Norman Bird Sanctuary for the protection of animals and birds and for the enjoyment of the public; to assist the Trustee(s) in the overall management and development of the Sanctuary; to conduct programs for children and adults in environmental education and natural sciences; to work with individuals and groups in the region in the preservation of natural habitats and open space.

Trustee: Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank
Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary Board of Directors
1993-94 -Betsy deLeiris- Chair, Dick Boenning- Vice Chair,
Charles K. Moore- Secretary, Paul Raducha- Treasurer,
Lauren Carson, Thomas Gunzelman, Kevin Healy, Kathy
Irving, Alan Libby, Candace Powell, Horatio Rogers, Jocelyn
Sherman, David Steele, and Christine Thomas.

Executive Director: Lawrence Taft
Office Manager: Susan VanDerhoof
Education Specialist: Hap Morgan
Teacher/Naturalist: Karin Lucci
Caretaker: Matt Benson
Maintenance Assistant: Forster Peabody

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Pritchard
Graphics : Amy Wright, Lucia deLeiris, and UMD Illustration students under the direction of Bob Barry.
Printing: PDQ on recycled paper with soy ink

Address: 583 Third Beach Rd. Middletown, R.I. 02840
Telephone: (401) 846-2577

Fall/Winter Hours: Open Tues.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm. Closed Mondays, except for holidays.

Please do not bring your dog, or bike on the trails. Recycle this newsletter-pass it on to a friend..thank you.

