

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 19

Spring 1993

Swan's Way: Duty, Dignity & Decorum

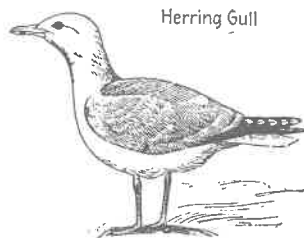


A great blue heron drifted silently out of the east, a squealing osprey circled overhead and, at the Pond's center, a cormorant was splashing himself silly. Bracketed by their parents, four recently hatched cygnets, not yet capable of gliding with the dignity and aloofness expected of swans, paddled eagerly past a half dozen feeding mallards. Occasionally the male swan snorted an order at his mate and his offspring, making it quite clear that swans set the tone of the Pond and that swans are not simply members of the Establishment, they are the Establishment.



No matter what persuasion of weather crosses the pond on the winds of summer, the swans are routinely on duty. They patrol from the northeast shallows to the southwest islands searching out intruders-- uninvited swans or (God forbid!) rowdy Canada geese-- and send them packing, sometimes even waddling ashore in indignant pursuit.

And swans meet their social responsibilities. Unobtrusively they chaperone coterries of skittish mallards even to the point of feeding with them. They share the northeast delta with well-behaved gulls and civil egrets, all the while instructing their offspring in the basic tenets of swan conduct: tolerance, condescension and noblesse oblige.



In the spring, newly hatched cygnets meld into an animated fuzzy blob that swims and feeds between watchful parents, staying close to the Pond's edges. Until the blob begins to unravel and the cygnets emerge as separate individuals, their exact number is hidden. Soon, however, they begin to shape up, forming a line-- father first, cygnets next, mother to the rear. Only when the cygnets grow restive of restraint will the follow-the-leader pattern be broken. Then, like teen-agers, they will step out of line, sometimes trying to lead, sometimes lagging behind and sometimes paddling off by themselves, but not far and never for long.

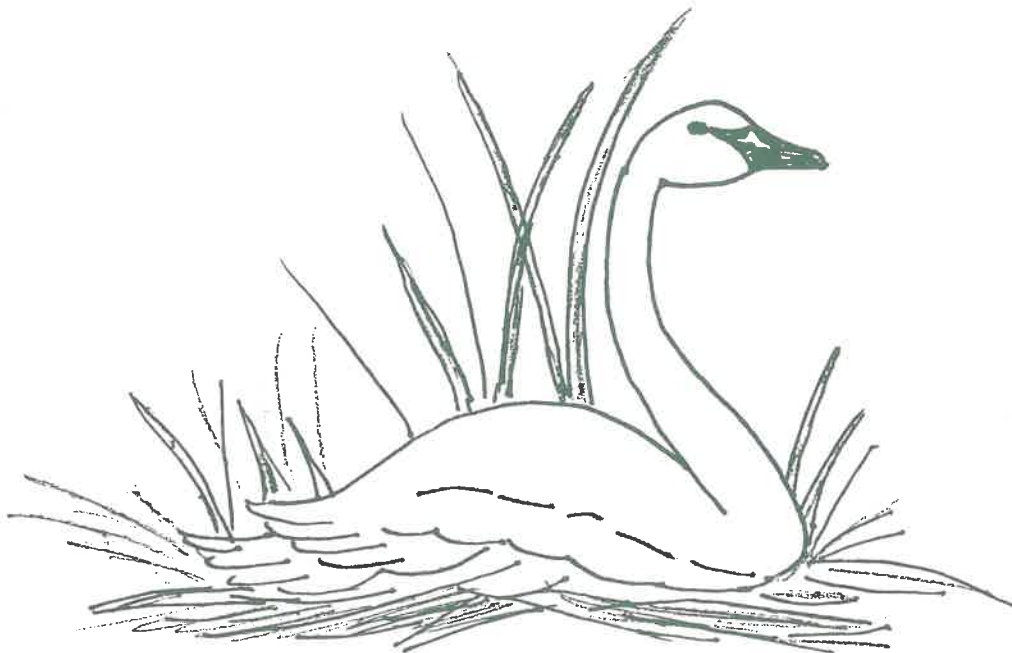
While summer lingers the cygnets' soft fur gives way to an adolescent mix of gray and white. They begin to look like swans. With at least one parent always close by, they tour the Pond, frequently spreading and flexing their as yet untested wings. All around them, the Pond's activity has gelled into its normal summer routine. Shortly after dawn the great blue herons arrive to fish and red-winged blackbird sentries take up their posts. By mid-morning scores of painted turtles have scrambled onto half-submerged logs to begin a good day's basking, and in the late afternoon squadrons of swallows swoop over the Pond's shimmering surface in pursuit of insects. At sunset fireflies turn on their amorous blinkers and as night falls, the first tentative croaks of a night-long bullfrog serenade drift by on the wind.

As summer wanes, the cygnets grow whiter, larger, stronger and increasingly anxious to fly. Following their father's lead, they begin making frantic upwind sprints-- wings spread and flapping-- but to no avail. At the Pond's fringes red-winged blackbirds no longer shrill out defiance, and swamp maple leaves begin to show traces of yellow and red. Then early on a fall morning the whistling sound of powerful wings whipping the misty air cuts the silence as the cygnets finally achieve lift-off. They skim southwest across the Pond, wheel, and single file behind their father, fly back to their watching mother.

First flight-- a cygnet's rite of passage-- signals the end of their close-knit, springtime family. The parents will become slightly aloof, the cygnets will distance themselves and in time fly away.

On Christmas morning, the sharp whistle of their wings was heard for the last time when, in single file, they circled the Pond twice then flew off to the southwest. If they return, they will be driven off like so many geese.

Soon their parents will begin to rebuild their nest among the reeds of the northeast shallows.



-RED BROOK POND CONSERVATION PROJECT-

To put it in the "verse" way:

*How did we do in '92?
and
How will we be in '93?*

Our 1992 contributions, including pledges and matching funds, totaled \$231,989.63. This sum, added to our 1989-91 donations of \$868,812.45, makes our grand total \$1,100,802.08, passing the million dollar mark!!

But . . .
Speaking of budget deficits . . .

We have all had the experience of moving into a new year accompanied by last year's debts. Here are ours:



-We still owe \$55,000 on our \$250,000 payment for 1992. We obtained an interest-free loan for that amount BUT it must be repaid soon.

-The sellers of the Nivling-Alexander Reserve could not be persuaded to forgive our late interest payment; however, they agreed to a fixed \$15,000 per year for the next four years.

-We need also to repay the loans (\$153,000 + interest) that were taken the first year of this project--loans advanced to meet our first year obligation. Our goal is \$50,000 a year for four years.

Thus for 1993, for Red Brook Pond, we will require:

\$55,000 (from 1992)
15,000 (interest)
<u>50,000 (repayment)</u>
\$120,000

MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

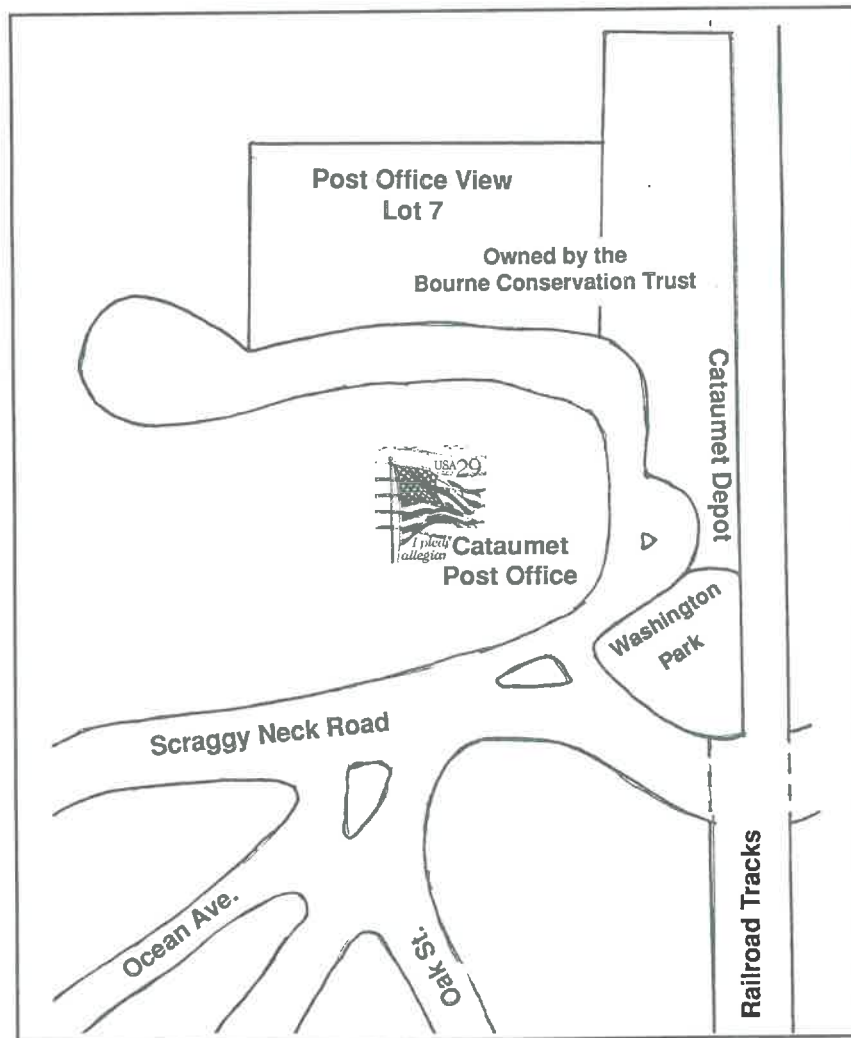
While the economy dampened the developmental rush, the future is bound to include a re-acceleration; consequently, this is a proper time to expand our holdings.

May we present:

-Post Office View: Not quite as scenic as some of our properties (unless you have a penchant for Elvis Presley stamps) but a very nice 1.15 acres (Lot 7) bordering Post Office Square. This is hard by our Cataumet Depot. Community recreational use will be encouraged.

The accompanying plan shows the specific site.

Costs? Yes. A \$10,000 deposit has already been made; \$22,500 will be due each November from 1993 though 1996.



Post Office Square
Cataumet



**Thank you,
Greg Moon & Company!**

Visitors to the Nivling-Alexander Reserve owe a vote of thanks to 16-year-old Boy Scout Greg Moon for the construction and installation of three sturdy benches (one by the Thaxter Road parking area, one overlooking a bog, and the third off the main path) and for building steps down to Red Brook Pond and, in the process, cleaning up a large oak near the parking lot felled by Hurricane Bob and removing brush along several trails.

The project earned the Falmouth Academy junior another merit badge on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout. Requirements for the merit badge include a service project to help the community which meant finding tools, recruiting workers (fellow scouts, friends and family) and organizing the work crews to demonstrate leadership abilities. Greg became an Eagle Scout officially in a ceremony at the end of March. (Greg's brother Jeff undertook a project at the N/A Reserve which helped him to become an Eagle Scout just two years ago.)

**Thank you,
David Dimmick!**

Trustee David Dimmick has retired from the BCT Board of Directors whose members, on behalf of the entire membership, take this opportunity to thank him publicly for his many contributions to the BCT cause. Mr. Dimmick plans to remain an active member of BCT.



TAKE STOCK IN THIS!

Or better, give stock to this . . . the BCT!

Perhaps you have investments purchased years ago that have appreciated significantly in value but are paying a low current return.

What to do?

The conventional wisdom suggests what not to do: selling those stocks creates a considerable capital gains tax bill.

Follow an unconventional path! By making an outright gift of those stocks to the BCT, neither you nor the BCT pays a capital gains tax, and you may claim a deduction for the full appreciated value of the stock.

And, you can see the green results of this wise investment every time you drive about the village.

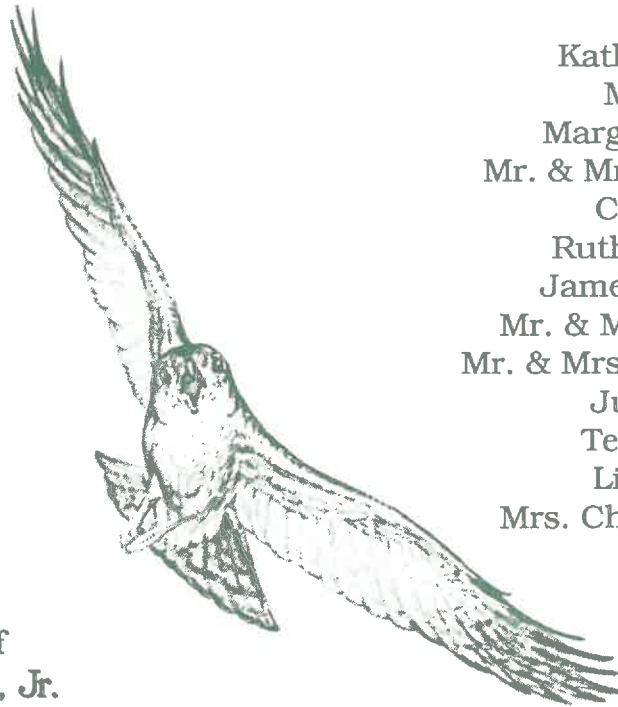
Memorial Donations

Given in Memory of
Dr. Edgar Berry
by:

Tom & Jeannette Barnes
Joan R. Bolton
Martha P. Bryant
Peter & Cathy Emmons
The Peter Fisher Family
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Harris, Jr.
Francesca H. Hill
Kay & Debbie Laurie
Heidi Lewitt
William & Janet Percival
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Seaver
John & Sara York

Given in Memory of
Margaret Murtha
by:

Kathryn Carlson
Mary Cody
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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mosher
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Teradyne Inc.
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Given in Memory of
George F. Ballentine, Jr.
by:

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Amend
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Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Handy
Marie Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Knowlton
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter
Grace P. Rowe

Given in Memory of
Kahlin Jespersen
by:

Kelly & Kyle Crumrine
The Guy Family
The George Jespersen Family
Mr. & Mrs. G.G. Jespersen
Catherine J. O'Brien
The Gordon Pierce Family

Special Donations

Alice Locke
in honor of
the first Locke great grandchild

The Noyes Family
in honor of Janet & Dick Shaw

The Ballentine Family in memory of
Galley
Precious

Diane H. Dreher in memory of
Sharima
Ellegon
Deidre
Granite
Squire



Memorial Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Collins in memory of Patricia Collins Amaral
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter in memory of Carol Askin
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ballentine in memory of George & Elsie Ballentine



Amanda Barnes Muckle in memory of Jeff Barnes
 Kay & Debbie Laurie in memory of Jeff Barnes
 Linda Carpenter in memory of Jeff Barnes
 Mr. & Mrs. Richmond Fisher in memory of Jeff Barnes



Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fisher in memory of Jack Bolton
 Mr. James A. Smith in memory of John H. Bolton, Jr.
 Elizabeth Bourne in memory of Nathan Bourne
 Mr. & Mrs. William Dunkle in memory of Pete & Mabel Bradley

Galanthus nivalis

Kay & Debbie Laurie in memory of Lynn Brazer Brookshire
 Linda Carpenter in memory of Lynn Brazer Brookshire
 Martha P. Bryant in memory of Lynn Brazer Brookshire
 Mr. & Mrs. Richmond Fisher in memory of Lynn Brazer Brookshire

Ted & Wendy Rose in memory of Robert Casselman
 O. Stuart Chase in memory of Geoffrey S. Chase
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Collins in memory of William Clement



Evelyn Underhill in memory of George Curley
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Dubuque in memory of George Curley
 Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Seaver in memory of George T. Curley

Mr. & Mrs. Blake Donaldson in memory of Mrs. Marie Currier
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmore Flint in memory of Mrs. Marie Currier
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood in memory of Mark Dooley
 Mr. & Mrs. William Fitzpatrick in memory of Polly Everett
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Collins in memory of Lillian Fuller

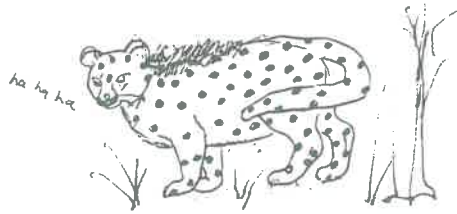
Helen Chin Schlichte in memory of Everett Hagen
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Marcus in memory of Everett Hagen
 Mr. & Mrs. John Carpenter in memory of Everett Hagen

Susan Quirk & Stephen Conroy in memory of Arthur Karr
 Mrs. Robert Fish in memory of Donald John Kelsey
 Dr. Morton Kliman in memory of Dr. Jacob & Minnie Kliman
 Kay & Debbie Laurie in memory of Gene Leavitt
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter in memory of Dr. Walter Marks
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 Mr. Ernest Miller in memory of Gladys J. Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Trezise in memory of Sterling Myrick
 Mr. & Mrs. William Fitzpatrick in memory of Sterling Myrick
 Elise A. Noyes in memory of Roger Noyes
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walters in memory of Harold Pedersen
 Camilla Nevius in memory of Taber B. Perry
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Duval in memory of William (Willy) Phillips
 Margaret Winsor Stubbs in memory of Theresa Winsor Pratt
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pratt in memory of Theresa Pratt
 Susan Quirk & Stephen Conroy in memory of Thomas & Corinne Quirk
 Joan R. Bolton in memory of Dr. Charles Scribner
 Cindy Sheldon in memory of John E. Sheldon
 Edith Stokey in memory of Roger Stokey
 Judith Cady Maddock in memory of Marjorie Cady Nivling Thayer
 Mr. & Mrs. William Fitzpatrick in memory of Robert Walsh
 Mrs. Martin Alvey in memory of Alice Maginnis Walsh
 Mrs. Nicholas Williamson in memory of Alice Maginnis Walsh
 Mr. & Mrs. William Fitzpatrick in memory of Charles Walter
 Susan Cobb in memory of Helen Watt
 John Winsor in memory of Dorothy Winsor



Kahlin's Korner

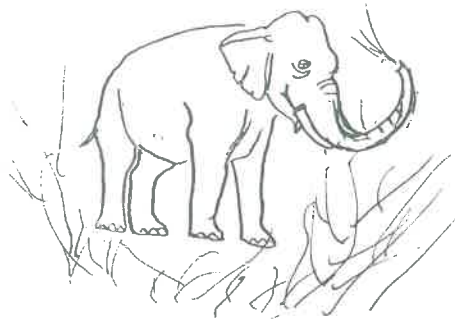
is dedicated to the memory of Kahlin Jespersen, a child full of sunshine and a love of nature, and also to all children for whom we preserve a part of the natural world.



SOUNDS AT THE JUNGLE

by Casey Walsh
Age 9-Falls Church VA

Birds squawking smoothly
Hyenas laughing loudly
Grass rustling gently
Trees blowing quietly
Lions roaring loudly
Snakes hissing softly
Elephants tromping loudly
Oh, I love the sounds of the jungle



Animals by:
Courtney Pierce (age 12)
Scenery by:
Dana Jespersen (age 13)



THANK GOD FOR COLUMBUS by Jeffrey Boman (age 12) Juneau Alaska

In the year of 1492
When Columbus sailed the ocean blue

He did not use a car or plane
Just a group of boats in the wind and rain

The rain was hard and the sea was deep
And once in a while they'd fall asleep

They finally landed on warm, dry shore
Although it was the American floor

It was for India they set this escapade
To buy and sell and even trade

They went for spices and went for slaves
But when they got there, there were roads to pave

They founded places to plant their crops
But their supermarkets lacked soda pop

There were people there he finally saw
They had their customs and had their law

He gave them names not knowing then
That these people were American

They showed him a better way of life
For he had no slave and he had no wife

He is the reason I live here now
For he had courage, not a cow

Now I live in the land of the free
If not for Columbus, I'd be in Italy!

Kahlin's Korner is a regular feature of the Newsletter, featuring children's articles or drawings about nature. Included will be activities that are fun and will also help children to understand their natural environment. We hope you will submit ideas for future issues. (BCT, Box 203, Cataumet MA 02534)

Computer Errs, Drops Donor List

Our Computer ran amok this winter, so please excuse:

1. Errors in addresses
2. Errors in donor information

And inform us (Sally) of additional errors (old or new). Use the enclosed envelope. Thank you.

For Your S M L & XL
Friends & Relations (or even for yourself)
A Smashing **BCT-Shirt**



Green (jade) T-shirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$12 = ___

Gray T-shirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$12 = ___

Lightweight Navy Sweatshirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$18 = ___

Lightweight Gray Sweatshirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$18 = ___

Heavy Dark Green Sweatshirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$35 = ___

Heavy Gray Sweatshirt:

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total ___ x \$35 = ___

Make checks payable to:
Bourne Conservation Trust
(Box 203
Cataumet, MA 02534)
508-563-5196

Subtotal: _____

Shipping: _____
(\$1.50 per item)

Total Due: _____

Ordered by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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***Look, a Shotbag!
or is it a Shagpoll?***

On Cape those small comic diving ducks that winter on the Pond are called Buffle-heads, but off-Cape may be called Bumble Bee Dippers or Shotbags. Their cousins, the Hooded Mergansers, have collected about seventy aliases-- Showl, Shagpoll and Hoota-Meganzy, among them-- depending on who's doing the talking.

