

# Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 15

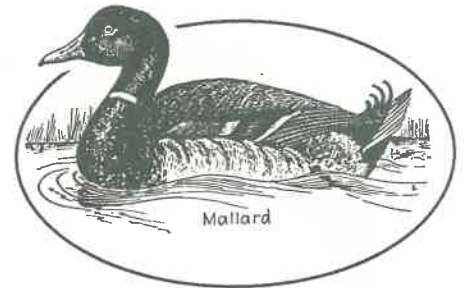
Spring 1991

## *Sound and Noise Over Water*

As blasts from the mighty horn at Cleveland Ledge Light ride the wind northeast toward Red Brook Pond, they soften and mellow. The raucous noise that erupts from the Ledge like artillery fire arrives at the Pond as wistfully remote sound, softened and gentled by distance. It glides across the Pond as unheeded as a remote thunderclap and blends with the insistent plaints of an almost out-of-hearing flight of Canada geese who announce their approach with swelling cacophony and broadcast their arrival in noisy yawps as arresting as a fingernail slicing across a blackboard.

Throughout the year, the Pond's resident and migrant birds produce an engaging assortment of sounds and noises.

Buffleheads make a muted rasp. Wood ducks squeal like distressed piglets. Mergansers-- common and hooded-- mix readily on the Pond despite a language barrier. Common mergansers speak in low, raspy croaks while hooded mergansers chatter and grunt hoarsely. Mallards quack. Donald Duck speaks mallard.



Night herons will sometimes gnarl-like a jealous pekinese, sometimes make a squeak like a cork being drawn from a magnum of wine, and sometimes--usually after midnight--bark a hair-raising kuk! kuk! kuk! Green herons sound like a small boy's sneakers stuttering across a highly polished gym floor. Great blue herons make throaty, husky squawks.

Mute swans communicate with contralto grunts that come out in a series of rapid clicks that sound like a child's staccato, asthmatic wheeze or a sheet of paper being ripped from an antique typewriter.

The abrupt, shrill squeals of ospreys sound like the noise made by a small boy showing the world that he has finally learned how to whistle.

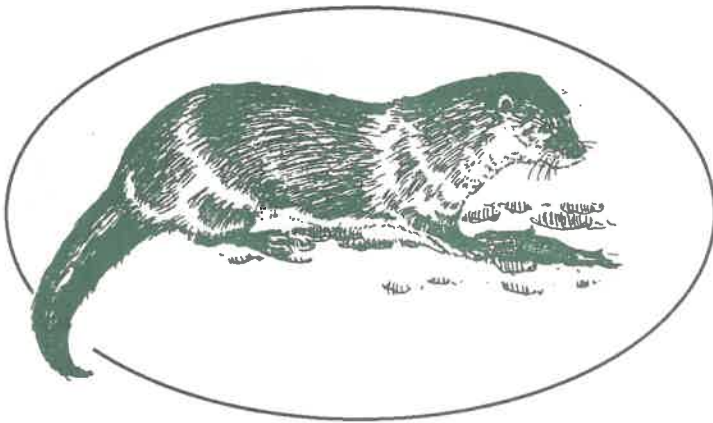
Kingfishers rattle out a noise like a distant jackhammer or a muted Bronx cheer.

For most of the year cormorants simply say crawk, but in the throes of courtship will emit a passionate and seductive oke! oke! oke!



## Identity Crisis?

Certainly (well almost certainly), a river otter was seen (by four people) and photographed (by one person) swimming about in and lounging about on the ice of Red Brook Pond early in January. Unfortunately, the image in the photograph is a bit fuzzy like those snapshots of the Loch Ness Monster. More recent sightings by joggers on Shore Road and fishermen have placed the illusive otter in the vicinity of the islet in the Pond's southwest corner. In the same vicinity, however, muskrats (which, from a distance, might easily be mistaken for otters) have recently taken up residence, so there may be some confusion. (News of other sightings would be appreciated.)



Otter



Muskrat

## Tempus Fugit

Perhaps you can't recall when you made your last donation to the BCT? Check the mailing label on the envelope of this newsletter. The number in the upper right corner represents the date of your last donation--first the year, then the month (example: "8906" is June 1989). No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.

### Send It Where. . .

Bourne Conservation Trust  
Post Office Box 203  
Cataumet, MA 02534

The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income. (ID Number: 04 2767827).

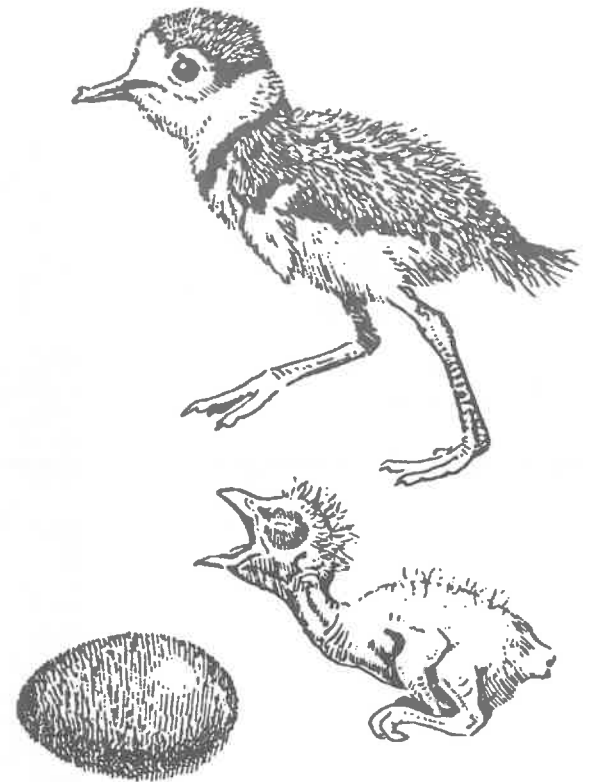
### Board of Directors

Stephen Ballentine, President  
Walter Everett, Treasurer  
Philip DeNormandie, Trustee  
John Corcoran, Trustee  
David Dimmick, Trustee

*We Are Going Through a Difficult Transition Period. . . (it's called "life")*

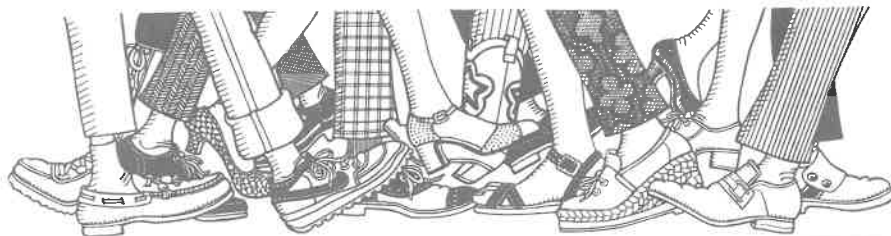
But, while we are transitioning, let's consider how we stand on donations. We still require \$125,000 for payments this summer and stress the importance of donations--of whatever size--to enlarge our base of givers. The average donation this year is \$67.83 (would someone please send in 17 cents to ease our accounting?). We have only 135 donors so far this year (vice 197-ish last year) and our goal is 1000 donors. One thousand is not only a nice round number but it also is a reasonable representation of the numbers of people who are immediately affected by our efforts.

Try monthly giving--you'll like it, so will we.



*The BCT is an "IN"!!!*

The Boston Globe, in its yearly survey of what's "in" and what's "out," has declared that land trusts are "in," thus confirming our opinion of several years. Also, "in," and of less cosmic significance, are grilled vegetables, ponytails on men, and pump sneakers. What's 'out'? Cigarette smoke (gasp!) and plans for the Dukakis Presidential Library. So, down your grilled vegetables, pump up your sneakers and run with the "in" crowd--ponytails not required.



# Sunlight and Moonlight

## Guided Tours of the Red Brook Pond Conservation Project



Unless you are a confirmed loner, join us for a stroll through the forty wooded acres of the Nivling-Alexander Reserve and along the shore of Red Brook Pond. Guides will conduct you along well-maintained paths and trails. Park off Shore Road just over the hill south of the Cataumet underpass on Thaxter Road.



**Saturday, June 8 at 10:00 am  
(sunlight)**

**Sunday, June 30 at 8:30 pm  
(moonlight)**

**Sunday, July 14 at 2:00 pm  
(sunlight)**

**Friday, July 26 at 8:30 pm  
(full moon)**

**Sunday, August 11 at 10:00 am  
(sunlight)**

**Sunday, August 25, 8:30 pm  
(full moon)**

### *When All Other Means of Communication Fail, Try Words*

Here are some of the words (along with donations) that we have received:

"...wish it could be more!"

"... thanks for the good work."

"...I often refer to (the BCT) as a prime example of a grass-roots organization--no frills--which gets things done and produces an excellent newsletter."

"...Newsletter is great. Could you include maps of the walking paths on the properties?" (See note below).

"...Best of luck on 'Rattling the Cup.' Hi to Alberta at the P.O."

"...Congrats on your great success in 1990."

"...We have been enjoying the Red Brook Conservation Area all winter, thanks to you."

"... Love your brochure."

N.B. Trail Guides are sent to all new donors. If you are an "old" donor and don't have one (or need more, let us know.

**BCT**  
.....  
**TRAIL GUIDE**

*Bourne Conservation Trust  
Cataumet, Ma 02534*



## *Out of The Mouths of Babes...*

Well, clearly in this case, not "babes" but rather quite mature 7th-grade pupils. The BCT conducted an essay contest for the 7th-graders at Lyle Middle School. They were asked to write sample letters on behalf of the BCT to foundations, requesting funds for open-space purchases, detailing what these purchases provide. From their entries, we are reminded that . . .

". . . out in the swamp or woods . . . you sit down and just listen. You hear the woods crack and the wind blow . . ."  
--Roland C. Bentley

"People could go there to read, walk, or just sit and enjoy the nature around them."  
--Theresa Olsen

"God gave us the responsibility to take care of the earth and wildlife, so we need trustees like you to help us out."  
--Adrianna Halicki

"Your donation may not save the world, but it will make the world a little bit better for us . . ."  
--Jesup Szatkowski

"When I have grandchildren, I want them to see trees instead of shopping plazas."  
--Elizabeth M. Ward

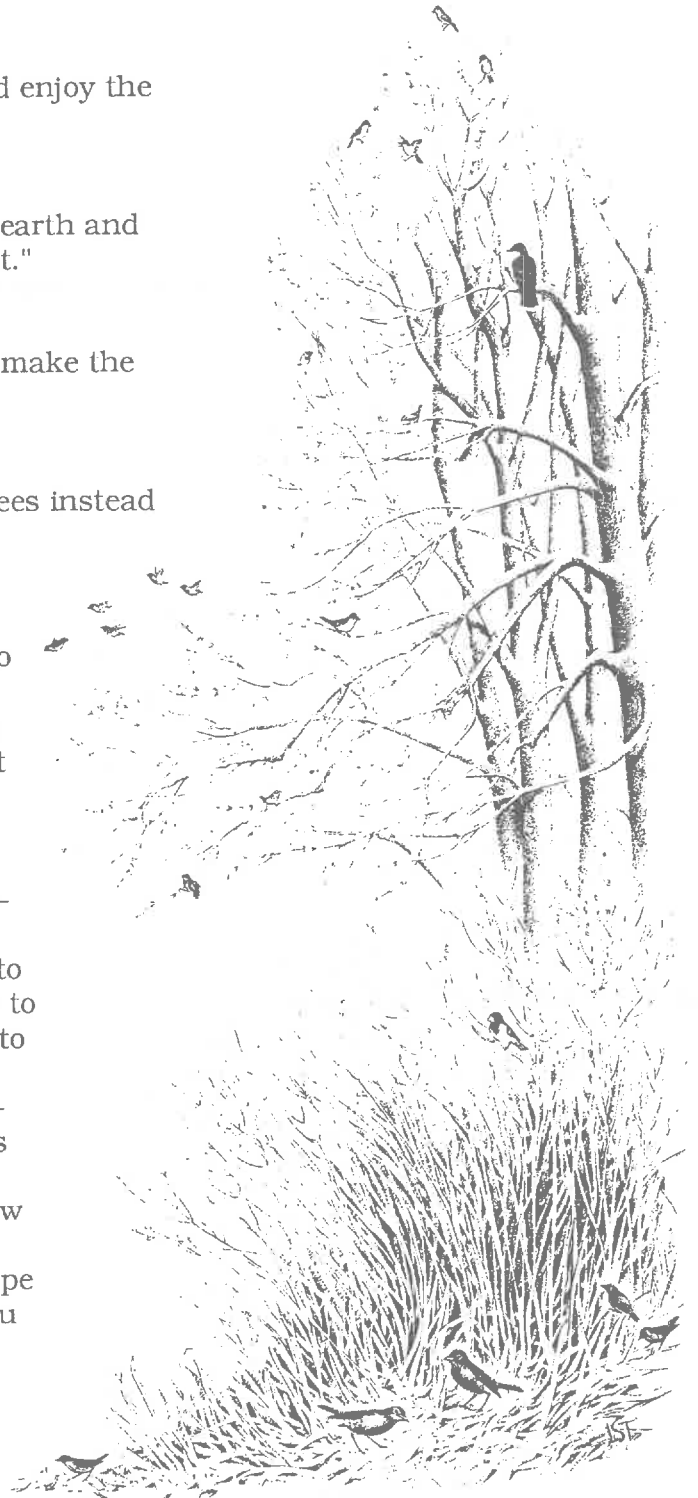
The winner of the contest was Trisha Wing, who stated:

"I'm a seventh grade student at Lyle Jr. High School in Bourne. The Bourne Conservation Trust has been conserving land for ten years. In fact a piece of land they own used to be my ancestor's land. Their goal is to keep the "Old Cape Cod."

They get their money and land by people donating the land and raising money so they can purchase land. People love to walk in the woods and to watch the wildlife in the ponds. I would really like to see the Bourne Conservation Trust get the money to buy land.

I'm a Cape Codder. Both of my parents, grandparents, and great grandparents are Cape Codders too. I've heard them talk about the way it used to be. Dirt paths are now paved roads, woods are now developments. It would be nice to try to keep a small piece of the Cape the way it used to be. I hope you will consider this a worthwhile cause when you make your decision."

For her fine efforts, Trisha was awarded a \$50 savings bond.



## *And Then There Were Thirteen*

We previously reported that 21 of our states were "missing" from our roster of contributors. That is, in our quest to increase our contributor base not only numerically but geographically, we are striving to get a contribution from every state in the union. Since that appeal, our mailbag contains eight new states, plus one country.

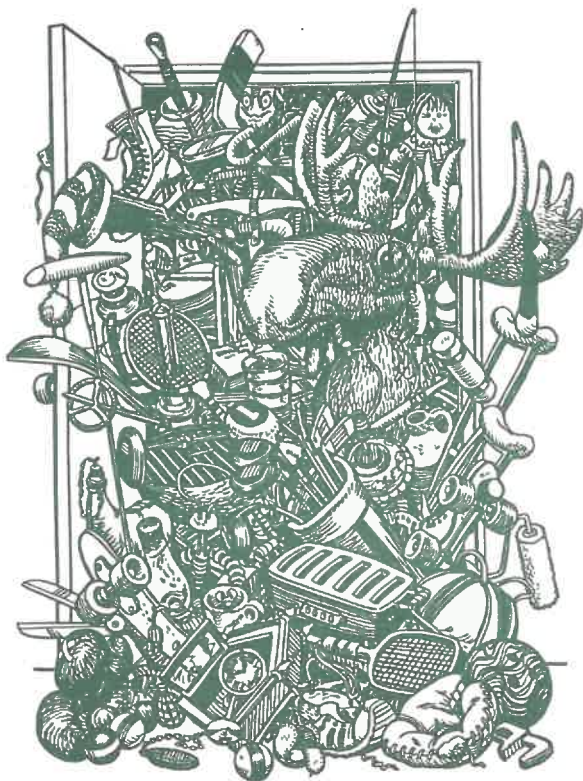
Now reported in are both of the Carolinas, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Idaho, Mississippi, and Iowa.

These additions are through the courtesy of John Rowe, and from the close proximity of the post marked dates on the envelopes, John didn't do much sightseeing.

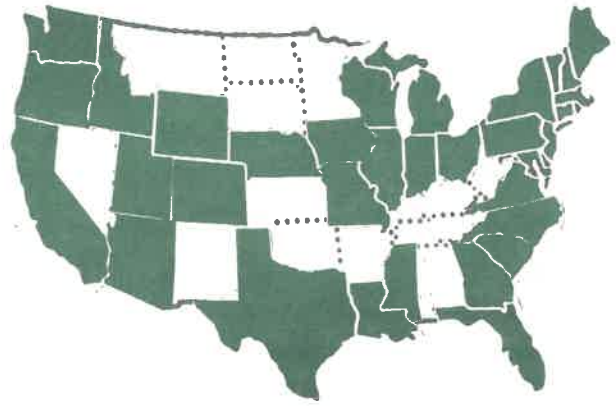
Still "unstated" are: AL, AR, KS, KY, MN, MT, NV, NM, ND, OK, SD, TN, WV.

Our other-country addition is Belize. For those of you who suffer from the geographic jitters, Belize was formerly the British Honduras.

Speaking of matters postal, please use your MAILING ADDRESS. It helps the Post Office (also known as the Old Stamping Ground) speed the mail. Also, since we maintain two lists--summer and winter addresses--we must use one or the other. Consequently, in Fall or Spring you may experience a delay.



## States checking in . . .



Plus:

Australia  
Bahamas  
Belize  
Costa Rica  
England  
Fiji  
France  
Kenya  
Ontario, Canada  
Zimbawa

## TIME TO SPRING HOUSE CLEAN. . .

. . . and donate your treasures to the Cataumet Beautification Committee Auction and Flea Market. Again this year the committee has voted to donate most of the proceeds to the BCT. Watch the papers for more details.

**Auction**  
**Saturday, August 17**  
**Parker's Boat Yard**  
**Cataumet**

## 1991 Donors to the Red Brook Pond Conservation Project \*

Mrs. Joan Alden  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Aldrovandi  
Mabel Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Arch  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Baker  
The Baker Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ballentine  
Ellen Bassuk & Stephen Schoonover  
Dr. & Mrs. Grover Baxley  
Mr. & Mrs. David Beal  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Becker  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Berk  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Beyer  
Mrs. Marion Birtz  
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Mr. & Mrs. John Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carter  
Mrs. Henry M. Castro  
Mrs. Winthrop Churchill  
Ms. Karen Colbert  
Ms. Jennifer Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Webster Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Connor  
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Mrs. Laurent Dubois  
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Dr. Joan Eccleston  
Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Eldridge  
Susan Ernst & Patrick Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Eustis  
Mr. Robert Eustis  
Mr. Walter Everett  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Finton  
Mrs. Robert Fish  
Mr. & Mrs. Richmond Fisher  
Frances Fitzgerald  
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Lindsay Knowlton  
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Mrs. Henry Locke  
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Ms. Erin Looney  
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Dwight Lueth  
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Justine McLoughlin  
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Mr. Edward Sabatini  
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Joanne Watson  
Ms. Linda Whalen  
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Mr. & Mrs. Roy Wiggin  
Mrs. Nicholas Williamson  
Jane Ann Willis  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Winslow  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood  
Mrs. Randolph Woodruff

Businesses:  
Fern Engineering

\*Donations received after April 30, 1991  
will be listed in the next newsletter.

## *Memorial Donations\**

Mabel Anderson in Memory of Axel Anderson  
Ellen Bassuk & Stephen Schoonover in Memory of Molly Bassuk  
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Cote in Memory of Shirley Beale  
Susan J. Ernst & Patrick Jenkins in Memory of Bopcha  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Finton in Memory of Phillip Burgess, Jr.  
Mhairi M. Castro in Memory of Henry M. Castro  
Mrs. Henry Castro in Memory of Mr. Henry Castro  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Reich in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Connell  
Mr. & Mrs. William Shultz in Memory of Timmy Crafts  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Reich in Memory of William R. Dallmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Seaver, Jr. in Memory of Lou Exley  
Mrs. Robert Fish in Memory of Robert Story Fish  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fitzgerald in Memory of J. Edward Fitzgerald  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walters in Memory of Margaret Gardner  
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Ouellet in Memory of Mrs. Margaret Gardner  
Mrs. John E. Handy in Memory of John E. Handy  
Mrs. Cary Potter in Memory of Goodwin Harding  
Mrs. Cary Potter in Memory of J. Hartwell Harrison  
Mrs. John Harvey in Memory of Mr. John Harvey  
Mr. & Mrs. David Beal in Memory of E. Freda Hawkins  
Mr. Benjamin Hill in Memory of Irene Hill  
Mrs. Nicholas Williamson in Memory of John E. J. Kelley  
Lindsay Knowlton in Memory of Warren Knowlton  
Ms. Wendy Laurell in Memory of Robert Laurell  
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Ouellet in Memory of Clifford Maclean  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fuller in Memory of Donald McArdle  
Mr. Ernest Miller in Memory of Gladys Miller  
Grace Millet in Memory of Franklin & Edna Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Winslow in Memory of Philip Nichols  
Mrs. Laurent O. Dubois in Memory of Jean Northrop  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walters in Memory of Mr. Wilfred Ouellet  
Norman Seaver in Memory of Edith York Seaver  
Cynthia Sheldon in Memory of John Sheldon  
Ms. Janice Smith in Memory of Dr. Jacob Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. John Black in Memory of Janet Sullivan  
Jane Anne Willis in Memory of Anna Walden



### *Donations Received in Memory of Pauline Everett*

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine  
Constance Burgess  
Mrs. Laurent Dubois  
Martha Hassell  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Lacasse  
Mrs. Henry Locke  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Wiggin  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood  
Mrs. Randolph Woodruff

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