

Bourne Conservation Trust

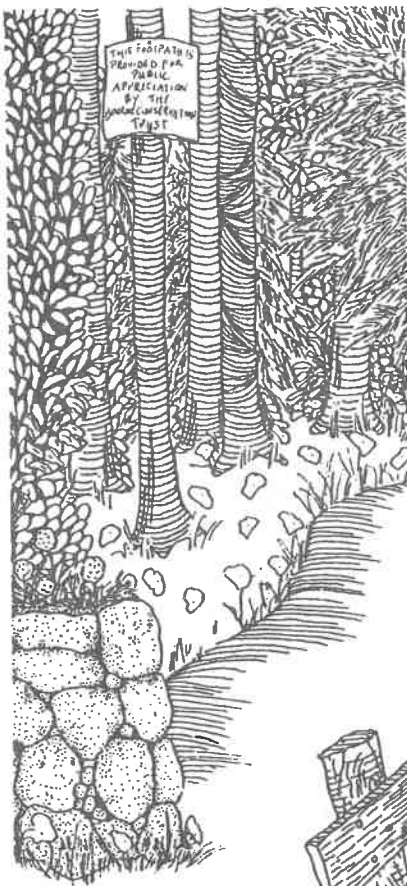
NEWSLETTER Number 20

Fall 1993

Long Ago, But Not Far Away . . .

Frank Knowlton, long-time Scraggy Neck denizen and tireless BCT volunteer, has graciously agreed to share his views and feelings about the BCT's needs and objectives. Here they are.

You have heard it said many times-- "I'd give anything if things could stay the way they are." A plaintive hope? Or a deeply-felt admission of the fear and price of change?



**The Bourne
Conservation
Trust**



Sixty-five years ago, when as an underage motorist learning to drive on the lightly-traveled roads beside Red Brook Pond and on past Robinson's (now Parker's) boatyard, I might not have paid much attention to the peace and quiet of the countryside, or the beauty of the woodlands and wetlands. Now, however, it seems a miracle that so much of those nearby habitats have been preserved, thanks to the Bourne Conservation Trust.

Of course, that awareness is partly a matter of perspective. When you get older, you see things more clearly (at least in the mind's eye), and your values change. You hate to lose something precious which at a younger age may not have seemed important; for example, the spaciousness of the land, so necessary for the preservation of wildlife, not to mention peace of mind.

In a rapidly changing world, particularly during recent years, there has been unprecedented destruction of natural habitats, caused partly by increases in population and partly by economic factors. That is why, so justifiably, privately-funded conservation groups have mushroomed nation-wide, to save what we can of the world "as we once knew it", if not for ourselves, at least for generations which succeed us.

Whether it's altruism, pride, or just unselfish interest in an opportunity to establish a legacy like a



bequest to a museum, every year-round or summer resident of upper Cape Cod should be happy about what the Bourne Conservation Trust has accomplished.

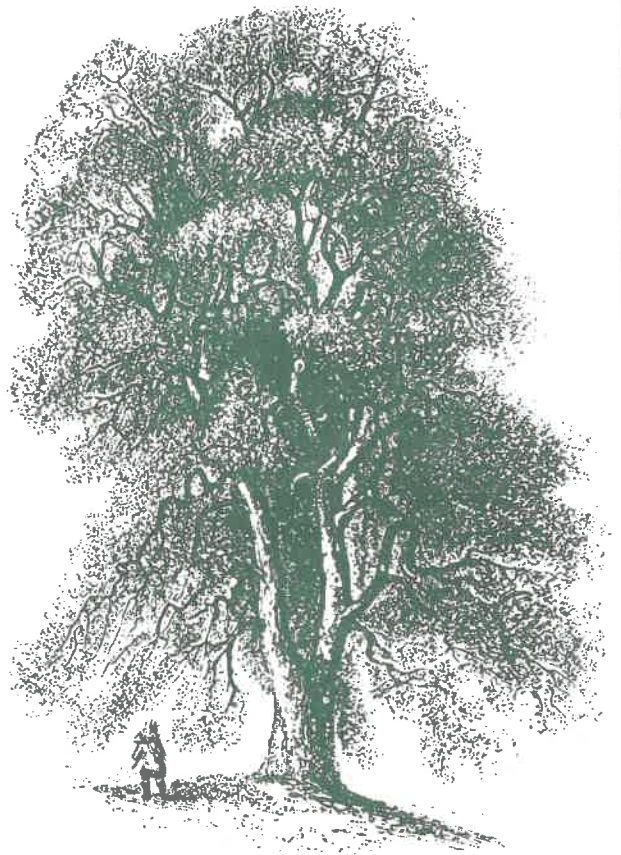
From a brave start twelve years ago, thanks to the visionary trust and generous support of individual donors, the Bourne Conservation Trust has acquired property valued at more than \$3,000,000. This includes a wide variety of habitats - hilly woodlands, an island, a 17-acre freshwater pond, wetlands, marshlands, a saltwater beach, a historic building, and land adjacent to a playground. The Trust's objectives, in acquiring each property, are to preserve it in its natural state and make it available for recreational and educational purposes.

Many of the BCT properties have been obtained through gifts, but in other instances, through purchases totaling \$1,575,000. To help defray the cost of those acquisitions, plus the costs of printing and mailing (all undertaken by unpaid volunteers), the Trust has solicited and received donations from more than 500 contributors.

If you are one of them, you can be immensely proud of what the Trust, with its vision and negotiating skills, has accomplished. Much of what I remember here as a young man is still in its natural, undeveloped state. When reflecting on this, I think how lucky we are. We should hold in wondrous admiration those who started and now manage the Trust.

One final thought. If you agree with the Trust's objectives, and with its twelve-year program of acquisitions, you will be aware of how each of us must help the Trust write off the indebtedness it has incurred. Whether by your generous annual gifts, or by special gifts earmarked for a specific site, your help is badly needed now!

Sometimes, when driving past a BCT property, I fantasize that the vehicle I am driving is the Model "T" Ford which I was operating in 1927, with a parent beside me holding on for dear life. Even my grandson, in his speedy chariot, thinks Bourne is a unique throwback to a land of rare beauty, peace and quiet. Let's keep it that way. Your help is urgently needed. Walk on of the BCT trails and become a true believer. Then tell this to the Trust. Reward their efforts. It will be a heady, gratifying experience.



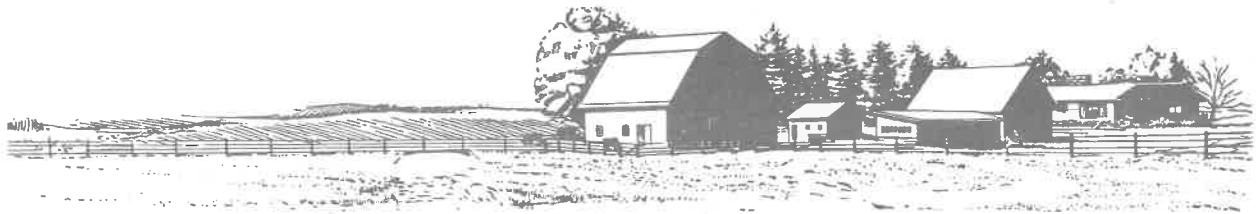
Our Newest Project

On August 11, the Bourne Conservation Trust signed a purchase and sales agreement with David Dimmick. It was the culmination of several years of planning and discussion. This agreement will provide several important additions to Cataumet's open space.

---A 2.5 acre waterfront overlook of Red Brook Harbor from Red Brook Harbor Road, deeded to the BCT. This scenic spot contains unique fragile vegetation reflecting the transition from wetland to dune to upland. It is located across from the Robinson Conservation Area, and between the Ed and Fern Robinson and Eleanor McGreevy properties.

---The field on County Road, across from the Shore Road intersection, will be preserved as an open space, without possibility for development. The development rights to five approved house lots in the field have been permanently conveyed to the BCT. The field may be used for agriculture or livestock, but cannot be permitted to grow into woods. The open field is a scarce remaining symbol of the agrarian history of our area.

---A designated footpath-- an easement-- will be provided through the field and adjacent woods to the cranberry bogs.

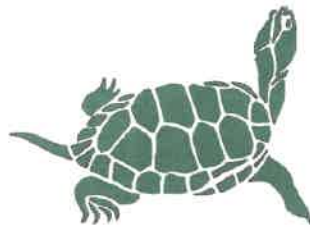


The cost is \$350,000, of which \$50,000 has already been paid, the remaining \$300,000 being due over the next four years. *We are very pleased to announce a matching grant for this project.*

Your donations are now worth twice their face value!!

In a separate agreement with the Town and the Commonwealth, Dave has also protected the 12.3 acre wooded portion of his land under the provisions of Chapter 61 of Massachusetts General Law. The Regional Forester has prepared an approved forest management plan that will result in a white pine forest with footpaths and a wildlife habitat.

This is an appropriate time to acknowledge the Dimmick Family's long history of concern for the welfare of the Village of Cataumet and for the Village's future, a concern shared with the Bourne Conservation Trust. So, thank you, Dimmicks-- past, present, and future.



Broad Swamp Boardwalk

Bourne High School Wetland Science Center

Members of the Bourne Conservation Trust (BCT) can help Bourne High School (BHS) and the community at large by donating monies towards the construction of a boardwalk in Broad Swamp.

Broad Swamp is a vegetated wetland situated across the street from BHS and possesses great potential as an outdoor learning center. Recognizing this potential, Mr. Robert Gray and his Honors Biology class of 1989-90 sought to determine ownership of the swamp land, the potential for a boardwalk and how the land could be used educationally. During the year, the class contacted all landowners near the swamp to inquire whether or not anyone would like to convey their parcel to the school system for use by the BHS science classes. Two owners, Mr. Tom Donovan & Mr. Paul Medeiros, conveyed a small parcel that they jointly owned to the Town of Bourne. Next, the students prepared a Notice of Intent for boardwalk construction to the Bourne Conservation Commission. However, the plan was only a conceptual plan and the Commission was unable to approve the plan.

During 1990-91, a second Honors Biology class took on the cause. The class was approached by Mr. Carlton Handy with an offer of a parcel of land closer to the school than the previous land. Mr. Handy conveyed his parcel to the Bourne Conservation Trust (BCT) for "school/conservation purposes". The class was contacted by Eagle Surveying & Engineering of Sandwich who offered to prepare for free, the engineering plans for submittal to the

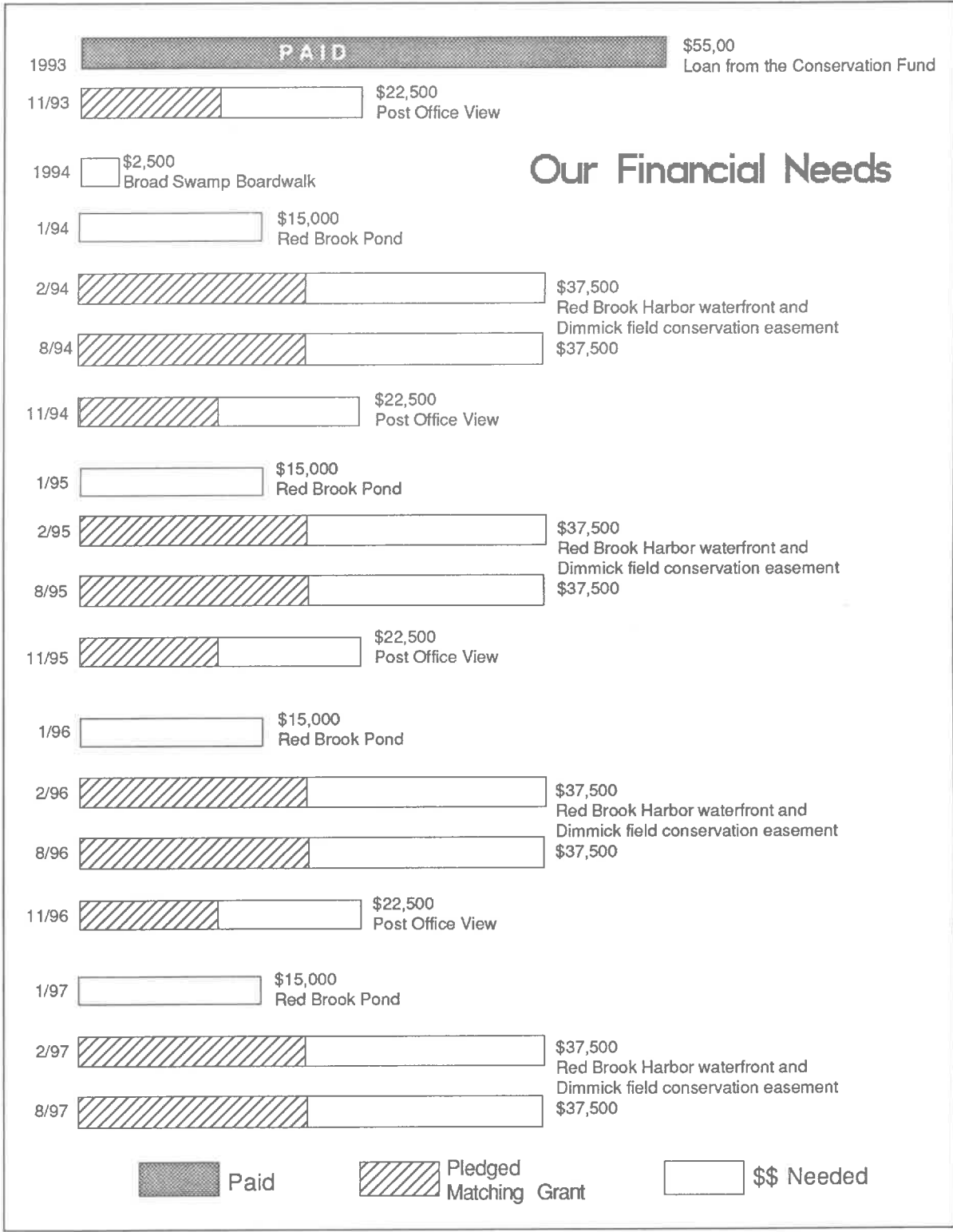
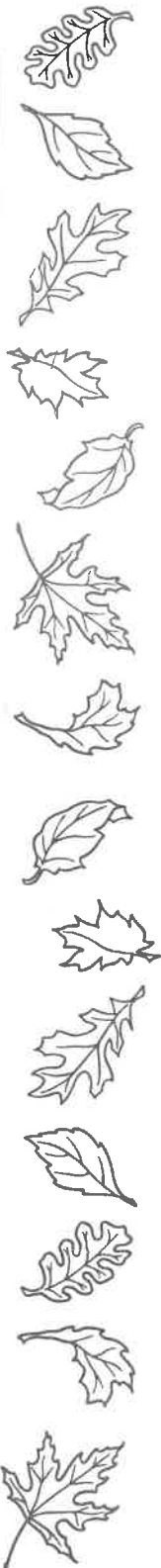
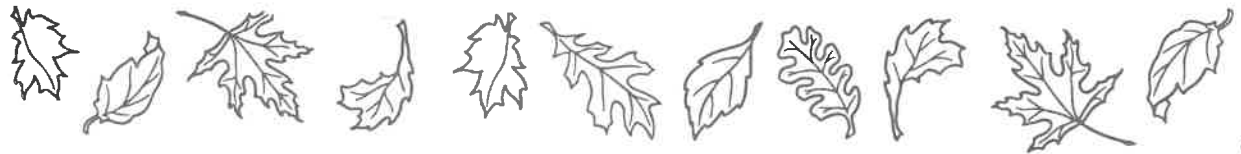
Conservation Commission. The class prepared a new Notice of Intent and successfully obtained an Order of Conditions (permit) to construct the boardwalk. This class also conducted biological assay work that enabled the swamp to gain state certification from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program as a Certified Vernal Pool (breeding area for certain amphibians).

The 1991-92 Honors Biology class continued research on the vernal pool flora and fauna, submitted necessary applications to the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers for a Federal Wetlands Permit and to the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control for a Water Quality Certificate. Now, with all permits in hand, it is time to raise the funds needed for the construction.

It is hoped that this outdoor "classroom" will greatly enhance science education in the Town of Bourne by providing a "living laboratory" where future primary and secondary school students will conduct studies of aquatic organisms, wetland flora and fauna inventories, and biochemical and physical analyses of soils and water. Other disciplines such as art classes, photography classes and English classes might also utilize the wetland area. With a boardwalk in place, the Broad Swamp will become accessible to the students and the public at large to visit and enjoy the natural peacefulness of the swamp and its wildlife.



*All members of the Bourne Conservation Trust
are urged to support this worthwhile project.*



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).

\$\$ Help Us Save Postage Charges \$\$



If you receive more than one Newsletter or have a new mailing address, please let us know.

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. For Example, "8906" means June 1989. A "g" following the number (8906g) means that a donation was made in your honor in June of 1989. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.

Bedeck Blushing Bare Bumpers

For information about BCT bumper (window) stickers, BCT trail guides or BCT's projects, call us at (508) 563-5196 (before 8:00 pm) or write us (anytime).



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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.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL. . .

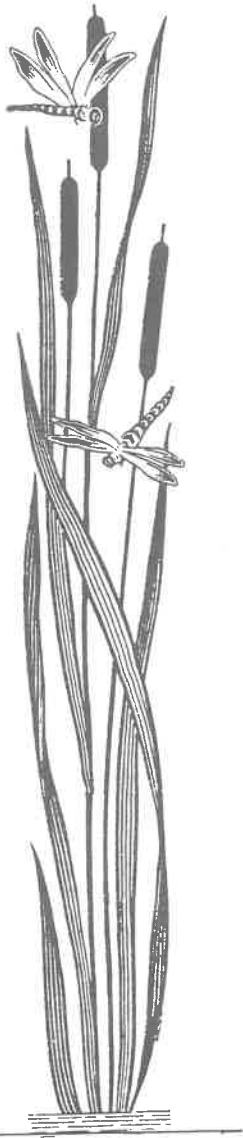
We are all going to reach a time when life plays its last practical joke and we must accept Patrick Henry's second choice. There are few ways that one can better memorialize one's passage than in a bequest to the BCT. This is an inheritance whose impact is perpetual: it cannot be misspent or mislaid. It will do honor to yourself and to your family, linking past to future.

Examples of an appropriate format for such gift-giving are:

"I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bourne Conservation Trust ____% of my total estate (or \$____, or other property)."

Such a provision in your will creates an unrestricted bequest, which assures that your gift will be used where it is most needed. However, you may want to designate your gift for some special purpose within the scope of the BCT's mission. You can restrict the use of principal, income, or both in this fashion:

"I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bourne Conservation Trust ____% of my total estate (or \$____, or other property) to be used for the following: (Your purpose here)."



A Yet Unspoiled Gem

Red Brook Pond in Cataumet is a natural gem. We have driven by it countless times, but it was not until recently that we took a good close look, while fishing from a canoe.

Despite a dozen or so homes on the pond, there is an abundance of wildlife. We saw great blue herons and green herons feeding at the water's edge. An osprey fished out in the middle of the pond. There were turtles everywhere.

It is a small pond, and we seemed to share a certain intimacy with these creatures. The herons didn't seem especially concerned by our presence, and when the osprey dove to capture a small fish nearby, there was a tremendous crash as the bird struck the water and we were left with renewed appreciation for the size and power of this hawk.

The water in Red Brook Pond is crystal clear, but the evidence of development is there. It is a shallow pond. By mid-summer much of its bottom is covered by filamentous algae.

Human impact on the pond has been held in check by the Bourne Conservation Trust, which in 1989 purchased the Nivling-Alexander property of 40 acres on the pond. The trust has paid a good portion of its mortgage on the property, but it still owes a good deal of money for the parcel.

The Bourne Conservation Trust's efforts here should not be taken for granted. Without it, Red Brook Pond would surely be overcome by the pressures of development and a gem would be lost.

The above editorial by Bill Hough appeared in *The Bourne Enterprise* on Friday, August 6, 1993 and is reprinted here with his permission.

The conservation areas owned by the Bourne Conservation Trust are ideal for nature walks. We hope the trails will be used and enjoyed and the rights and privacy of adjacent landowners will be respected.

A trail guide is available from the BCT.



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.

Making Food For the Birds

PINE CONE BIRD FEEDERS

- 3-6 large pine cones
- 3-6 pieces of 12-inch string or narrow ribbon (to hang the pine cones)
- a saucepan
- a large bowl
- a spoon
- small amount of bird seed
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 3-1/2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup suet (ask for it in the meat dept. of your grocery store)



- A. Melt the suet in a saucepan over medium heat on the stove. (Make sure an adult helps you with the first two steps).
- B. Add the peanut butter to the suet, stirring until it's melted well and blended in with the suet. Then take the saucepan off the stove.
- C. Add the cornmeal to the cooling mixture and blend it until it looks like dough.
- D. When the dough has cooled, use a spoon or your fingers to pack the dough into the openings of the pine cones. Roll the dough-covered pine cones in bird seed.
- E. Tie a string or ribbon around each of the pine cones, leaving one end long enough to tie onto a branch. Hang your filled pine cones outside on a tree.
- F. Watch and wait for the birds to start nibbling on the treat you made for them. Don't worry if birds don't notice your pine cones right away; it usually takes a few days for the birds to realize they're there. When they do, though, they'll tell all their friends and you'll have lots of birds visiting your yard and garden!



Did you know that . . .

- It's not true that birds will only eat food placed far away from your house. If possible, position your pine cone bird feeder where you can see it from a window. Keep a bird identification book nearby so you can identify the types of birds coming to visit your pine cone bird feeder.
- Contrary to previous thought, peanut butter will not get stuck in a bird's throat. In fact, birds feeding on suet need protein in addition to the fat.
- In order to maintain their swift and intense life-style, birds will choose foods that are high in calories and rich in energy – foods like those in your feeder.
- Young perching birds eat their weight in food every day. Many adult birds eat almost as much.
- Sparrows have an average body temperature of 107 degrees; some other birds have a body temperature as high as 113 degrees. These body temperatures can only be maintained by constantly finding and eating food.



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)



Cataumet Beautification Committee

Thank You, CBC!

In August, the Cataumet Beautification Committee (CBC) held its Biennial Auction and Flea Market at Parker's Boat Yard. As usual, community residents and businesses were generous with their donations (ranging from broken kitchen utensils to works by local artists and use of a house in Florida!). Auctioneer Russell Johnson kept the evening lively and when all was done, there was a profit of \$10,000! The CBC generously donated \$8,000 of this to the Bourne Conservation Trust. The remaining funds will be used for the "bulb handout" this year and next, a new carpet and Christmas decorations at the Depot, and flower boxes at the Post Office.

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik



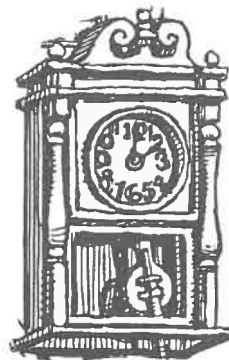
There are no quiet summer nights on the pond. Peaceful, sometimes. Quiet, never. In daylight, resident bullfrogs uncork infrequent, tentative croaks, but only after dark, after the day's final swan snort, osprey squeal and kingfisher rattle does the cross-pond sound of jug-o-rums begin to resonate. Then, when the tranquility has become profound, hungry night herons circle the pond, startling it with raucous quawks, silencing for the moment the bullfrog serenade and blanketing the wind-borne message of the Cleveland Ledge horn.



BCT
T-Shirts &
Sweatshirts !
...
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For Sale

To Order, Please Call
Sally Ballentine
(508) 563-5196
or Write To:
Bourne Conservation Trust
Box 203
Cataumet, MA 02534

Time On Your Hands?



Unload it on the Bourne Conservation Trust! If you will donate only two or three hours of your skills – be they clerical or manual, mental or physical – we will make good use of them. If you are available to help, let us know on the "comments" space of the return envelope. Please include your telephone number.

Thank you!

Memorial Donations

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From Henry Hoffman
in honor of
Frank Knowlton

Happy 50th Anniversary to
Marilyn & Rich Fisher
from the Myersons



Happy Father's Day to
Frank Knowlton from Lindsay

Happy 50th Birthday to
Maureen from the Ballentines

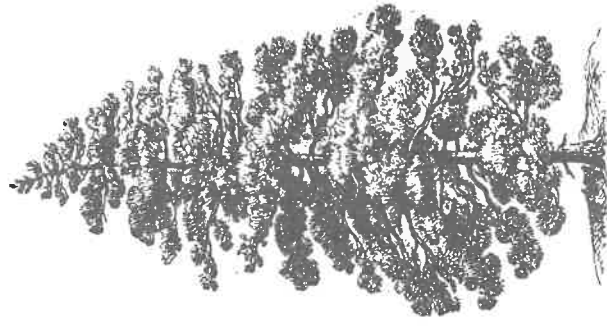
Happy Birthday to
Joe Lastowski from Francine

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Bourne Conservation Trust

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Nature Watch: *Accidental Tourists*



Kingbird

Up From Bolivia . . .

A handsome kingbird couple, swept off course in a late spring blow, have built a nest on a swaying oak branch overhanging the pond. Any bird of any size who ventures anywhere near the nest – jay, crow or osprey – has to do battle with these squeaking, eight-inch acrobats who will be here till early fall.

Up From Florida . . .

Early in July, several clusters of Water Hyacinth mysteriously appeared near the pond's Shore Road accesses. The lavender blossoms of these tropical intruders look lovely bobbing about; however, this is the same 'introduced' tropical plant that has gradually taken over and clogged waterways in several Southern states. Supposedly it screens toxins from the water. Botanists, whose business it is to know about such things, say that these summer visitors cannot make it through a Cape Cod winter. We'll see. Stay tuned.



Water Hyacinth