

# Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 18

Fall 1992

## No Swans and Rarely a Duck. Imagine that!

*In last winter's BCT Newsletter Joan Mayhew recounted some poignant childhood memories of Red Brook Pond. In this issue she continues her recollections. (Her Almost Seven playmate, Bill Agar, was a cousin who died fighting in Italy during World War II.)*

There were no swans on the Pond when we were children. The woods were full of birds, even a whippoorwill, but it was rare even to see a duck on the water.

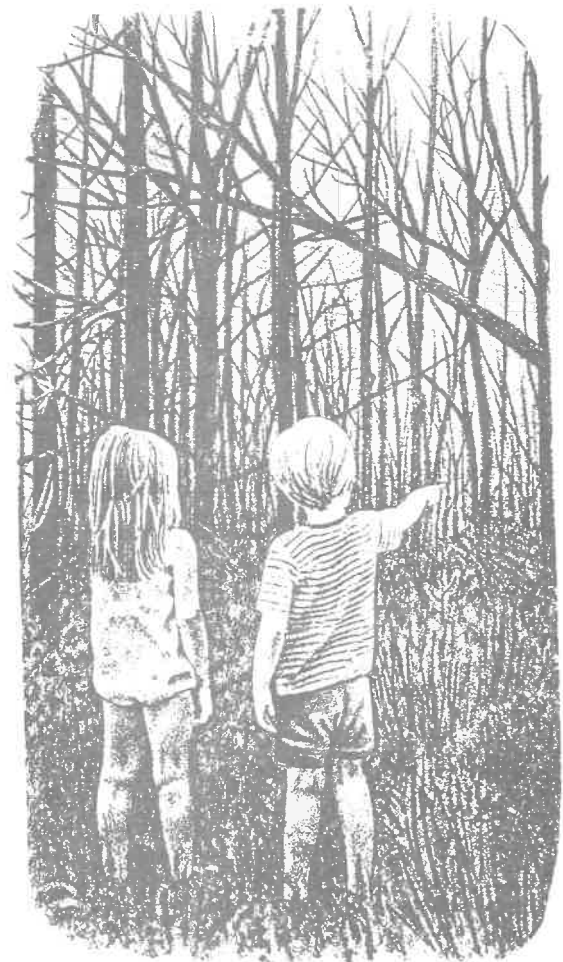
The Pond was smaller. The water level has risen significantly in 65-odd years. There are many explanations for the increased water level, but one possibility may also account for the earlier absence of water birds: the ice house.

It stood just back of water's edge where the southwestern side of the Pond reaches Shore Road closest to Red Brook Harbor Road and the DeNormandie Woods Triangle. Few still remember how Cape Cod depended on its fresh water ponds for food storage before there was refrigeration. Lucky people had ice boxes. The less lucky used galvanized tubs and burlap in dark cellars. In winter the "back shed" kept perishables cold, but in summer it was ice from the ponds or "summer complaint" (food poisoning) could result.

We discovered our ice house when we were almost seven and had set forth through the swampy woods that extended from our forget-me-nots and white-sanded observation post.

It was gooey going! Mud! Snakes! Lots of friendly toads and black slime. Our scientific interest stopped short of detailed examination in that dank, smelly twilight. We pressed on, jumping from exposed root to exposed root when we could.

Then we found it: a tall, skinny, windowless building in deepest shade. A ramp led to the water and a wide door opened onto the ramp, but the door was closed and far too heavy for us. There was a small door cut in the corner of the big one, though, and its padlock was not closed. We went in, of course.



Suddenly, from hot summer day, we were in a cool shadowy never-never land facing a giant's staircase right up to the dark roof and who knew where beyond that? The stairs were made of great blocks of ice separated and covered by coarse, wet sawdust and stacked in receding tiers. The silence was total.

Scary? Not just a little! But, being Almost Seven, we scrambled up to--well, part way up to-- where a shaft of light shining through a crack in the side showed us something familiar: a partly uncovered block of ice with the sawdust adhering. We had seen that before when the nice man with a brown horse brought ice for our grandmother's ice box.

Reality can be disappointing when you're Almost Seven, but when your young backside begins to hurt from sitting on ice, reality becomes urgent. We were cold! We scrambled down and out through the little door. The welcome hot summer day and the Pond had taught us another lesson.

And now, when the ice house is gone, the water level is appreciably higher, and the water birds have come to the Pond, perhaps we see a rare case of technology's benefitting nature.

With refrigeration there was no more need to slice up the Pond every winter. The cubic feet of water were no longer removed, and the Pond in winter was a happy haven for swans and other water birds. No ice cutters scared them away. Say "Thank you" to our fridge.

The Pond is full, healthy and nourishing. Best of all there are people who mean to keep it that way. There are still forget-me-nots here and there, also toadstools and deep woods. And the fairies and elves still dance--for joy!

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#### **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)."

#### **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).



#### **Board of Directors**

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

# YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY WON A MILLION DOLLARS!

(If so, would you help us with a little problem?)

☛ For 1992, we have received to date:

\$25,000 - from a matching grant  
808 - sale of t-shirts  
27,342 - donations  
\$53,150 - in hand (subtotal)

☛ Plus projected & expected:

\$55,000 - pledged  
50,000 - matching  
\$158,150 - total in hand & projected

What do we need?  
(Sobering details below)

☛ For 1992:

\$275,000 - mortgage payments  
15,000 - expenses  
\$290,000 - total needed  
-158,150 - in hand & projected  
\$131,850 - shortfall

**Please continue your support.**  
What Samuel Pepys said in 1667--  
"It is pretty to see what money will do."--  
is so relevant to our land purchases.



**REPLY BY OCTOBER 17  
FOR A CHANCE TO  
SHARE THOUSANDS  
OF EXTRA DOLLARS  
WITH MEMBERS  
OF YOUR FAMILY!**

Win the FIVE MILLION DOLLAR Grand Prize  
and members of your family could receive  
thousands of dollars in Family Bonus Cash!  
See details enclosed

**NOTIFICATION / DO NOT DISCARD**  
This is an official, authorized notification.  
Non-transferable documents are contained inside.  
Guarantee your eligibility by replying by  
**MIDNIGHT, NOVEMBER 12.**  
**FIVE MILLION DOLLAR GRAND PRIZE**  
**OPEN IMMEDIATELY**

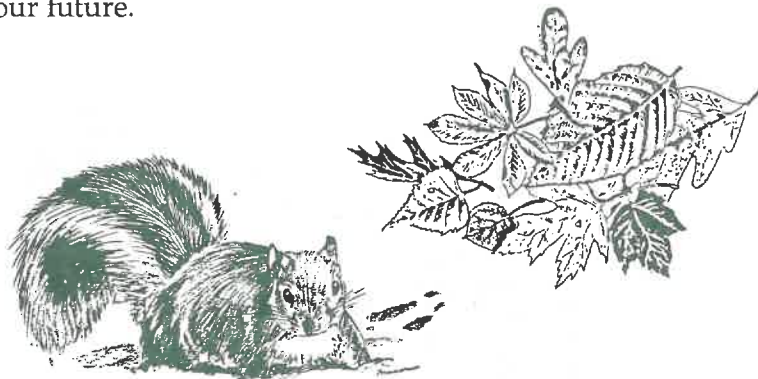
Attractive, Outdoorsy type BCT trails seek SMD or WW, M or F for mature relationship with woody walkers, sylvan strollers and trail blazers willing to administer TLC with pruning shears, loppers, gloves and litter bags. Call Grace at 563-7846.



Help us maintain the trails and land. This would entail taking walks maybe with friends and/or pets and doing a little "cleanup" along the way. If you walk one of the BCT trails once or twice a month, this job is for you.

The trails need to be kept clear of low hanging branches and anything that a two year old might trip over. Random bits of papers too. Should you find that your pruning shears are insufficient, we can call in the reserves to help out.

The reserves possess heavy artillery like chain saws, gravellys, etc.,- power stuff. We also need a few more reserves, who might assist once or twice a year, depending upon how many "Bobs" are in our future.



#### ADOPT-A-TRAIL Program Note

Our thanks to the many work crews that helped clean up the Robinson Area on May 24. During the day helping hands arrived randomly, worked at their own pace and produced splendid results. A special 'Thank you' is due the Mearses and Robinsons.

#### Trails available for adoption:

- Lawrence Island
- Sagamore Highlands
- Nivling-Alexander Reserve
- DeNormandie Woods
- DeNormandie Woods Triangle
- Joyce Path\*
- Robinson Conservation Area
- Broyer Conservation Area\*
- John E. Handy Conservation Area\*
- Cataumet Depot\*

\*These areas still need "parents".



### Sagamore Highlands take steps . . . to reach the lowlands

One of the BCT's acquisitions is a delightful 12 acre stretch of beach along Cape Cod Bay, extending from Sagamore to the Plymouth line. The follow-up storm to Hurricane Bob last fall destroyed the stairway connecting Sagamore Highlands to the Beach.

On behalf of the BCT, local residents applied to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for funds to replace those stairs. The application was approved, funds materialized, and the stairway replaced.

"Well done" to Sagamore Highlands!

It's getting near  
**ho- ho- ho**  
time again.



In no time you'll be decking your halls with boughs of holly and fretting about this year's gift for them. So why not let the BCT solve a few (or several) of your Christmas gift worries? Make a contribution to the Red Brook Pond Project in his, her, or their name. Whatever the size of your gift (regular, family, or jumbo), it will be doubled (Ho-Ho-Ho! Ho-Ho-Ho!!) by the Matching Fund Challenge (up to \$75,000--that's better than coupons and rebates) if received by December 31. A Christmas card picturing the BCT wind-swept cedar will be sent in your name to inform her, him, or them of your thoughtful generosity.

Please send gift notification to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a blank page for additional names and addresses.

From:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The Lawrence Island wind-swept cedar tree that appears on BCT-shirts, sweatshirts, cards, and window stickers is from an original drawing by Dorothy Porter.

And /or  
 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 = \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your shirts shipped, please add \$1.00 per item to help cover shipping charges. Shipping (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Many thanks to ABC Design of Wareham for their advice and generosity.

**Bourne Conservation Trust**  
**Box 203**  
**Cataumet, MA 02534**

November, 1992

Dear Friends,

Until now, the usual BCT Newsletter has been devoted primarily to keeping you abreast of the Trust's activities and to reminding you of our need for funds-- often in a somewhat offhand manner. This letter, however, will be unusually blunt. We need your financial support. Soon. Now.

Failure to make the final payments on the Red Brook Pond Conservation Project by the end of the year will result in substantial interest charges. We want to avoid this.

As always, your donation (large or small) is tax deductible within IRS guidelines and, until December 31, will be matched.

May we also strongly suggest that you encourage friends who may not have contributed to do so now, this because an increase in the number of donors enhances our ability to compete for grants from foundations that favor the BCT's wide and deep grass-roots.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped us in protecting a fragile quality of life that too many take for granted.

Sincerely,

*Stephen Bunting*  
*PYN*  
*Daniel Dimmick*  
*Melva Corbett*  
*Jon in Curra*



## The Greening of Red Brook Pond



Yes, it was an odd sort of summer, and Red Brook Pond's behavior was quite curious. Early in July the water began to show a greenish tint and by mid-month took on the color of pea soup. A thick green scum began to creep west from the Pond's eastern shore, eventually flowing out the herring run, tinting Red Brook Harbor a pale green, then continuing on to Buzzards Bay.

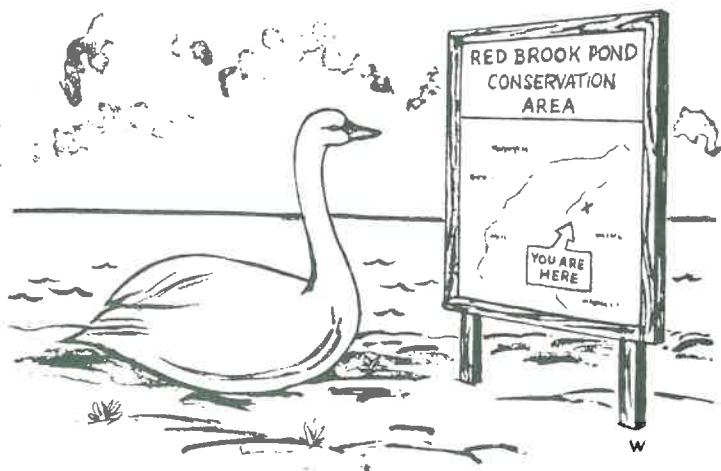
The impact of this unusual phenomenon on the Pond was dramatically visible in the weed-choked, still water behind the southwest island, while at the Pond's edge the normally assertive swamp loosestrife turned abnormally aggressive and instead of usual inroads, made invasive leaps into the Pond. But, by the end of August-- following a rainy spell-- the green scum was gone, the water clear and the ospreys and herons home again.

Frequently we are asked. . .

*JUST WHAT IS THE RED BROOK POND PROJECT?* And frequently we answer (after taking a deep breath). . .

It is the current phase of a program aimed at preserving undeveloped land in Bourne's various villages through private donations to the Bourne Conservation Trust, a non-profit, tax-exempt, broad-based, volunteer-staffed, fund-raising organization.

Red Brook Pond and the forty adjacent acres in Cataumet are the latest addition to the eighty acres of sequestered land already acquired through purchase and donation. The Pond is west of the Shore Road a bit south of the railroad underpass at Kingman Marine. In summer it offers fishing and canoeing, in winter skating and ice fishing and, in any season, hiking on the marked trails that lace the adjacent woodlands.



### Woodsy Walk, Anyone?

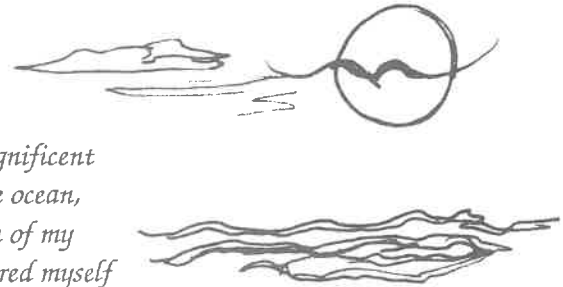
Watch local papers for dates and times of guided weekend tours of the Red Brook Pond Conservation Area.

# 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.

*Sense Sensation* by Shayne Jespersen  
(age 13 N, Falmouth, MA)

*Sitting on the porch of an old family beach house, looking down at the most magnificent sight I have ever seen, my senses seemed to explode with intensity. There it sat--the ocean, all alone, not a soul around. It appeared free, it stretched far beyond the limitation of my eyes. The wind lifted my arms as if to say fly, just try it. I closed my eyes and pictured myself flying over the ocean. The waves crashed beneath me against the mighty rocks, spraying me with the aroma of salty seaweed. This imaginary flight left me feeling there must be some sort of life after death. I imagined my sister flying with me, her name was Bird.*



The familiar sounds of birds chirping, somehow is so different now.

And as the trees sway above me. I feel a soothing friendship arousing.

Although I cannot see these friends, their love is shining bright.

Like a candle in the winter on a dark and lonely night.

by Jessica Kolodziejski  
(age 13 Falmouth MA)

*Kahlin, kind and curious,  
Always reading and writing and  
asking questions,*

*Happy laughter with her friends,  
Loving As, balloons, horses, swimming,  
the tent tire bouncer, the wiggler, clapping  
hands to music--that is Kahlin.*

*In our hearts*

*Near our loved ones in another world.*

The children and Mrs. Jordan

*Kahlin's 2nd grade class Madbury NH*

IF CHILDREN RULED THE WORLD  
by Casey Burke Walsh (age 8 Falls Church VA)

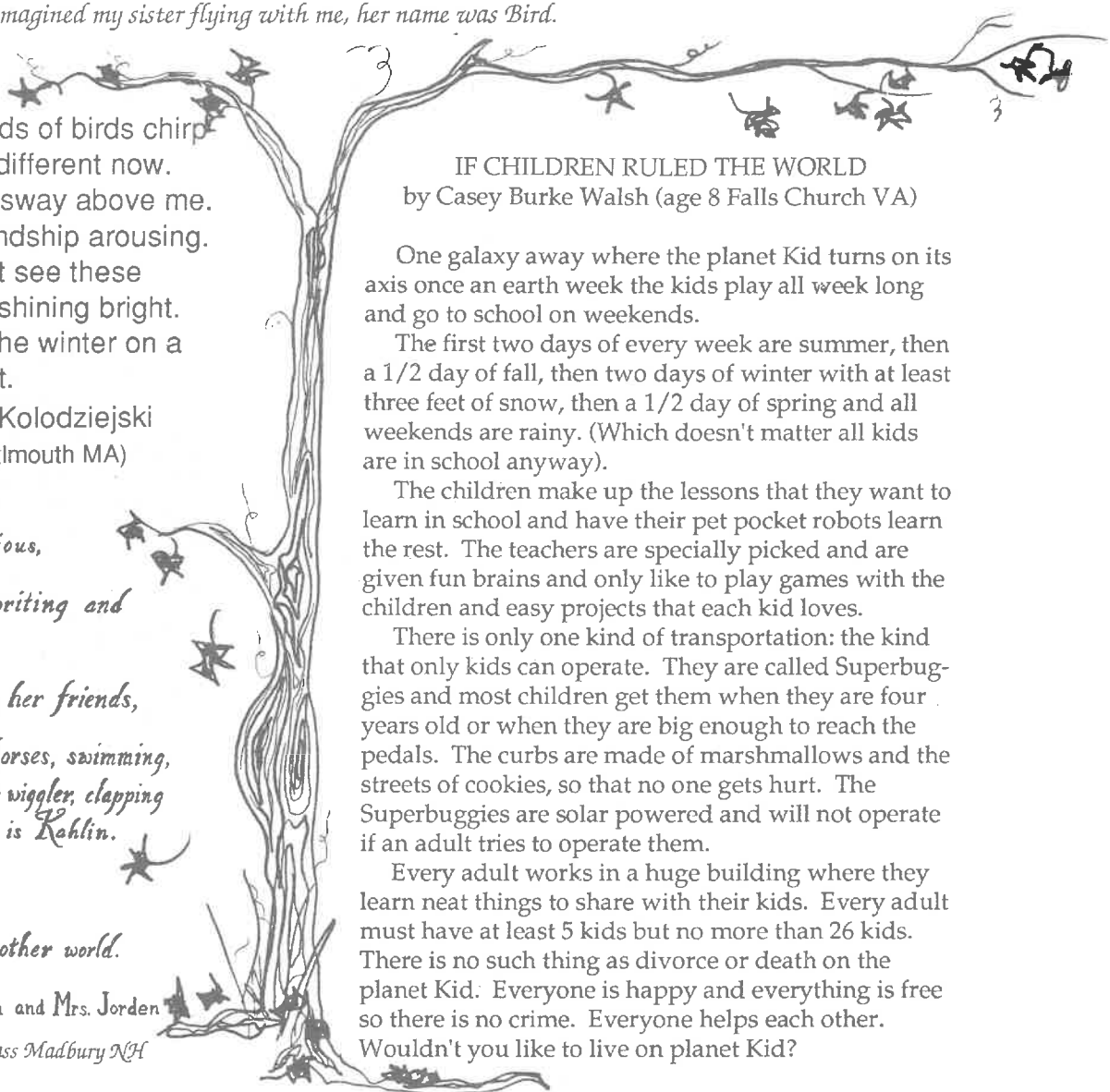
One galaxy away where the planet Kid turns on its axis once an earth week the kids play all week long and go to school on weekends.

The first two days of every week are summer, then a 1/2 day of fall, then two days of winter with at least three feet of snow, then a 1/2 day of spring and all weekends are rainy. (Which doesn't matter all kids are in school anyway).

The children make up the lessons that they want to learn in school and have their pet pocket robots learn the rest. The teachers are specially picked and are given fun brains and only like to play games with the children and easy projects that each kid loves.

There is only one kind of transportation: the kind that only kids can operate. They are called Superbuggies and most children get them when they are four years old or when they are big enough to reach the pedals. The curbs are made of marshmallows and the streets of cookies, so that no one gets hurt. The Superbuggies are solar powered and will not operate if an adult tries to operate them.

Every adult works in a huge building where they learn neat things to share with their kids. Every adult must have at least 5 kids but no more than 26 kids. There is no such thing as divorce or death on the planet Kid. Everyone is happy and everything is free so there is no crime. Everyone helps each other. Wouldn't you like to live on planet Kid?



**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)





# 1992 Contributors to the Red Brook Pond Conservation Project\*

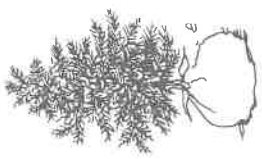
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\*Donations received after October 10, 1992 will be list in the next newsletter.

## Special Donations:

Mrs. Robert Fish dedicated to  
 L'il Fighting Sam Clary  
 of Mendota Heights, MN

Jan Smith in honor of Gary Taber



## Birthday donations

received for:

Joe Lastowski  
 Chuck Mehmel

## Father's Day donations

received for:

Frank Knowlton, Jr.  
 Steve Ballentine

## Donations received

in honor and appreciation of

## Alberta Harding

from all her friends  
 in Cataumet

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## Up, Up and Away?



By the end of August the swan couple's four (out of eight) surviving cygnets had matured enough to begin pre-flight training. Acting as instructor, the father leads the cygnets single-file downwind (at Logan Airport this would be called taxiing) toward the Pond's northeast corner. Near the delta he turns, faces into the wind, then begins an upwind sprint, spreading and noisily flapping his great white wings. He lifts off only a foot or two before skidding to a cushioned stop. The result is frenzy among the cygnets who flap their stubby brown winglets while frantically running after their father. From the delta the mother swan observes this hectic display quite calmly.