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M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Tern Inventory Workshop Contributors

FROM: Brad Blodget, State Ornithologist

SUBJECT: 1978 and 1979 Massachusetts Tern Inventory Results

DATE: September 6, 1979

Attached for your general information and files are the statewide results of the 1978 and 1979 tern inventories. I find the results to be not only encouraging in general, but quite astonishing as well.

In 1979, Least Terns increased 17% over 1978 to reach an historic high of 1,734+ pairs confirming the belief that Least Tern populations seem to be the most resilient of all in response to human activities. This year Common Terns and Roseate Terns posted substantial increases over 1978 of 33 and 20 percent to 6,168 and 2,023 pairs respectively, while the Arctic Tern population declined 15 percent to 45 pairs. Note that no population estimate was available for the Arctic Tern at Noman's Land, which could account for the drop in total pairs.

These data are based on your information and would not be available without the superb interest, cooperation and dedication of all parties involved. Based on the confidence I have in the tern wardens and field personnel, I have every reason to believe the general increase in numbers is real and I am certainly encouraged by the 1979 totals. How much of these increases reflect (a) the posting and conservation programs themselves, (b) variations in personnel and estimating techniques (c) shifts in the population along the eastern seaboard or (d) natural increase in productivity due to a complex set of interacting factors, I am sure will provide material for endless debate until the terns return in 1980.

The numbers themselves are dull, so have some fun with them. Thank you all for your data contributions and have a productive winter.

MASSACHUSETTS TERN INVENTORY
1978

The following data are representative of the period June 1-20 except where noted otherwise. The abbreviation "P" indicates that birds were believed present but census data are unavailable for the location. All numbers refer to pairs.

No. Colony	Least	Common	Roseate	Arctic
1. Woodbridge I., Newburyport		P		
2. Crane's Beach, Ipswich	63	4		
3a. Plum I. Marsh		P		
3b. Plum I. Refuge	13	15		
4. Plum I. State Pk., Ipswich	24			
5. Milk I., Rockport				
6. Tinker's I., Salem		65		
7. Snake I., Winthrop		50		
8. Hog I., Hull		100		
9. Third Cliff, Scituate	30			
10. Fourth Cliff, Scituate	10			
11. Duxbury Beach, Duxbury	60			
12. Plymouth Beach, Plymouth	22	350	12	5
13. Bird I., Marion		500	1290	
14. Ram I., Mattapoisett				
15. Fairhaven	8			
16a. Barney's Joy, Dartmouth	65			
16b. Salter's Pt., Dartmouth				
17a. South Cape Beach, Mashpee	50			
17b. Washburn I., Falmouth				
18. Old Harbor Beach, N. Sand	17	15		
19. Scorton Creek, Sand.	20			
20. Dead Neck-Sampson's I., Barn.	34	45		
21. Craigville Beach, Barn.	25	75		
22. Kalmus Beach, Barn.	70			
23. Sandy Neck, Barn.				
24. Gray's Beach, W. Yarmouth	4	515	14	
25. West Dennis Beach, Dennis	37	114		
26. Monomoy Wilderness, Chatham	65	1900	290	15
27a. Harding's Beach, Chatham				
27b. Harding's Beach Point, Chatham	15			
27c. North Beach, Chatham	66			
28a. Nauset Heights, Orleans	91	4		8
28b. Nauset Spit, Eastham	138			
29. New Island, Eastham & Orleans		260	2	5
30. Marconi Station, Wellfleet				
31. Jeremy Point, Wellfleet				
32. Pamet, Truro	1			
33a. High Head, Truro	23			
33b. Exit 9, Provinctwn				
33c. Mallicoat's, Provinctwn				
33d. Race Pt. East, Provinctwn				
33e. Race Pt. C. G. Sta., Provinctwn	6			
33f. Race Pt. Lt., Provinctwn				
34. Wood End Lt., Provinctwn	15	15		
35. Long Pt., Provinctwn				
36. Nashawena I., Gosnold	30			

No. Colony	Least	Common	Roseate	Arctic
37. Noman's Land, Chilmark M.V.	10	70	1	20
38a. Nantucket Wildlife Ref., Nant.	130	12		
38b. Caskata-Coatue W. R., Nant. {	50			
38c. Coatue Wildlife Ref., Nant. {				
39. Quidnet, Nantucket				
40a. Siasconset, Nantucket	80			
40b. Cisco Beach	8			
40c. Eel Pt.				
40d. Quaise Pt.				
40e. Tom Never's Beach				
40f. Surfside				
41. Tuckernuck I., Nantucket	60			
42. Chappaquidick I.	74			
43. Tashmoo Spit, M.V.	20			
44. Cape Pogue W. R.		10		
45. Sarson's I., M.V.				
46. Norton's Pt., M.V.				
<u>TOTALS:</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>4,119+</u>	<u>1,609</u>	<u>53</u>