



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, Westboro 01581

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

TO: Tern Workshop Participants

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DA: August 22, 1980

SJ: 1980 tern census and inventory data

For the second year in a row, tern inventory results for 1980 indicate gains of approximately 15 percent for both Least and Common Terns, with compiled results of 2,040+ pairs of Least Terns and 7,299+ pairs of Common Terns, compared with 1979 totals of 1,734+ and 6,168+ pairs respectively. However, it appears that Roseate Terns slipped 8 percent from 2,023 pairs in 1979 to 1,868 pairs in 1980 and Arctic Terns dropped some 13 percent from 45+ pairs to 39 pairs. Arctics at Monomoy fell from 18 pairs in 1979 to only 4 pairs there this year. This change was partially offset by increases at Nauset Heights and Plymouth Beach, which two locations harbored almost two-thirds of the Commonwealth's Arctic Tern population.

During the prime census period of June 1-20, Least Terns were known to be breeding at 40 stations compared to 38 in 1979. Commons were found at 23 (v. 21), Roseates at nine (v. seven) and Arctics at seven (v. eight).

Ninety-six (96) percent of our Roseate population appears to be spread between Bird Island (1,400 pairs) and Monomoy (400 pairs). About 83 percent of all Common Terns were concentrated at five (5) sites, which, in order of size were: Monomoy (3,400 pairs), Gray's Beach (760 pairs), New Island (740 pairs), Bird Island (600 pairs) and Plymouth Beach (550 pairs). Least Tern colonies of over 100 pairs were recorded at Nauset Heights and Nauset Spit (both 180 pairs), Sarson's Inlet area at Martha's Vineyard (135 pairs), Chappaquidick Island (130 pairs), Duxbury Beach (120 pairs) and Nashawena Island (108 pairs).

On the attached sheets, I am making an effort for record keeping purposes to maintain consistency in colony identification numbers. Hence, new locations that come to light are assigned in addition to an identification number, a letter as well.

To improve our coverage next year and to make extra sure that some areas that are difficult to reach are covered during the prime period, I may be contacting various cooperators during the winter months. With each year, the quality of our coverage improves. Each summer's meeting provides stimulating exchange of information, ideas and new management techniques. With the goal of furnishing some further coordination and assistance where needed, I will study the possibility of having a preseason meeting in the first quarter of 1981.

In addition to my usual profuse "thank-yous," I close this note with a promise that we will have a giant reference map in 1981!

MASSACHUSETTS TERN INVENTORY
1980

The following data are representative of the period June 1-20, 1980 except where noted otherwise. The abbreviation "P" indicates that birds were known to have been present but census data are unavailable for the location. All numbers refer strictly to pairs.

No.	Colony	Least	Common	Roseate	Arctic
1	Woodbridge I., Newburyport		240		
2	Crane's Beach, Ipswich				
3a	Plum I. Marsh		50+	1	
3b	Plum I. Refuge	65+			
4	Plum I. State Park, Ipswich	15			
5	Milk I., Rockport				
6	Tinker's I., Salem		70		
7	Snake I., Winthrop	15	110		
8	Hog I., Hull		70+		
9	Third Cliff, Scituate	5			
10	Fourth Cliff, Scituate	65			
11	Duxbury Beach, Duxbury	120			
12	Plymouth Beach, Plymouth	25	550	6	11
13	Bird I., Marion		600	1,400	
14	Ram I., Mattapoisett				
15	Fairhaven area	P			
16a	Barney's Joy, Dartmouth	50			
16b	Salter's Point, Dartmouth				
16c	Gooseberry Neck, Dartmouth	15			
17a	South Cape Beach, Mashpee	90			
17b	Washburn I., Falmouth				
17c	Popponesset Beach, Mashpee				
18	Old Harbor Beach, N. Sandwich	45	25		
19	Scorton Creek, Sandwich	5			
20	Dead Neck-Sampson's I., Barn.	35	65		
21a	Craigville Beach, Barnstable				
21b	Long Beach, Barnstable	20	65		
22	Kalmus Beach, Barnstable	60			
23	Sandy Neck, Barnstable				
24	Gray's Beach, W. Yarmouth		760	20	
25	W. Dennis Beach, Dennis	75	150		
26	Monomoy Wilderness, Chatham ¹	75	3,400	400	4
27a	Harding's Beach, Chatham				
27b	Harding's Beach Point, Chatham	5			
27c	North Beach, Chatham	30+			
28a	Nauset Heights, Orleans	180	16		15
28b	Nauset Spit, Eastham	180	1		2
29	New Island, Eastham & Orleans		740	5	
30	Marconi Station, Wellfleet	18			
31	Jeremy Point, Wellfleet				
32	Pamet, Truro	1			

¹also contained an estimated 800 prs. of Laughing Gull

No.	Colony	Least	Common	Roseate	Arctic
33a	High Head, Truro ²	53			
33b	Exit 9, Provincetown	58			
33c	Mablicoat's, Provincetown				
33d	Race Point East, Provincetown				
33e	Race Point C. G. Sta., P'town				
33f	Race Point Light, Provincetown	8			1
34	Wood End Light, Provincetown	74	29		
35	Long Point, Provincetown				
36a	Nashawena I., Gosnold	108	86		
36b	Penikese I., Gosnold		2		
37	Noman's Land, Chilmark, M.V.	2	90	30	5
38a	Nantucket Wildlife Refuge				
38b	Coskata-Coatue W.R., Nantucket	89			
38c	Coatue W.R., Nantucket	20			
39	Quidnet, Nantucket				1
40a	Siasconset, Nantucket				
40b	Cisco Beach, Nantucket				
40c	Eel Point, Nantucket				
40d	Quaise Point, Nantucket	26			
40e	Tom Never's Head, Nantucket				
40f	Surfside, Nantucket	48			
40g	Nantucket (other) ³	30			
41	Tuckernuck I., Nantucket	P			
42	Chappaquidick I., M.V. ⁴	130	65	3	
43	Tashmoo Spit, M.V.	P			
44	Cape Poge W.R., M.V. ⁵				
45	Sarson's Inlet area, M.V.	135	105	3	
46	Norton's Point (Katama), M.V.	65			
47	Martha's Vineyard (other) ⁶		10		
		2,040+	7,299+	1,868	39

²includes "Charlies" and "High Head South"

³includes "Low Beach"

⁴includes Wasque Refuge and Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge

⁵included in #42 Chappaquidick total

⁶includes "Little Neck"