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

TO: Tern and Plover Meeting Participants

FR: Bradford G. Blodget, State Ornithologist

DA: 20 November 1990

SJ: Results of the 1990 Massachusetts Tern Inventory

Results for 1990 were essentially flat compared with year earlier figures, marking a third consecutive year of stability. All four species of terns posted token gains over 1989 results (Table 1).

Common Terns increased (barely) for a sixth consecutive year with 10,226 pairs at 32 sites compared to 10,199 pairs at 28 sites a year earlier. Distribution closely mirrored 1989, with the following 12 stations reporting >100 pairs in 1990: Nauset-New I. (3,837), Plymouth Beach (1,842), Bird I. (1,803), Gray's Beach (565), Monomoy-North (501), "Spinnaker I." (261), Nashawena I. (240), Tinker's I. (195), Long I. pier (155), Dead Neck (150), Haystack Point (150) and W. Dennis Beach (131).

Roseate Terns were located at 6 stations totaling 1,585 pairs compared to 1,576 pairs at 7 stations a year earlier. Ninety-eight percent (1,547 pairs) were at Bird I., Marion, continuing the same tenuous condition. Restoration efforts at Ram I., Mattapoisett were initiated in earnest in 1990 with the hope that Common and Roseate Terns will be enticed to return there even as early as 1991.

Arctic Terns, bouncing back from an all time low of 15 pairs in 1989, were estimated to number 21 pairs at 5 stations in 1990. Eight pairs were reported from Nauset-New I. and 7 pairs from Nashawena I.

Least Terns, though contracting to 43 stations from 51 a year earlier, nevertheless continued to be by far the most widespread nesting tern. A total of 2,546 pairs was reported, up from 2,233 pairs in 1989, but off from the record 2,681 pairs estimated in 1988. The largest LETE colony ever reported in Massachusetts

developed at Nauset-Orleans, where 884 pairs were conservatively estimated. Four other stations reporting >100 pairs included: Dunbar Point (Kalmus Park) (284), W. Dennis Beach (253), Siasconset (167) and Plum I. Beach (105).

Table 2 shows the distribution of the four species of nesting terns among six management districts. These districts, essentially the same as the Piping Plover districts, are as follows:

District 1. "North Shore" from the New Hampshire line south to and including Boston

District 2. "South Shore" from the Boston city line south to the east entrance of the Cape Cod Canal

District 3. "Upper Cape Cod" from the Cape Cod Canal east to Harwich and Brewster

District 4. "Lower Cape Cod" from Chatham north to Provincetown

District 5. West side of Buzzards Bay from Wareham westerly to the Rhode Island border

District 6. "Outer Islands Group" extending from the Elizabeth Islands east to Nantucket

I extend my thanks to everyone who collected and contributed data for this annual effort.

Table 1. **RESULTS OF THE 1990 MASSACHUSETTS TERN INVENTORY.** All results expressed in pairs. Data are collected for the period 1-10 June, except 5-15 June for the Least Tern. Colony numbers follow or are adapted from Erwin and Korschgen (1979). Numbers in parentheses reflect numbers of pairs recorded outside the census period and are not reflected in the total pairs. In the case of the Least Tern, these numbers indicate activity in the "B-period," roughly the last week of June to the third week of July.

Colony Number	Colony Name, Town(s)	ROTE	COTE	ARTE	LETE
324007	Woodbridge I., Newburyport		90		
324007.1	Blackwater River Group, Salisbury	----no activity----			
324008	Plum I. River Group, Newbury (marshes-incl. Pine I., Little Pine I. and Jericho Creek)		20		
324009	Parker River Group (marshes)		70		
324009.1	Plum I. Beach, Newbury-Rowley-Ipswich				105
324010	Roger I., Ipswich	----no activity----			
324010.2	Bagwell I., Ipswich		15		
324011	Crane Beach, Ipswich			5(92)	
324038	Tinker's I., Salem		195		
324038.1	Saugus R. Bridge, Lynn & Revere		8		
324040.1	Belle Isle Marsh, Boston		1		
324042	Snake I., Winthrop		6		
324049.1	Lovell I., Boston	----no activity----			
324050.1	Long I. pier, Hull		155		
324052.2	Rainsford I., Boston			5	
324053	Hog I. pier ("Spinnaker I."), Boston		261		
324057	North R. mouth, Scituate				57
324058	Duxbury Beach, Duxbury				19
324060	Wood End-Long Pt. area, Provincetown		6		
324061	Race Point Light area, Provincetown	----no activity----			
324062	Race Point CG Station, Provincetown			1	5(4)
324062.1	Mission Bell, Provincetown				65(56)
324062.2	Tasha's area, Provincetown				5(12)
324062.3	Beach Pt.-Pilgrim Bch., Provincetown				10
324063	High Head, Truro	----no activity----			
352001	Plymouth Beach, Plymouth	1	1842	4	69
352002	No. Sandwich area (Town Beach-Springhill Beach-Old Harbor Creek)		3		65
352003	Scorton Creek, Sandwich				25
352004	Craigville-Long Beach, Barnstable		12		39
352004.1	Squaw I., Barnstable	----not checked----			
352005	Dunbar Pt. ("Kalmus'), Barnstable				284
352006	Sandy Neck, Barnstable		1		35
352007	Gray's Beach, Yarmouth	8	565		
352008	West Dennis Beach, Dennis		131		253

Col. No.	Colony Name, Town(s)	ROTE	COTE	ARTE	LETE
352009	Nauset-Orleans		2		884
352010	Nauset-New Island, Orleans (also: LAGU 956, BLSK 2)	25	3837	8	
352011	Nauset-Eastham	----no activity----			
352012	Marconi Beach, Wellfleet	----no activity----			
352012.1	Pamet Harbor Bar, Truro	----no activity----			
352012.2	Great I.-Jeremy Pt., Wellfleet			(13)	
352013	Nauset-Chatham	----no activity----			
352014	Harding's Beach & Point, Chatham				1
352015	Monomoy-North, Chatham (also: LAGU 117, BLSK 2)	1	501	1	
352016	Monomoy-South, Chatham				50
352017	Dead Neck-Sampson I., Barnstable		150		5
352017.1	Popponesset Spit, Mashpee				42
352018	South Cape Beach-Waquoit, Mashpee				12
352020	Great Point, Nantucket				26
352021	Coskata-Coatue, Nantucket				42
352021.1	Squam Head & Pond, Nantucket	----no activity----			
352022	Quidnet (incl. Sesachacha Pd.), Nantucket	----no activity----			
352023	Siasconset (Sankaty--Low Beach), Nantucket				167(296)
352023.1	Tom Nevers Head, Nantucket				38(84)
352024	Quaise, Nantucket	----no activity----			
352025.1	Surfside, Nantucket				2
352025.2	Cisco Beach, Nantucket	----no activity----			
352026	Esther I./Smith Pt., Nantucket	----no activity----			
352027	Tuckernuck I., Nantucket	----not checked----			
352028	Muskeget I., Nantucket		36		15
352030	Cape Poge Elbow, Edgartown				17
352031	Little Neck, Edgartown		1		9
352031.1	East Beach-Dike Bridge, Edgartown				20
352032	Wasque, Edgartown				12(29)
352033	Norton Beach ("Katama"), Edgartown	----no activity----			
352033.1	Edgartown Great Pd., Edgartown	----no activity----			
352034	Sarson I., Sengekontacket Pd., Oak Bluffs	----no activity----			
352034.1	Haystack Pt., Sengek. Pd., Edgartown		150		
352035	Sylvia State Beach, Oak Bluffs	15		22	
352035.1	Harthaven Beach, Oak Bluffs				6
352036	Watcha Pd., West Tisbury	----no activity----			
352037	Quansoo area (Tisbury Great Pond, W. Tisbury & Black Pt. Pond, Chilmark)	----no activity----			
352037.2	Chilmark Pd., Chilmark	----no activity----			
352038	Lobsterville, (incl. "Dogfish Bar"), Gay Head	----no activity----			
352038.1	Menemsha Pd., Gay Head/Chilmark (encompasses Edys I., Chilmark)		75		
352038.2	Stonewall Beach, Chilmark	----no activity----			

Col. No.	Colony Name, Town(s)	ROTE	COTE	ARTE	LETE
352038.3	Long Beach, Gay Head-Squibnocket Beach, Chilmark)				(2)
352039	Nomans Land, Chilmark	----no activity----			
352040	Tashmoo, Tisbury				25
352040.1	Eastville Beach, Oak Bluffs				14(25)
352040.2	Lamberts Cove-James Pd., W. Tisbury	----no activity----			
352041	Nashawena I., Gosnold	3	240	7	35
352041.1	Pasque I., Gosnold	----no activity----			
352042	Penikese I., Gosnold	----no activity----			
352042.1	Cuttyhunk I., Gosnold		6		
352043	Ram I., Mattapoisett	----no activity----			
352044	Fish I., Fairhaven	----no activity----			
352044.1	Long I., Fairhaven	----no activity----			
352044.2	West I., Fairhaven	----no activity----			
352045	Bird I., Marion	1547	1803		
352045.1	Salter's Pt. & Pd., Dartmouth	----no activity----			
352046	Barney's Joy-Allen's Pd.- Little Beach, Dartmouth		2		30
352046.1	Gooseberry Neck, Westport	----no activity----			
352047.1	Speaking Rock, Westport		15		
352047.2	Poole's Rock, Westport		12		
352048	Cockeast Pd.-Acoaxet, Westport	----no activity----			
352048.1	Richmond Pd., Westport				8
352048.2	Horseneck Beach, Westport			10	
352054.2	Bay Point, South Swansea				8
	TOTAL 1990 NESTING PAIRS:	**1585**	**10226**	**21**	**2546**
	TOTAL 1990 NESTING SITES:	**6**	**32**	**5**	**43**

Table 2. Distribution of terns in Massachusetts in 1990 among management districts.

District	ROTE	COTE	ARTE	LETE
1	0	666	0	115
2	1	1997	4	145
3	8	862	0	760
4	26	4346	10	1020
5	1547	1832	0	56
6	3	532	7	450
TOTALS:	1585	10226	21	2546

Data compiled by **BRADFORD G. BLODGET**, State Ornithologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Field Headqtrs., 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA 01581-3337. Tele: (508)792-7270. Fax: (508)792-7275. 11/20/90.