

### Abbreviations

ad.	adult	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
b.	banded	GMNWR	Great Meadows Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge
f.	female	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
imm.	immature	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory Staff
m.	male	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	A.A.	Arnold Arboretum
unc.	uncommon	A.P.	Andrews Point
v.o.	various observers	E.P.	Eastern Point
yg.	young	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
#	additional observers	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
PBC	Paskamansett Bird Club	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable

### Corrigendum

In the Bird Observer Summary for November, 1973, it was stated that the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper seen at Newburyport was a first state record. This was, in fact, the second state record, the first being a bird collected at Plymouth Beach, June 30, 1971.

### DISASTER ON CAPE COD

The terns of Cape Cod completed a very unsuccessful nesting season during the summer of 1973, an indication that they are losing the battle against natural predators augmented by people, vehicles, and dogs. According to Ian Nisbet of Massachusetts Audubon Society, the tern colonies are not doing quite well enough to maintain their population.

The posting of the breeding colonies by MAS, National Seashore, and various conservation groups of Cape Cod has afforded some protection. However, manpower to thwart violators is inadequate. Furthermore, at night, the terns also have to contend with rats, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Great Horned Owls. Rats, in particular, disrupted the colony at Plymouth Beach, while at Grey's Beach, Yarmouth, a Great Horned Owl ate about 3,000 chicks.

The colonies at Grey's Beach and Great Island increased in mid-June due to the influx of displaced terns from Plymouth Beach. This late nesting, coupled with a heat wave in early July, killed a large percentage of half-grown birds.

The following is a summary of the colonies' successes and failures last summer, compiled from these sources: Ian Nisbet and James Loughlin of MAS, Lucian Rowell of Cape Cod Bird Club, Richard L. Cunningham of National Seashore, Erma J. Fisk, Charles Schmidt, and the Cape Naturalist, bulletin of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

#### Monomoy National Wilderness, Chatham (Nisbet)

Common Tern:	2,100 pairs	average 1.7 young per pair
Roseate Tern:	200-250 pairs	average 1 young per pair
Arctic Tern:	4 pairs	2 chicks found

#### Grey's Beach, Yarmouth (Nisbet)

Common Tern:	2,000 pairs	average 0.4 young per pair
Roseate Tern:	300-400 pairs	no data

#### Tern Island, Chatham (Nisbet)

Common Tern:	75 pairs	1 chick raised in July
Arctic Tern:	33 pairs	no chicks
Least Tern:	6 pairs	no data

Dennis (Nisbet, Fisk)

Common Tern:	20 pairs	no data
Least Tern:	85 pairs	no data

Great Island, Wellfleet (Rowell, Fisk)

Common Tern:	150-170 pairs	100 chicks banded
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Pilgrim Heights Beach, Truro (Rowell, Fisk, Schmidt)

Common Tern:	2 pairs	no data
Roseate Tern:	4 pairs	no data
Least Tern:	150 pairs	successful, no complete data

Race Point Beach, Provincetown (Rowell, Fisk)

Common Tern	1 pairs	no data
Arctic Tern:	4 pairs	no data
Least Tern:	30 pairs	25 young

Coast Guard Beach, Eastham (Nisbet, Fisk, Loughlin, Cape Cod Bird Club)

Common Tern:	300 pairs(New Island)	50 young
	1 pairs(South end)	2 young banded
Roseate Tern:	10 pairs(New Island)	no data
Arctic Tern:	7 pairs(New Island)	1 young
	1-2 pairs(South end)	2 young banded
Least Tern:	25 pair (South end)	35 young banded

North Beach, (South of Nauset Inlet) (Fisk, Laughlin)

Common Tern:	10 pairs	no data
Arctic Tern:	2 pairs	no data
Least Tern:	50 pairs	no data

Harding's Beach, Chatham (Nisbet)

Least Tern:	120 pairs	"successful"
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Craigville Beach (Loughlin)

Common Tern:	150 pairs	no data
Least Tern:	50 pairs	no data

Osterville (Loughlin)

Common Tern:	60-70 pairs	no young seen
Least Tern:	30 pairs	2 young seen

North Sandwich (Conservation Commission)

Common Tern:	19 flying young July 25
Least Tern	12 flying young July 25

A recent report by Deborah V. Howard of MAS identifies the unprecedented rat infestation at Plymouth Beach as primarily due to the mild and open winter of 1972-73 which aided rat survival. Secondary factors were Christmas trees placed on the beach to hold sand (also used as shelter by the rats) and garbage from local houses and visitors. Though MAS has maintained a rat-control program at Plymouth Beach, its efforts in 1973 were to no avail.

On the brighter side, Mrs. Howard states: "Monomoy Island off Chatham and Bird Island, Marion, produced bumper crops of tern chicks and a considerable number of youngsters survived at Yarmouth. Many of the smaller colonies also did well, probably because human disturbance was reduced to a minimum by careful posting and surveillance."