

News from the beach: bird talk

Duxbury Beach is not only an important habitat for breeding shorebirds during the summer, but also provides excellent resources for migrating and wintering birds. Since Duxbury Beach has dune, saltmarsh, and some forestation, a diverse array of birds can be found, particularly during migration.

Throughout fall migration, two observers with the International Shorebird Survey program at Manomet visited Duxbury Beach several times to record what species are stopping by. The International Shorebird Survey helps scientists look at shorebird populations and trends. Duxbury Beach is just one of many sites surveyed around the world. These efforts occur annually and help DBR better understand what types of birds are using the beach.

Some species are quite common and are seen annu-

ally on Duxbury Beach during migration. These visitors include semipalmated plovers and semipalmated sandpipers. Many beachgoers know these

species by watching them running back and forth with the waves on the beach. Other, less common, species were also seen during the 2020 fall migration, such as the western sandpiper. This bird is

an uncommon find in areas north of New York. Other notable migrating species observed include greater yellowlegs, American golden-plover, and white-rumped sandpiper.

Earlier in migration, volunteers watched several summer stragglers on the beach, including a ruby-throated hummingbird, saltmarsh sparrows, and roseate terns. As migration progressed, typical wintering waterfowl were observed, such as common widers, brants, buffleheads and horned grebes. Keep an eye



A semipalmated sandpiper runs along Duxbury Beach.

Duxbury Scouting news



Sabine Starkowsky, Keira Barry, Nadia Sovick, Maebon Puleio, Daniel Pakkala and Ali Hauber were among the Duxbury BSA Scouts and Girl Scouts who participated in a town-wide food drive to collect donations that will help those in need of assistance. Scouts picked up donations from the end of their neighbors' driveways and set up two drop-off locations in Duxbury to give people an opportunity to donate with minimal contact. Scouts BSA Female Troop 1792 collected and sorted donations at St. John's Church on Washington Street and collected 36 bags of food for the Lion's Share Food Pantry, six boxes of clothing, diapers, baby items and cleaning supplies for the Carolina Hill emergency assistance shelter; and \$600 in grocery store cards for the Duxbury Interfaith Council. At the end of the day, the Scouts went home knowing that they fulfilled their duty to serve others.



A peregrine falcon soars over Duxbury Beach.

Photos courtesy Stewart Ting-Chong

out for these winter visitors, particularly on the bayside of Duxbury Beach.

Other notable winter species observed include red knots, which are in sharp de-

cline in eastern North America due in part to unsustainable harvest of horseshoe crab eggs. The surveyors also observed many species that are found year-round in the area, including peregrine falcons

and northern harriers. Visitors may see these adept hunters gliding along the dunes – using the vibrations caused by vehicles on the road to scare out rodents and other prey.

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