

BIRDS of R. Waldo Tyler Wildlife Management Area

Migratory Shorebirds



Weighing only a few ounces, shorebirds complete annual migrations of up to 20,000 miles round trip between Arctic nesting areas and South American winter habitats.

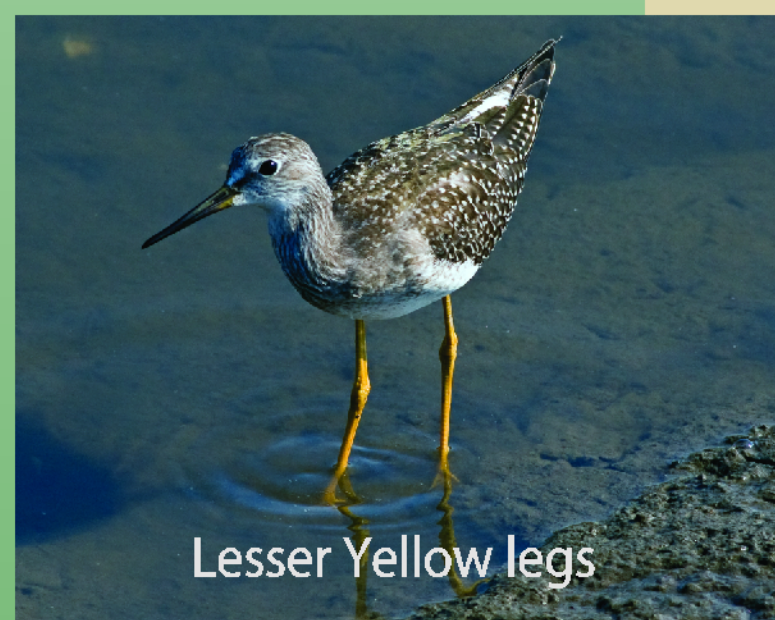
Hundreds of shorebirds stop at Weskeag Marsh to rest and refuel for the next leg of their migration, a non-stop over the ocean flight to South America (2,000 miles or more).

Weskeag Marsh provides these weary travelers with abundant food and a place to rest without constant interruption from human activities.

Shorebirds species you will see at Weskeag Marsh during migration



Kirk M. Rogers Photography



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Katherine Ruskin

Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows breed in coastal marshes like Weskeag. Nesting in the thatch of last year's cordgrass, just a few inches above the marsh surface, they are prone to flooding during extreme high tides and storm events.



Kirk M. Rogers Photography

American black ducks can be found breeding in areas along Maine's mid-coast such as Weskeag Marsh. A larger number of these ducks can be seen in the fall and winter until icing will move the birds toward the coast. American Black Ducks feed on small crustaceans and other invertebrates associated with tidal marshes.



Kirk M. Rogers Photography

Great Blue Herons will travel several miles from their nesting colonies to prime foraging locations such as Weskeag Marsh, where they hunt in shallow pools and marsh habitat for fish, crustaceans, and amphibians.



Tom Kogut

Peregrine Falcons breed in Maine on mountain cliffs, coastal headlands, or their urban equivalent (tall buildings and bridges) and are a state Endangered Species. Most peregrine activity at Weskeag Marsh are visiting migrants that pass through the area southbound from arctic nesting areas. Best viewing period is September-October.

Please give them space and protect their fragile saltmarsh habitat by viewing shorebirds from the viewing platform or other vantage points around the marsh.