

Birds

Ellisville Marsh is not just a place where the perfect conditions exist for a wide diversity of wetlands plants, fisheries and coastal wildlife to thrive. It's also a spectacular place to look for birds. In fact, Ellisville Marsh is designated by Massachusetts Audubon as an Important Bird Area (IBA), one of just 16 IBAs on the entire South Shore. An impressive array of bird species stop here on their migrations north and south each year. Others are here year-round. Experienced birders can sometimes spot as many as 40 bird species in a single visit.

A cool birding resource is available for your use. eBird is a real-time, online checklist program that not only gives you a chance to share your sightings, but also provides information to enhance your birding experience at Ellisville Marsh. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides visitors to Ellisville Marsh (and countless other sites) with rich data on bird abundance and distribution.

Both of the links below describe the area consisting of Ellisville Marsh, Shifting Lots Preserve and Ellisville Harbor State Park.

This page provides links to various reports for Ellisville Marsh, including recent checklists from visitors, summaries of the most recent species reported or all-time high counts, and links to other reports: <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L265654>

The "bar chart" link is one of the most useful, as it summarizes all the species known from the site and shows their relative frequency throughout the year, revealing their peak migration periods and relative abundance: <http://tinyurl.com/Ellisville-bar-chart> . Please report what you see to eBird as well. eBird is free and welcomes participation from everyone. Get started here: <http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/973977-ebird-quick-start-guide>

Threatened shorebirds are a particular focus of the Friends's monitoring programs. Our trained and experienced volunteer team monitors the nesting activity of Piping Plovers and Least Terns every year from April to September as a requirement of our Ellisville inlet maintenance permits. Our work in this area, which began in 2007, has been highlighted in communications released by Mass Audubon and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Volunteer monitoring and surveys for shorebird abundance is also coordinated by Manomet's Shorebird Recovery Program (Manomet.org).