

Hi Ken,

Here are a few thoughts and pictures about Schoodac, and more.

The **Schoodac wetlands** are special, even by Canterbury standards. With some spring/summer surveys they might rival other significant wetlands elsewhere in Merrimack County. On a hot August day with little bird song I still recorded more than a dozen species with significant species of conservation value being the Great Blue Heron nest, hawk species, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. In the pictures you will see a small Wood Frog which is common but also a good sign.

**Trails-** I easily found the Big Trees trail, though following it was a little harder, but doable. It could easily be called the “Big Trees and Big Boulders” trail. I had forgotten how many wonderful boulders there are along that trail. See pictures. As I mentioned in my earlier email, besides big White Pines there are numerous large Hemlocks and even some large (and old) Yellow Birch. The primary significance in my opinion is that this is a *stand* of large trees, not just a few scattered individuals. Though these trees are not enormous I think there number/volume and *acreage* is significant. It would be nice to get an “ecological” forester’s opinion. You undoubtedly know that large trees with big crowns are much better at absorbing carbon than smaller trees in a comparable area.

The more I re-visit Canterbury the more I am thinking that you have great potential for setting up some long-term bird studies on these properties. I will continue to mull that thought over and you can expect a “report” sometime later this year.

Enjoy the pictures!

Bob

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"Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth." Chief Seattle