

Help Save Truro's "Twine Field" Property: A Unique and Critical Natural Area

Truro's Twine Field property is a unique natural area that provides important environmental benefits and protects a diversity of plants and animals—many of which are vulnerable or seriously declining. The 10-acre property is an upland meadow, an increasingly rare habitat type in Massachusetts and on Cape Cod. The southern boundary of the property borders Pond Village Road and historic Pilgrim Pond. Please help the Truro Conservation Trust purchase this ecologically significant natural area.

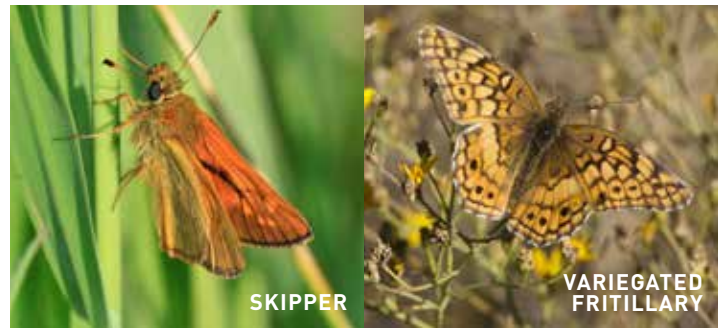


ONE OF THE CAPE'S LAST UNDEVELOPED UPLAND MEADOWS

The Twine Field property may well represent the last undeveloped upland meadow of its size on the Outer Cape.

Upland meadows harbor

large populations of small mammals (voles, mice, rabbits) and are therefore important hunting grounds for foxes, coyotes, hawks, and owls. The marked decline of grassland breeding birds in Massachusetts is attributable to the loss of upland meadow and other grassland habitats in the state and nationally.



Several species of butterflies depend on the plants found in upland meadows for food. For example, the adult Variegated Fritillary, a beautiful species considered uncommon in Massachusetts, relies on asters, goldenrods, wild indigo and other wildflowers found on the Twine Field site as sources of nectar. And native grasses (e.g., little bluestem, switchgrass) are the larval host plants for many species of Skippers recorded on the property. A remarkable number of butterfly species – more than 25 – have been recorded on the Twine Field.

THREATENED AND DECLINING SPECIES FOUND ON THE TWINE FIELD SITE



BOBWHITE QUAIL: Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife (MDFW) – Species of greatest conservation need; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List - Near threatened; MA Audubon – Conservation action urgent, strong decline.

NORTHERN HARRIER: Threatened, MA Endangered Species Act.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Threatened, MA Endangered Species Act.

BANK SWALLOW: MDFW – Species of greatest conservation need; MA Audubon – Conservation action urgent, strong decline.

EASTERN BOX TURTLE: MDFW – Species of greatest conservation need; IUCN Red List – vulnerable.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: MDFW – Species of greatest conservation need.

FIELD SPARROW: MDFW – Species of greatest conservation need.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: MDFW – Species of greatest conservation need.



A HAVEN FOR DECLINING SPECIES

The Twine Field provides sanctuary to a number of species that are declining or threatened, either in Massachusetts or globally (SEE TEXT BOX ON OTHER SIDE FOR LISTINGS). These include the **Northern Bobwhite Quail**, once common in North Truro and now reduced to a few isolated nesting locations because of habitat loss. **Northern Harriers** hover over and hunt on the site year-round, and **Short-eared Owls** can sometimes be found on open perches in the cold winter months. Colorful **Prairie Warblers** sing and breed in the meadow. In the late summer, **Bank Swallows** amass in large numbers and catch insects on the wing in the late afternoon and early evening hours. **Eastern Box Turtles** also inhabit the site, moving from the Twine

Field to Pilgrim Pond and back again. The distinctive call of the **American Woodcock** can be heard in the spring months when males conduct their courtship displays. Though not currently known to nest on the site, the Twine Field is potential habitat for Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, both listed as threatened under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

NATURAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

The natural landscape and vegetation of the Twine Field traps rainwater and snowmelt and allows them to filter slowly through the ground. Should it be developed, runoff from impermeable areas (roads, driveways, roofs) poses a risk to the water quality of Pilgrim Pond by carrying oil, dirt, lawn fertilizers, and other contaminants to the pond. The addition of new septic systems could also potentially degrade groundwater quality and further contaminate the pond.

A CORRIDOR FOR WILDLIFE

The Twine Field property is steps away from existing Town of Truro conservation land behind Pond Road, thus providing a safe corridor and a larger refuge for wildlife.



For more information about the Twine Field property and the campaign to save it, visit www.trurotwinefield.com. Send contributions to the Truro Conservation Trust, Box 327, North Truro, MA 02652. Tell the Trust it's for the Rogers/Twine Field property. Thank you!

