

North East Massachusetts Nature

By Jacob Mosser III, FPSA, EPSA, HonNEC

This is a list of some of the productive areas for nature photography in North East Massachusetts. While it is based on one person's encounters, it is a guide for what is available to the photographer with patience, persistence and a love of nature. Subjects include magnificent mammals, spectacular bird life and visually pleasing botany. There are without doubt others, if you know of photo worthy locations please share them with your fellow photographers. Note: all areas and subjects change with the seasons, a little homework and common sense is good thing.

Locations in North East Massachusetts for Nature photography,

Your backyard is of course unique to you and it requires no investment of time beyond going out the door. Likely subjects: wildflowers (weeds), birds, mushrooms, insects and leaf litter.

Ipswich River Town Park N. Reading 25 Central St. Possible subjects: small natural scenics, wildflowers (weeds), birds, mushrooms, insects and multi-plant micro habitats. Many towns have similar areas for recreation suitable for Nature photography.

Harold Parker State Forest, Andover/No. Andover Possible subjects: small natural scenics, birds, mushrooms, insects and wildflowers including but not limited to: lady-slippers, skunk cabbage, pinesaps, Indian-pipe and jack-in-the-pulpit, a variety of ferns.

Saugus River-Hamilton St. Saugus Park behind 'Mikes Place' a sandwich shop at 237 Hamilton St. It is a 200 yard walk on a paved bicycle path to the right and an abandon telephone pole. Late May thru early August, should the osprey not be on the nest there are wildflowers along the way. Needed 100-400 zoom or 500mm lens.

Great Meadows NWR, Concord on Route 62, there is a small sign opposite Monson Road. Possible subjects: Red-winged Blackbird, Marsh Wren, Hairy Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Merganser, Geese, Muskrat, Dragonflies, wildflowers including but not limited to: water lily, yellow iris, purple loosestrife, button bush, milkweed, mushrooms and insects.

Parker River NWR (Plumb Island) Newburyport Possible subjects: Scenics of the ocean, dunes and March, tide line details, deer, birds: turkey, hawks, snowy owl, water fowl, wildflowers including but not limited to: Virginia creeper and milkweed in autumn, general autumn compositions.

Mass. Audubon Ipswich River Topsfield Blue Birds, Mallard ducks, Great Blue Heron, Woodpeckers, wildflowers.

Salisbury State Res. Salisbury Snowy Owls, hawks a variety of birds and Fox in spring, assorted botanical details.

Equipment used but not required:

Digital SLR Camera; Cable release; flash; folding reflector; Tripod with Ball Head and Quick Release Clamp; Extender 1.4X and/pr 2X

Lenses: 24-105 zoom; 70-200 zoom; 100-400 zoom; 100mm-macro;300mm telephoto; 500mm super-telephoto Extension tube (set: 12mm, 20mm and 36mm Typical)..