



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

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*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Short-billed Dowitcher  
*Limnodromus griseus***

State Status: **None**  
Federal Status: **None**

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** A medium-sized shorebird, the Short-billed Dowitcher is 10.5 to 12 inches in length, with a very long bill. It has a rusty breast in spring and summer, and a gray breast and back in fall. Short-billed Dowitchers feed with a "sewing machine" motion. Its voice is a staccato *tu-tu-tu*.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE:** Short-billed Dowitchers occur in Massachusetts as a migrant during both spring and late summer-early fall. It breeds in northern Canada and winters coastally from Virginia to Florida and the U.S. Gulf Coast, and southward to South America. NHESP does not track occurrences of Short-billed Dowitchers in Massachusetts.

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:** Short-billed Dowitchers in Massachusetts occur primarily on extensive coastal mudflats and sandflats. Occasionally, a few birds occur at inland locations on mudflats in marshes or reservoirs.

**THREATS:** Short-billed Dowitcher habitat is relatively secure in Massachusetts, but it could be degraded by oil spills or loss of mudflats to dredging or coastal development. Human disturbance in feeding or roosting habitat may be a threat at some locations.

**REFERENCES:**

- Jehl, J. R., Jr., J. Klima, and R. E. Harris. 2001. Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 564 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Petersen, W.R., and W.R. Meservey. 2003. *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas*. Massachusetts Audubon Society and University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- Veit, R., and W.R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

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***A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan***

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

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Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

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