

1           The top of Heron Rock--(N side of main stream  
2 a dozen or more rods above the junction of the rivers)  
3 is just 13 inches above summer level.<sup>1</sup>  
4 <sup>2</sup>%Acton stone bridge - E arch the lower side outer end of the long stone  
5 is about 1/4 inch above summer level<sup>3</sup>  
6 The stone in middle of river just below the monument is  
7 about 3 1/4 inches below summer level--measured by the {water}  
8 Notch in willow at my boat is 8 ft above S. L. made in fall of '60%<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>This information comes from the April 25, 1860 journal entry.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph was handwritten by transcriber. May be an indication of pencil.

<sup>3</sup>This information comes from the April 27, 1860 journal entry.

<sup>4</sup>This information comes from the September 16, 1860 journal entry.

1 Feb. 15th 1860

2 As in the expression of moral truths  
3 we admire any closeness to the physical  
4 fact which in all language is the  
5 symbol of the spiritual-- So finally when  
6 naturally objects are described--it is an  
7 advantage, if words derived originally from  
8 nature, it is true, but which have been turned  
9 (tropes) from their primary signification to  
10 a moral sense, are used--i.e if the  
11 object is personified-- The one who loves  
12 & understands a thing the best--will  
13 incline to use the personal pronouns in  
14 speaking of it. To him there is no neuter  
15 gender. Many of the words of the old  
16 naturalists were in this sense doubly  
17 tropes.

18 Pm about 30+ ° at 2 pm //  
19 Skated to Bound Rock--  
20 Frequently--the same night that it first  
21 or perhaps in the morning  
22 freezes ^ the ~~snow~~ ice over the thread of the river  
23 will be puffed up for many rods--a foot or more  
24 evidently by expanding vapors beneath--& also  
25 over the channel of some warm spring emptying  
26 in. Also at Walden where it is very shallow  
27 or the ice rests on a bar between the pond & a bay.

28 When lately the open parts of the river froze  
29 more or less in the night after that windy day

1 they froze by stages as it were many feet wide  
2 & the water dashed & froze against the edge of  
3 each successive strip of ice {drawing}<sup>5</sup>  
4 leaving so many parallel ridges.

5         The river is rapidly falling--is more than  
6 a foot lower than it was a few days ago--  
7 so that there is an ice belt left where  
8 the bank is steep & on this I skate  
9 in many places--in others the ice slants  
10 from the shore for a rod or 2 to the water--  
11 & on the meadows for the most part  
12 there is no water under the ice--& it  
13 accordingly rumbles loudly as I go over it.  
14 & I rise & fall as I pass over hillocks or  
15 hollows.

16         From the pond to Lees Bridge I skated so swiftly  
17 before the wind, that I thought it was  
18 calm, for I kept pace with it, but when  
19 I turned about I found that quite a  
20 gale was blowing.

21         Occasionally one of those puffs (making a  
22 pent roof of ice) runs ~~diagonal~~ at right  
23 angles across the river--where there is no  
24 stream or spring emptying in-- A crack may have  
25 started it.

26                     Feb. 16th 1860

27             2 pm To Walden

28 //             A snow-storm which began in the night

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<sup>5</sup>Drawing spans 2 1/2 lines.

1 --& is now 3 or 4 inches deep-- The ground which  
2 was more than half bare before--is thus  
3 suddenly concealed--& the snow lodges on the  
4 trees & fences & sides of houses--& we have a  
5 perfect wintry scene again-- We hear that  
6 it stormed at Philadelphia yesterday morning.  
7 [look]<sup>6</sup>  
8 As I toward the woods beyond the poor house-  
9 & see how the trees--esp apple trees, are suddenly  
10 brought out--relieved against the snow--black  
11 on white--every twig as distinct as if it were a pen-  
12 & ink drawing the size of nature. The snow being  
13 spread for a back ground, while the storm still  
14 raging confines your view to near objects--each  
15 apple<sup>7</sup> tree is distinctly outlined against it.

16 Suddenly too where of late all was tawney brown  
17 in pastures--I see a soft snowy field with the  
18 pale brown lichens just peeping out of it.

19 It is a moist & starry snow--lodging on  
20 trees--leaf bough & trunk. The pines are  
21 well laden with it. How handsome, though  
22 wintry the side of a high pine wood--well  
23 greyed with the snow that has lodged on it--  
24 & the smaller pitch pines converted into  
25 marble or alabaster--with their lowered  
26 plumes--like rams-heads {drawing}<sup>8</sup>

27 The character of the wood paths  
28 is wholly changed by the new fallen snow--  
29 not only all tracks are concealed--but  
30 the pines drooping over it--& half conceal-

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<sup>6</sup>T's brackets

<sup>7</sup>A letter is crossed out under the "l" in "apple."

<sup>8</sup>Drawing spans 2 lines.

1 ing or filling it, it is merely a long chink  
2 or winding open space between the trees--

3 This snow, as I have often noticed, before,  
4 & other crystals  
5 is composed of stars^--with a very fine cotton  
6 intermixed. It lodges & rests softly on the  
7 horizontal limbs of oaks & pines-- On  
8 the fruit & dry leaflets (?) of the alders that  
9 stand over the pond it is in the form of little  
10 cones 2 inches high--making them snow  
11 {ball} plants. So many little crystalline  
12 wheels packed in cotton.

13 When we descend on to Goosepond--we  
14 find that the snow rests more thickly on  
15 the numerous zigzag & horizontal branches  
16 // of the high blueberries that ~~start~~ bend over  
17 it--than on any deciduous shrub or tree  
18 producing a very handsome snowy maze &  
19 can thus distinguish this shrub--by the man-  
20 ner in which the snow lies on it--quite across  
21 the pond. It is remarkable also how  
22 very distinct & white every plane surface  
23 as the rocks which lie here and there amid  
24 the blueberries or higher on the bank--a place  
25 where no twig or weed rises to interrupt the  
26 pure white impression. In fact this crystalline  
27 snow--lies up so light & downey that it  
28 evidently admits more light than usual  
29 & the surface is more white & glowing  
30 for it-- It is semi transparent. This is

1 especially the case with the snow lying upon  
2 rocks, or musquash houses--which is  
3 elevated & brought between you & the light.  
4 --It is partially transparent like alabaster

5 Also all the birds nests in the blueberry  
6 bushes are revealed--by the great snow balls  
7 they hold.

8 Feb. 17th '60

9 Pm cold & NW wind drifting the snow--

10 3 Pm Therm. 14<sup>0</sup>+

11 A perfectly clear sky except 1 or 2 little cloud  
12 flecks in the SW, which when I look again  
13 after walking 40 rds have entirely dissolved.

14 When the sun is setting the light reflected  
15 from the snow-covered roofs is quite a clear  
16 pink & even from white board fences.  
17 grows colder yet at eve {&} frost forms on the windows.  
18 I hear that some say they saw a blue-  
19 bird & heard it sing last week--!! It was  
20 prob. a shrike.

21 Minott says that he hears that Hurd's  
22 testimony in regard to Concord River in the meadow  
23 case--was that "it is dammed at both  
24 ends & cursed in the middle" i.e on ac-  
25 count of the damage to the grass there.

26 We cannot spare the very lively &  
27 some {of}  
28 life-like descriptions of the old Naturalists  
29 They sympathize with the creatures which  
30 they describe. Edward Topsell in his  
31 translation of Conrad Gesner in 1607

1 called "The History of Four-footed beasts."--  
2 says of the antelopes that "They are bred in  
3 India & Syria, near the river Euphrates,"  
4 and then, which enables you to realize the  
5 living creature & its habitat he adds--  
6 "and delight much to drink of the cold water  
7 thereof." The beasts which most modern  
8 naturalists describe--do not delight in  
9 any thing--& their water is neither hot nor  
10 cold. Reading the above makes you  
11 want to go & drink of the Euphrates your-  
12 self, if it is warm weather. I do not  
13 know how much of his spirit he owes to Gesner--  
14 but he proceeds in his translation to say--  
15 that "they have horns growing forth of  
16 the crown of their head, which are very  
17 long & sharp; so that Alexander affirmed  
18 they pierced through the shields of his ~~should~~  
19 soldiers, & fought with them very irefully:  
20 at which time his company slew as he  
21 travelled to India, eight thousand five  
22 hundred & fifty, which great slaughter  
23 may be the occasion why they are  
24 so rare & seldom seen to this day."--  
25 Now here something is described at any  
26 rate--~~whether~~ it is a real account  
27 of  
28 ~~it is~~ a real animal or not--  
29 -- You can plainly see the horns which  
30 grew forth from their crowns--&



1 scribe. The Very frontispiece is ad—  
2 figure of "the gorgon" which looks  
3 sufficiently like a hungry beast covered  
4 with scales--which you may have dreamed  
5 of--apparently just fallen on the track of  
6 you the reader & sniffing the odor  
7 with greediness.

8           These men had an adequate idea of  
9 a beast--or what a beast should be  
10 --a very bellaca (The translator  
11 makes the word bestia to be ~~from~~ "a vastando".)  
12 & They will describe & will dray<sup>10</sup> you a  
13 cat with four strokes more beastly  
14 or beastlike to look at--than Mr  
15 Ruskins favorite artist draws a  
16 tiger-

17           They had an adequate idea of the  
18 wildness of beasts & of men--& in their  
19 descriptions & drawings they did not always  
20 fail when they surpassed nature.

21           Gesner says of apes that "they are  
22 held for a subtil, ironical ridiculous  
23 and unprofitable beast, whose flesh is  
24 not good for meat as a sheep, neither  
25 his back for burthen as an asses, nor yet  
26 commodious to keep a house like a dog,  
27 but of the Grecians termed gelotopoion, made  
28 for laughter." As an evidence of one  
29 ape's want of "discretion" he says "A certain

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<sup>10</sup>Probably meant to be "draw"

1 ape after a shipwreck, swimming to land, was seen  
2 by a countryman, who thinking him to be a man  
3 in the water gave him his hand to save him, yet  
4 in the mean time asked him what countryman  
5 he was, to which he answered that he was an  
6 Athenian: Well, said the man, Dost thou  
7 know Piraeus (a port in Athens)-- Very well,  
8 said the ape & his wife, friends & children.  
9 Whereat the man being moved, did what he  
10 could to drown him." -- -- -- -- --

11 They are best contented to sit aloft although  
12 tied with chains-- -- -- They bring forth  
13 young ones for the most part by twins, whereof  
14 they love the one & hate the other; that  
15 which they love they bear on their arms,  
16 the other hangeth at the dam's back, &  
17 for the most part she killeth that which  
18 she loveth, by pressing it too hard: afterward,  
19 she setteth her whole delight upon the other."

20 Feb. 18th--'60

21 A snow storm--falling all day--wind NE //

22 The snow is fine & drives low--is composed  
23 of granulated masses 1/16 to 1/20 inch in diameter.  
24 not in flakes at all. I think it is not  
25 those large flaked snow storms that are  
26 the worst for the traveler or the deepest.

27 It would seem as if--the more odd  
28 & whimsical the conceit--the more credible  
29 to the mass-- They require a surprising truth

1     though they may well be surprised at any  
2     truth.--e.g. Gesner says of the beaver--, "the  
3     biting of this beast is very deep, being able to  
4     crash asunder the hardest bones, & commonly he  
5     never loseth his hold until he feeleth his teeth  
6     gnash one against another. Pliny & Solinus  
7     affirm, that the person so bitten cannot  
8     be cured, except he hear the crashing of the  
9     teeth, which I take to be an opinion without truth."

10           Gesner ({unless} we owe it to the translator)  
11     has a livelier conception of an animal  
12     which has no existence, or of an action which  
13     was never performed--than most naturalists  
14     have of what passes before their eyes. The  
15     ability to report a thing as if had occurred  
16     whether it did or not, is surely important  
17                            They do not half tell a thing because  
18     to a describer. you might expect them to but half believe it.

19     I feel, of course, very ignorant in a museum, I  
20     know nothing about the things which they have  
21     there-- No more than I should know my friends<sup>11</sup>  
22     in the tomb-- I walk amid those jars of  
23     bloated creatures which they ~~call~~ label frogs  
24     a total stranger--without the least froggy  
25     thought being suggested. Not one of them  
26     can croak-- They leave behind all life  
27     they that enter there--both frogs & men.  
28     E.g. Gesner says again "The tree being down  
29     & prepared, they take one of the oldest  
30     of their company, whose teeth could not

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<sup>11</sup>"friends" written over another word

1 be used for the cutting, (or, as others say,  
2 they constrain some strange beaver whom they  
3 meet withal, to fall flat on his belly back,  
4 -- -- -- and upon his belly lade they all their  
5 timber, which they so ingeniously work & fasten  
6 with the compass of his legs that it may not  
7 fall, & so the residue by the tail draw him  
8 to the water side, where those buildings are  
9 to be framed, & this the rather seemeth to be  
10 true, because there have been some such  
11 taken that had no hair on their backs, but  
12 were filled, which being espied by the hunters,  
13 in pity of their slavery or bondage, they have  
14 let them go away free." Gives Albertus  
15 & Olaus Magnus  
16 as authorities for this  
17 Melvin tells me that he went a day or  
18 2 ago to where G. M. Barrett had  
19 placed a dead cow of his, & that he found  
20 the snow thickly tracked by foxes to within  
21 5 feet {around} the carcass & they appeared to  
22 have sat down there--but so suspicious  
23 of some trick were they that they had not  
24 touched it.  
25 Sometimes when I go forth at  
26 2 Pm--there is scarcely a cloud in the sky--  
27 but soon one will appear in the west & steadily  
28 advance & expand itself, & so change the  
29 whole character of the pm & my thoughts.  
30 The history of the sky for that pm will be

1 but the development of that cloud.

2 I think that the most important requi-  
3 site in describing an animal, is to be  
4 sure & give its character & spirit--{.}<sup>12</sup>  
5 for in that you have, without error, the  
6 sum & effect of all its parts--known & un-  
7 known-- You must tell what it is to man.  
8 Surely the most important part of an  
9 animal is its anima its vital spirit--  
10 on which is based its character--& all  
11 the peculiarities by which it most concerns  
12 us. Yet most scientific books which  
13 treat of animals leave this out all together,  
14 & what they describe are as it were phe-  
15 nomena of dead matter. What is most  
16 interesting in a dog--e.g. is his attachment  
17 to his master--his intelligence, courage &  
18 the like--& not his anatomical structure  
19 or even many habits which affect us less.

20 If you have undertaken to write the biogra-  
21 phy of an animal, you will have to present  
22 to us the living creature--i.e. a scroll  
23 which no man can understand, but only  
24 in his degree report the impression made  
25 on him.

26 Science in many departments of Nat. Hist.  
27 does not pretend to go beyond the shell--  
28 ie it does not get to animate nature at  
29 all.

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<sup>12</sup>Period could be a blotch.

1 A history of animated Nature must itself  
2 be animated.

3 The ancients, one would say, with their  
4 Gorgons--Sphinxes--satyrs--mantichora  
5 &c could<sup>13</sup> imagine more than existed,  
6 while the moderns cannot imagine so  
7 much as exists.

8 In describing brutes, as in describing man, we shall  
9 naturally dwell most on those particulars  
10 in which they are most like ourselves--in  
11 which we have most sympathy with them.

12 We are as often injured as benefitted by  
13 our systems--for to speak the truth no  
14 human system is a true one--& a name  
15 is at most a mere ~~ine~~ convenience & carries  
16 to {information} with it. As soon as I  
17 begin to be aware of the life of any area-  
18 true, I at once forget its name.

19 To know the names of creatures--is only  
20 a convenience to us at first--but so soon  
21 as we have learned to distinguish them, the  
22 sooner we forget their names the better  
23 so far as any true appreciation of them  
24 is concerned. I think therefore that  
25 the best & most harmless names--are  
26 those which are an imitation of the voice  
27 or note of an animal--as the most poetic  
28 ones-- But the name adheres only to the  
29 accepted & conventional bird or quadru-

---

<sup>13</sup>The "d" in "could" is crossed like a t.



1 modern writers give us of real animals.

2 Feb. 19th

3 Snow may be near a foot deep--& now drifting

4 Feb. 20

5 Pm. I see directly in front the Depot Ice house

6 on the only piece of bare ground I see hereabouts

7 a large flock of lesser red-polls feeding.

8 They must be {——}<sup>14</sup> picking up earth sand or the

9 withered grass-- They are so intent on it that

10 they allow me to come quite near.

11 This then is one use for the drifting of snow

12 which lays bare some spots--however deep it

13 may be elsewhere, so that the birds <sup>&c</sup> ^ can come

14 at the earth. I never thought of this use

15 before. 1st the snow feel deep & level on the

16 18th then the 19 came high wind &

17 plowed it out here & there to the ground,

18 & so it will always be in some places however

19 deep it may have been

20 J. Farmer tells me that his grandfather once

21 in the winter

22 when moving some rocks ^ found a striped squirrel

23 frozen stiff. He put him in his pocket & when

24 he got home laid him on the hearth--& after

25 a while he was surprized to see him running

26 about the room as lively as ever he was--

27 I notice a very pale pink reflection

28 from snowy roofs & sides of white houses at

29 sunrise-- So both the pink & the green

30 are phenomena of the morning but in a

---

<sup>14</sup>This word, whatever it may be, is crossed out.

1 much less degree, which shows that they  
2 depend more on the twilight & the grossness  
3 of the atmosphere than on the angle at which  
4 the sun-light falls.

5 Feb. 21st 60

6 2 Pm Therm. 46+ & snow rapidly  
7 melting. It melts first & fastest where  
8 the snow is so thin that it feels the heat  
9 reflected from the ground beneath.

10 I see now in the ruts in-sand on hills  
11 in the road--those interesting ripples--  
12 which I only notice to advantage in  
13 very shallow running water--a phenomenon  
14 almost as it were confined to melted  
15 snow running in ruts in the road in  
16 a thaw--esp. in the spring. It is a  
17// spring phenomenon--

18 The water melting with some slight obstacle  
19 ever & anon appears to shoot across diago-  
20 nally to the opposite side--while ripples from  
21 the opposite side intersect the former--  
22 producing countless regular & sparking  
23 diamond shaped ripples

24 If you hold your head low & look  
25 along up such a stream in a right  
26 light-- It is seen to have a regularly  
27 braided surface--tress-like--preserving

1 its figures as if it were solid--though  
2 the stream is seen pulsing high through  
3 the middle ripples in the thread of the  
4 stream-- The ripples are as rectilinear as  
5 ice crystals-- When you see the sparkling  
6 stream {from} melting snow in the ruts--know  
7 that there is to be seen this braid of the  
8 spring.  
9       %How many berries are the food of birds{?}%  
10       It was this very admiration of  
11 nature that made the ancients  
12 attribute those magnanimous qualities  
13 (which are rarely to be found in man) to  
14 the lion as her masterpiece. & it is  
15 only by a readiness or rather preparedness  
16 to see more than appears in a creature  
17 that we can appreciate what is manifest.  
18       It is remarkable how many berries  
19                               mice &c  
20 are the food of birds^--perhaps I may  
21 say that all are<sup>15</sup> however hard or bitter.  
22 --This I am inclined to say, judging of what I do  
23 not know from what I do. eg. Mt ash  
24 --prinos--skunk cabbage--sumac--choke cherry--  
25 cornels probably--elderberry--viburnums (?)--Rose  
26 hips--arum--poke--thorn--barberry--grapes--  
27 Tupelo--amphicarpaea--thistle-down. Bay berry (?)--C. Florida  
28 checkerberry--hemlock--larch--pines &c birch--alder--  
29 Juniper

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<sup>15</sup>Written over another word



1 and Schaffer observe, they reckon their age by  
2 so many Iolas." [Iola to make merry. Goth.]  
3 So may we measure our lives by our joys--  
4 We have lived, not in proportion to the number  
5 of years that we have spent on the earth,  
6 but in proportion as we have enjoyed.

7 February is pronounced the coldest month  
8 in the year-- In B.'s Pop. Antiq. is quoted this  
9 from the MS. Harl.

10 Fevrier de tous les mois,  
11  
12 Le plus court et moins courtois.

13 In the same work it is said that this saying  
14 is still current in the N of England

15 "On the first of March,  
16 The crows begin to search."

17 Would it not apply to the crows searching  
18 for their food in our meadows, along the water's edge  
19 a little later?

20 A fact stated barely is dry-- It must be  
21 the vehicle of some humanity--in order to interest  
22 us. It is like giving a man a stone when he  
23 asks you for bread. Ultimately the moral is  
24 all in all--& we do not mind it if inferior  
25 truth is sacrificed to superior, as when the  
26 moralist fables & makes animals speak  
27 & act like men.

28 It must be warm--moist--incarnated--  
29 Have been breathed on at least. A man has  
30 not seen a thing who has not felt it.

1 Feb. 24th 60 %("E. S. in Mass.")%  
2 2 Pm Therm 42+  
3 A very spring-like day--so much sparkling  
4 light in the air--  
5 // The clouds reflecting a dazzling brightness  
6 from their edges--& though it is rather  
7 warm (the wind--raw) There are many finely  
8 divided--in a stream from SW to NE--  
9 all the Pm--& some most brilliant mother  
10 o' pearl-- I never saw the green in it more  
11 distinct-- This on the thin white edges of clouds  
12 as if it were a small piece of a rainbow-- Some  
13 of the finest imaginable rippling--& some  
14 fine strings of clouds narrow anteat  
15 skeletons stretching from SW to NE or with  
16 the wind--{drawing} looking  
17 like a little cotton--caught on a ^ crooked  
18 wire--the spine is so distinct--  
19  
20 A great part of the very finely divided cloud--one  
21 stratum above another--had the ap. of a woven  
22 web--the fibres crossing each other in a remarkable  
23 manner--right--over head--  
24 {drawing}  
25 The river risen--& quite over the meadows  
26 // yesterday & today--& musquash began  
27 to be killed.

1 Feb. 25th '60

2 Pm Round via Clam Shell & Hub. Bridge  
3 strong  
4 colder--& frozen ground--^wind NW. //

5 I noticed yesterday in the street some dryness  
6 of stones at crossings & in the road & side  
7 walk here & there--& even 2 or 3 boys begin-  
8 ning to play at marbles--so ready are they to  
9 get at the earth.

10 The fields of open water amid the thin  
11 ice of the meadows--are the spectacle  
12 today-- They are especially dark blue when I  
13 look S. W. Has it anything to do with the  
14 direction of the wind? It is pleasant to  
15 see high dark blue waves half a mile  
16 off running incessantly along the edge  
17 of white ice-- There the motion of the  
18 blue liquid is the most distinct.

19 {drawing} ice<sup>17</sup>

20 As the waves rise & fall they seem to run  
21 swiftly along the edge of the ice.

22 The white p. cones have been blowing  
23 off more or less in every high wind ever  
24 since the winter began, & yet perhaps they  
25 have not more than half fallen yet //

26 For a day or 2 past I have seen  
27 in various places the small tracks esp.  
28 of skunks-- They appear to come out //  
29 commonly in the warmer weather in the  
30

---

<sup>17</sup>The word "ice" is part of the drawing.

1       latter part of February  
2//           I noticed yesterday the first conspicuous  
3       silvery sheen from the needles of the white  
4       pine waving in the wind-- A small one  
5       was conspicuous by the side of the road  
6       more than a quarter of a mile ahead.  
7       I suspect that those plumes which have  
8       been oppressed or contracted by snow & ice  
9       not only dried but<sup>18</sup> opened & spread by the  
10      wind.  
11           Those peculiar tracks which I saw sometime  
12      ago, & still see, made in slosh & since  
13      frozen at the Andromeda ponds--I think  
14      must be mole-tracks--& those "nicks" on  
15      the sides are where they shoved back the  
16      snow with their vertical flippers {drawing}  
17           This is a very peculiar track. a broad channel  
18      in slosh--& at length in ice  
19                            Sunday Feb. 26  
20           2 pm Therm. 30+ cold N. W. wind  
21//           The water is about 6 inches above  
22      Hoar's steps-- That well covers the meadows  
23                            ever a strong NW wind this & yesterday  
24//      generally.  
25                            Feb. 27th '60  
26           2 pm-- Therm 50+  
27      To Abner Buttricks Hill  
28           The river has been breaking up for several  
29      days--& I now see great cakes lodged.

---

<sup>18</sup>"but" written over text

1 against each of the bridges--esp--Chas Hunts  
2 & the N. B--where the river flows with  
3 the wind-- For a week or more you  
4 could not go to Balls hill by the S side  
5 of the river-- The channel is now open  
6 at least from our neighborhood all the //  
7 yes & up around, as far as Cardinal Shore--the river above Hub. bridge  
8 way to Balls Hill--except the masses of  
9 being opened--then it is mackarelled up to the pond.  
10 ice moving in it--but the ice generally  
11 rests on the bottom of the meadows--such  
12 as was there before the water rose-and  
13 the freshet is for the most part covered with  
14 a thin ice except where the wind has broke it  
15 up. The high wind for several days has  
16 prevented this water from freezing hard.

17           There are many cranberries washed far //  
18 on to a large cake of ice which stretches across  
19 the river at Hunts bridge-- The wind subsiding  
20 leaves them conspicuous on the middle of the  
21 cake.

22           I noticed yesterday that the skunk cabbage //  
23 had not started yet at well meadow--&  
24 had been considerably frostbitten.  
25 Heywood says that when the ground is  
26 regularly descending from the N to the RR--  
27 a low fence 1/4 of a mile off has been found  
28 to answer perfectly--, if it slopes upward  
29 it must be very near the road.

30           I walk down the river below Flint's on  
31 the N. side. The sudden apparition of  
32

1 this dark blue water on the surface of  
2 the earth is exciting. I must now walk  
3 where I can see the most water--as to the  
4 most living part of nature. This is the  
5 blood of the earth--& we see its blue  
6 arteries pulsing with new life now--  
7 I see from far over the meadows--white cakes  
8 of ice gliding swiftly down the stream--  
9 a novel sight-- They are whiter than  
10 ever in this spring sun.

11 The abundance of light--as reflected from  
12 clouds & the snow &c &c is more springlike  
13 than anything of late.

14 For several days the earth generally has  
15 been bare-- I see the tawney & Brown<sup>19</sup> earth--  
16 --the fescue & lichen clad hills behind Dakins  
17 & A. Buttricks--

18 Among the radical leaves most common &  
19 therefore early-noticed are the veronica--  
20 & the throttle (green in the midst of brown & decayed)  
21 & at the bottom of little hollows in pastures  
22 now perhaps nearly covered with ice & water  
23 you see some greener leafets of clover.

24 I find myself cut off by that arm  
25 of our meadow sea which makes up toward  
26 A. Buttricks. The walker now by the river  
27 valley is often compelled to go far round  
28 by the water--driving far toward the farmer's  
29 door yards.

30 I had noticed for some time far in the

---

<sup>19</sup>"B" written over "b"

1 mid. of the Great meadows something dazzlingly  
2 white--which I took of course to be a small cake  
3 of ice on its end--but now that I have  
4 climbed the pitch-pine hill & can over look  
5 the whole meadow-- I see it to be the white  
6 breast of a male sheldrake accompa-  
7 nied perhaps by his mate (a darker one)  
8 They have settled warily in the very midst  
9 of the meadow--where the wind has blown  
10 a ~~aida~~ a space of clear water from an  
11 acre or two-- The aspect of the meadow  
12 is sky blue--& dark blue--the former  
13 is thin ice--the latter the spaces of open  
14 water which the wind has made--but  
15 it is chiefly ice still. Thus as soon as  
16 the river breaks up--or begins to break up fairly--  
17 & the strong wind widening the cracks  
18 makes at length open spaces in the ice  
19 of the meadow--this hardy bird appears  
20 & is seen sailing in the first-widened  
21 crack in the ice where it can come at the  
22 water--. Instead of of a piece of ice-- I find  
23 it to be the breast of the sheldrake which  
24 so reflects the light as to look larger than it  
25 is steadily sailing this way & that with  
26 its companion who is diving from time to time.  
27 They have chosen the opening farthest removed  
28 from all shores. As I look I see the ice drifting  
29 in upon them & contracting their water--till finally  
30 they have but a few square rods left--while

//

1     there are 40 or 50 acres near by. This is the  
2     first bird of the spring that I have seen or  
3     heard of.

4 //           C. saw a skater insect--on G. Hubbards  
5     close brook in woods today.

6                                 Feb. 28th '60

7 //           2 Pm Therm 52+--wind easterly  
8     to Conantum

9           I am surprized to see how my English brook  
10    cress has expanded or extended since I  
11    saw it last fall--to a bed 4 feet in  
12    diameter--as if it had grown in the water  
13    though it is quite dirty or muddied with  
14    sediment-- Many of the sprigs turn up-  
15    wards & just rest on the water at their  
16    ends as if they might be growing. It  
17    has also been eaten considerably by some  
18    inhabitant of the water. I am inclined  
19    to think it must grow in the winter.

20 //           What is that bluish bulb now ap. begin-  
21    ning to shoot in the water there? floating loose  
22    (not the water purslane)

23 //           I suppose they are linarias which I still see  
24    flying about.

25                                 very  
26    Passed a ^ little boy in the street today--who  
27    had on a home-made cap of a woodchuck skin--  
28    --which his father or elder brother had killed--  
29    & cured  
30    ^& his mother or elder sister had fashioned or  
31    into a nice warm cap. I was interested by the

1 sight of it--it suggested so much of  
2 family history--adventure with the chuck--  
3 not without  
4 story told aloud ^ exaggeration-- The human  
5 parents care of their young these hard times--  
6 --Johnny was promised many times--& now  
7 A perfect little Idyl as they say  
8 the work has been completed-- ^The cap was  
9 large & round {^} big enough--you would say  
10 for the boy's father--& had some kind of  
11 cloth visor stitched to it-- The top of the  
12 cap was evidently the back of the woodchuck--  
13 as it were expanded in breadth contracted in length--  
14 & it was as pert & handsome as if the woodchuck  
15 wore it himself-- The great grey tipped hind  
16 hairs were all preserved and stood out ~~only~~  
17 above the brown only a little more losely than  
18 his life-- As if he put his head into the belly  
19 of a woodchuck having cut off his tail & legs  
20 & substituted a vizor for the head--  
21 The little fellow wore it innocently enough--  
22 --not knowing what he had on forsooth--  
23 going about his small business pit a pat--  
24 & his black eyes {sparkled} beneath it when  
25 I remarked on its warmth, even as the  
26 woodchucks might have done--  
27 Such should be the history of every piece of  
28 clothing that we wear--  
29 As I stood by eagle field wall--  
30 I heard--≠ a fine rattling sound--produced  
31 by the wind on some dry reeds at my elbow--  
32 It was occasioned by the wind rattling the fine

1 // seeds in those pods of the Indigo weed  
2 which were still closed--a distinct rattling  
3 din which drew my attention to it--like  
4 a small Indian's calabash. Not a mere  
5 rustling of dry reeds--but the shaking of a  
6 rattle or a hundred rattles beside.

7 // Looking from Hub's bridge I see a great  
8 water bug even on the river-- So forward is the  
9 season.

10 I take up a handsomely spread (or blossomed)  
11 p-pine cone--but I find that a squirrel had  
12 begun to strip it first--having gnawed off a  
13 few of the scales at the base. The squirrel  
14 always begins to gnaw a cone thus at the  
15 base as if it were a stringent law  
16 among the squirrel people-- As if the old squirrels  
17 taught the young ones a few simple rules like  
18 this.

19 // C. saw a dozen robins to-day on the ground  
20 on Ebby Hub's hill by the Yel. Brick Swamp--

21 One tells me that Geo. Hubbard told him  
22 ? he saw black-birds go over this am.

23 ? One of the Corner Wheelers feels sure that he  
24 saw a blue-bird on the 24th? & says he  
25 ? saw a shell drake in the river at the factory  
26 "a month ago." I should say that the  
27 shell drake was our hardiest duck.

28 It suggests from what point  
29 of view Gesner (or his translator) de-

1 scribes an animal--~~that~~ how far he  
2 takes into account man's relation to it--  
3 that he commonly gives the "epithets"  
4 He deals in description & epithets are a short description.  
5 Which have been applied to it.  
6 And the translator says to the reader--  
7 "All these rows & ranks of living 4-footed  
8 beasts are as letters. & midwives to save the rever-  
9 (& that made them)  
10 ence which is due to the Highest ^ from perishing  
11 within you."  
12 I hear this Account of Austin--  
13 An acquaintance who had bought him  
14 a place in Lincoln took him out one  
15 day to see it-- & Austin was so smitten  
16 with the quiet--& retirement & other rural  
17 charms--that he at once sold his house  
18 in C--bought a small piece of rocky  
19 pasture in an out of the way part  
20 of this out of the way town & with the  
21 funds raised by the sale of his old house  
22 built him a costly stone house upon  
23 it. Now he finds that this retirement  
24 (or country life) is the very thing which  
25 he does not want--but his property being  
26 chiefly invested in the house he is caught  
27 in a trap as it were--for he can not sell  
28 it--though he advertises it every year--  
29 As for society he has none-- his neighbors  
30 are few s far between--& he never visits them  
31 nor they him-- They can do with out him

1 being old settlers-ad scripti glebae--  
2 He found one man in the next town who  
3 got his living by sporting & fishing--& he  
4 has built him a little hut and got him to  
5 live in his place for society & helpfulness--  
6 H cannot get help either for the outdoor  
7 or indoor work-- There are {no others about}  
8 who work {by} the day's job-- & servant  
9 girls decline to come so far into the country.  
10 Surrounded by grain fields he sends to Cambridge  
11 for his oats--& as for milk, he can  
12 scarcely get any at all fr the farmers  
13 all send it to Boston-- But he has persuaded  
14 me to leave some for him at the depot  
15 1/2 a mile off.

16 As it is important to consider nature  
17 frm the point of view of science--remember--  
18 ing the nomenclature & systems of men--& so  
19 if possible go a step further in that direction--  
20 --so it is equally important often to ignore  
21 or forget all that men presume that they  
22 know--& take an original & unprejudiced  
23 view of nature--letting her make what im-  
24 pression she will on you--as the first  
25 men & all children & natural men still  
26 do. For our science so called is always  
27 more barren & mixed up with error--than  
28 our sympathies are.

1           As I go down the Boston Road--  
2    I see an Irishman wheeling home from  
3    far--a large damp & rotten pine log--  
4    for fuel-- He evidently sweats at it & pauses  
5    to rest many times. He found perhaps  
6    that his woodpile was gone before the  
7    winter was--& he trusts this to contend  
8    with the remaining cold. I see him unload  
9    it in his yard before me--& then rest him-  
10   self. The piles of solid oak wood which  
11   I see in other yards do not interest  
12   me at all, but this looked like fuel.  
13   -- It inspired me to think of it. He will  
14   now proceed to split it finely--& then I  
15   fear it {require} almost as much heat to  
16   dry it, as it will give out at last.  
17   How rarely we are encouraged by the sight  
18   of simple actions in the street-- We deal  
19   with banks & other institutions where the  
20   life & humanity are concealed--what  
21   there is. I like at least to see the great  
22   beams half exposed in the ceiling or  
23   the corner--

24                   Mar. 1st--60

25           Rain all day--

//

26           This will ap. take the frost out very much  
27   & still further settle the ways. It was already  
28   yesterday pretty good bare ground walking on  
29   the N side the street

//

1 Yesterday was a damp louring moist day  
2 --& still The pm before the wind was east  
3 & I think that a storm (snow or rain) always  
4 succeeds.

5 To day is a still dripping spring rain.  
6 but more fell in the night. It makes  
7 the walking worse for the time--but if it  
8 does not freeze again, will greatly help to  
9 settle the ways.

10 I have thoughts as I walk on some subject  
11 that is swimming in my head--but all their  
12 pertinence seems gone before I can get home  
13 to set them down. The most valuable thoughts  
14 which I entertain, are anything but what  
15 I thought. Nature abhors a vaccuum  
16 & if I can only walk with sufficient careless-  
17 ness--I am sure to be filled.

18 Mar 2d 1860

19 // Notice the brightness of a row of osiers this  
20 morning. This phenomenon whether {referable}  
21 to a change in the condition of the twig--or  
22 to the spring air & light, or even to our im-  
23 aginations is not the less a real phenomenon--  
24 affecting us annually at this season-- This  
25 is one confirmation for having them left  
26 so often along the causeways--that  
27 it is only these new & vigorous growths  
28 which shine thus.



1 Most would not have detected any change in it since the fall  
2 // The grass has evidently sprung & grown  
3 a little--very little--of late say the  
4 very last of Feb. in warm wet places  
5 at the S base of hills--like this-- It  
6 has a healthy but dark green look--  
7 // The ap. epilob. coloratum has conspicuous  
8 green raddical leaves there  
9 // I see several minute {drawing} glaucous sort  
10 of grass hoppers skipping over this grass &  
11 // water. Men shooting musquash these days  
12 All the grass stubble--in fields not mown--  
13 is conspicuous points eastward--& reflects  
14 the light frm a thousand parallel lances  
15 {drawing} Probably blown  
16 thus by the prevailing winds--through the  
17 winter.  
18 // Now for some days look for arrow heads  
19 where it is not too soft  
20 There is a strong westerly wind today--  
21 though warm--& we sit under Dennis'  
22 lupine promontory to observe the water.  
23 The great phenomenon these days is the  
24 sparkling blue water. A richer blue than  
25 the sky ever is. The flooded meadows are  
26 // ripple lakes on a large scale-- The land-  
27 scape, though no growth is visible in it, is  
28 bright & spring-like.  
29 There is the tawney earth (almost completely  
30 bare) of different shades lighter or darker--

1 the light very light in this air, more  
2 so than the surface of the earth ever is  
3 (ie without snow) bleached as it were--  
4 & in the hollows of it--set round by the  
5 tawney hills & banks--is this copious living &  
6 sparkling blue water of various shades-- It is  
7 more dashing, rippling, sparkling--living this  
8 windy--but clear day-- Never smooth--but  
9 even, varying with degree of motion & depth of  
10 blue as the wind is more or less strong--rising  
11 & falling. All along the shore next us is  
12 a strip a few feet wide of very light & smooth  
13 sky blue--for so much is sheltered even by the  
14 lowest shore--but the rest is all more or less  
15 agitated & dark blue-- In it is floating on  
16 stationary here & there cakes of white ice  
17 the least looking like ducks--& large batches  
18 of water  
19 ^have a dirty white or even tawny look--where  
20 the ice still lies on the bottom of the meadow  
21 Thus even the meadow flood is parded--&  
22 of various patches of color-- Ever & anon  
23 the wind seems to dash down from over the  
24 hill in strong puffs & then spread & diffuse  
25 itself in dark fan-shaped figures over the  
26 surface of the water-- It is glorious to see how  
27 it sports {on}<sup>20</sup> the water's surface-- You  
28 see a hundred such nimble-footed puffy  
29 drop & spread on all sides at once or dash  
30 off--sweeping the surface of the water for 40

---

<sup>20</sup>possibly "over"

1 rods {in} few seconds--as if so many invisible  
2 spirits were playing tag there. It even  
3 suggests some fine dust swept along just  
4 above the surface & reminds me of snow  
5 blowing over ice-- vapor curving along a  
6 roof--meandering like that, often-- The  
7 like hair--like the crown of the head curling various ways--  
8 before dark blue--is now diversified with  
9 much darker or blackish patches--with  
10 a suggestion of red-purplish even--  
11 Then the wind blows with stronger {gust}  
12 down the nut meadow valley or on our right  
13 & I am surprised to see that the hollows  
14 which it makes are concentric curves  
15 apparently sucking sand frm shore to shore  
16 of this broad bay 40 rds wide or more  
17 {drawing}<sup>21</sup> This is conspicuously  
18 the form of them--  
19 For which 2 things may  
20 account-- The greater  
21 force of the wind in  
22 the middle--&  
23 the friction of the shores--& when it blows  
24 hardest--each successive billow (4 or 5  
25 feet apart--or more) is crowned with dirty, white  
26 foam. The wind blows around each side  
27 of the hill.-- the opposite current meeting  
28 perchance--{or}<sup>22</sup> it falls over the hills so  
29 you have a field of ever-varying color.  
30 dark blue--blackish--yellowish--light blue-

---

<sup>21</sup>Drawing extends six lines.

<sup>22</sup>as?

1 & smooth sky-blue--& purpplish--& yellowish  
2 foam all at once-- Sometimes the wind  
3 visibly catches up the surface & blows it  
4 along & about in spray 4 or 5 feet high--  
5 Now and then when the gust increases, there  
6 comes a top of fly-away grass from over the  
7 hill--goes dancing over the waves--& soon is lost.  
8       The {requisites} are high water--mostly clear  
9 of ice--ground bare & sufficiently dry--weather  
10 warm enough--& wind strong & gusty--then  
11 you may sit or stand on a hill & watch  
12 this play of the wind with the water. I know  
13 of no checker board more interesting to watch.  
14 The wind { } the {Gusts}--comb the hair  
15 of the water nymphs. You never tire of  
16 seeing it drop spread & sweep over the yielding  
17 & sensitive surface-- The water is so full  
18 of life--now rising with higher billows--which  
19 would make your mast crack if you had  
20 any--now subsiding into lesser--dashing  
21 against and wearing away the still anchored  
22 ice--setting many small cakes adrift.  
23 How they entertain us with ever changing scenes  
24 --in the sky above or on the earth below--  
25 If the plow-man lean on his plow handle &  
26 look up or down--there is danger that he  
27 will forget his labor on that day.  
28 These are Ripple days begun--(not yet in  
29 woodland brooks where is ice yet)

//

1 //           I see a row of white pines too waving  
2       & reflecting thei{r} silvery light  
3 //       The red-maple sap flows freely--& {first}  
4       was for several days.  
5 //           I began to notice the reddish stems of moss  
6       on low ground--not bright yet--  
7 //           C has seen good beomyces? lately-- There  
8       is none however at beomyces bank-- In Hos-  
9       mers ditch in the moraine Meadow--the  
10 //       grass just peeps above the surface--ap. begun  
11       to grow a little  
12 //           I see on a small round last years turtle  
13       ~~whit~~ with a yellowish spot on each scale--  
14       & a pink-yellow<sup>23</sup> breast centered with black.  
15 //       Also see a yel-spot turtle then  
16               Some of those tufts of andropogon  
17       radical leaves--make excellent seats now  
18       when the earth is moist.  
19               one or 2  
20 //       We see ^ gnats in the air.  
21               See 30 or more crows come flying in  
22       the usual irregular zig zag manner.  
23       in the strong wind frm over M. miles--  
24 //       going N. E. The first migration of them--  
25       without cawing.  
26 //               See a little conferva in ditches  
27               Looking up a narrow ditch in a meadow  
28       I see a modest brown bird flit along it  
29 //       furtively--the first song sparrow & then  
30       Ed. Hoar says he heard one Feb 27th  
31       a light far off on a rock.

---

<sup>23</sup>There is a squiggly line the starts above "pink" and curves down below "yellow" possibly indicating that the words should be transposed.

1 Haden thinks he has seen blue birds for  
2 a fortnight !! says that he has possibly  
3 Ed Hoar says he heard one Feb 27th  
4 for a week? & that will agree with Wheeler-- //  
5 I first hear one March 3d  
6 At Brister<sup>24</sup> spring & esp. below at the cowslip  
7 the {dense bedded} green moss is very pert & handsome //  
8 & the cowslip leaves--though unfolded, rise to the //  
9 surface.  
10 See a little frog in one of the spring holes. //  
11 See a henhawk. //  
12 2 or 3 tufts of carex have shot up in Hosmers cold spring //  
13 ditch--& been frost bitten.  
14 Ed. Hoar says he heard a phoebe Feb 27th //  
15 Mar. 3d  
16 2 pm 50°+ overcast & somewhat rain-threat-  
17 ening. Wind SW--  
18 To Abner Buttrick & Tarbell Hill  
19 See a flock of large ducks in a line  
20 --may be black.? over great meadows-- //  
21 also a few sheldrakes--  
22 It was pleasant to hear the tinkling //  
23 of very coarse brass--broken honeycombed  
24 dark ice--ratling one piece against  
25 another along the NE shores to which  
26 it has drifted  
27 Scarcely any ice now about river except  
28 what rests on the bottom of the meadows. //  
29 dirty with sediment.  
30 The first song sparrows--are very inconspicuous  
31 & sly in the brown earth-- You hear some weeds rustle--or  
32 think you see a mouse run amid the stubble--& then the sparrow  
33 {flies} low and {sings}.

---

<sup>24</sup>"B" written over "b"



1 sleighing ended Feb. 22d & there had not //  
2 been much a long time before.

3 I see one of those grey winged (long & slender)  
4 perla like insects by the water side this Pm //

5 Sunday Mar 4 60

6 2 pm to Conantum via Clam Shell.

7 Therm 44+ very strong & gusty NW wind-- //  
8 with electric looking wind clouds--one spits  
9 a little rain--but mostly clear

10 The frost is all out of the upper part of //  
11 the garden

12 These wind clouds come up s disappear fast  
13 but have a more or less perpendicular fiber.

14 Sit under Lupine promontory again--& see the  
15 ripples. The wind is too strong--the waves run too high  
16 & incessantly--to allow the distinct puffs or gusts  
17 that drop from over the hill to be seen distinctly  
18 enough on the tumutuous surface-- Yet it  
19 is interesting-- It spreads & runs as a bird spreads  
20 its tail suddenly--or it is as if a gust  
21 fell ~~up~~ on a head of dark hair & made  
22 dimples or "crowns" in it.--or it is as when dust  
23 before a brisk sweeper curls along over a floor.

24 There is much less of that yellowish  
25 anchor ice than on the 2d-- Cakes of it successively  
26 rise, being separated by warmth from the bottom  
27 & are driven off to the leeward shore-- In some  
28 places that shore is lined with such cakes  
29 which have risen & been blown clear across the meadow & river very large masses  
30 --now^-- Some portions of them are singularly

1 saturated--of a yellowish--clay color--& an  
2 uneven upper surface--with a finely divided  
3 perpendicular grain looking (in form) just like  
4 some kinds of fungi {drawing} (That commonly yellow-  
5 ish kind) There the smaller pieces of irregular  
6 form {drawing} strike against one another &  
7 make a pleasant musical or  
8 tinkling sound. Some of the ice will oc-  
9 casionally be lifted up on its edge 2 feet high  
10 --very conspicuous afar.

11 That reddish-purple tinge in the meadow  
12 ripples appear to be owing to a reflection in  
13 some coves from the some what russet bottom.

14 // I see some curled dock--just started  
15 The earth is never lighter colored than now  
16 the hill sides reflecting the sun--when first dried  
17 after the winter--esp. methinks where the sheep's  
18 fescue grows (?) It contrasts finely with the  
19 rich blue of the water.

20 I saw half a dozen crows on a cake of ice in  
21 the middle of the great meadows yesterday--evidently  
22 // looking for some favorite food which is washed onto it.  
23 --snails--or cranberries perhaps.

24 I see a bush of the early willow {also} (by wall far  
25 in front of the C. Miles house) whose catkins are  
26 // conspicuous 30 rods off--very decidedly grown--  
27 3/8 inch by measure. The bush at this distance had  
28 quite a silvery look-- & the catkins show some sil-  
29 ver within-- Many of the scales as usual had  
30 fallen.





1 in one year-- Thought it would hardly pay  
2 to shoot them for their fur alone--but  
3 would if you saved river meadow banks  
4 --they undermine them so.

5 So far as the natural history is concerned--you often  
6 have your choice between uninteresting truth, & inter-  
7 esting falsehood.

8 As the ancients talked about "hot & cold  
9 moist & dry" so the moderns talk about "electric"  
10 qualities.

11 As we sat under Lupine Promontory the  
12 other day--watching the ripples that swept  
13 over the flooded meadow--& thinking  
14 what an eligible site that would  
15 be for a cottage-- C. declared that  
16 we did not live in the country--as long  
17 as we lived on that village street &  
18 only took a walks into the fields, any  
19 more than if we lived in Boston  
20 or New York-- We enjoyed none of the  
21 immortal quiet of the country as  
22 we might here, for instance, but  
23 perchance the first sound that we  
24 hear in the morning, instead of the  
25 tinkling of a bird, is your neighbor  
26 hawking & spitting.

27 Our spiraeas have been consid. unfolded for several days //  
28 Ways fairly settled generally. //

1 Mar. 6th--60  
2  
3 // 3 Pm 44+°  
4 Fair & spring like--i.e. rather still  
5 for March--with some raw wind--  
6 pleasant in sun.  
7 Going by Messer's I hear the well  
8 // known note--& see a flock of F. hiemalis  
9 flitting in a lively manner about trees  
10 weeds walks & ground by the roadside.  
11 showing their 2 white tail feathers--  
12 They are more fearless than the song sparrow--  
13 These attract notice by their numbers & incessant  
14 twittering--in a social manner--  
15 The linarias have been the most numer-  
16 // ous birds here the past winter--  
17 Mr Stacy tells me that the flies  
18 // buzzed about him as he was splitting  
19 wood in his yard today.  
20 I can scarcely see a heel of a snow drift  
21 from my window--  
22 Jonas Melvin says he saw hundreds  
23 // of "speckled" turtles out on the banks  
24 today in a voyage to Billerica for mus-  
25 // quash. Also saw gulls--Sheldrakes  
26 & flock ducks are the only ones he has seen  
27 this year-- They are fishing on Flints pond  
28 today--but find it hard to get on & off.  
29 // C. hears the nuthatch  
30 Jonas Melvin says that he shot a sheldrake in the river  
31 // late last December  
32 A still & mild moonlight night & people  
33 walking about the streets

1 Mar 7--60  
2 Frost this am-- Though completely over- //  
3 cast 3 Pm 34+  
4 A little sleety snow falling all day--which //  
5 A sugaring  
6 does not quite cover the ground--  
7 Song sparrow heard through it--not blue-bird.  
8 White maple buds partly opened so as to //  
9 admit light to the stamens, some of them,  
10 yesterday at least.  
11 C. says that he saw a swarm of very small  
12 gnats in the air yesterday. //  
13 Mar 8th 60  
14 2 1/2 Pm 50+° //  
15 To Cliffs & Walden--  
16 See a small flock of grackles on the //  
17 willow row above RR. bridge-- How they sit  
18 & make a business of chattering--for it cannot  
19 be called singing--& no improvement from  
20 age to age perhaps-- Yet as nature is  
21 a becoming, their notes may become melodious  
22 at last. At length on my very near approach  
23 they flit suspiciously away--uttering a .few  
24 subdued notes as they go hurry off--  
25 This is the first flock of black-birds I have  
26 chanced to see--though C saw one the 6th. //  
27 I suspect that I have seen only grackles as yet  
28 I saw in Swansons well by the edge  
29 of the river the other day a dozen frogs--  
30 chiefly shad-frogs which had been dead a

1 good while-- It may be that they  
2 get in to that sort of spring hole in the  
3 fall to hibernate--but for some reason  
4 die--or perhaps they are always jumping  
5 into it in the summer but at that season  
6 are devoured by some animal before they  
7 {infest} the water.

8 Now and for some days I see farmers  
9 walking about their fields knocking to  
10 pieces & distributing the cow dung--left there  
11 in the fall--that so with the {aid} of  
12 the spring rains they fertilize a larger  
13 surface & more equally.

14 To say nothing of fungi--lichens--  
15 mosses & other cryptogamous plants, you  
16 cannot say that vegetation absolutely  
17 ceases at any season in this latitude  
18 For there is grass in some warm exposures  
19 & in springy places, always growing more  
20 or less--& willow catkins expanding  
21 & peeping out a little further every warm day--  
22 beginning from the very beginning of winter--  
23 & the skunk cabbage buds being devel-  
24 oped--& actually flowering sometimes in the  
25 winter--& the sap flowing the maples in  
26 perhaps some grass growing a little (?) certainly some parts--  
27 mid winter in f some days ^ & various natural-  
28 ized garden weeds steadily growing--if  
29 not blooming--& apples buds some-  
30 times expanding-- Thus much of vegetables

1           or motion or growth  
2 life ^ is to be detected every winter--  
3            There is something of spring in all seasons  
4            There is a large class which  
5 is evergreen in its radical leaves--which  
6 make such a show as soon as the snow  
7 goes off, that many take them to be  
8 new growth of the spring.

9            At the pool on the S. side of Hub's grove  
10 I notice that the crowfoot (ie buttercup)  
11 leaves which are at the bottom of the water  
12 stand up--& are much more advanced than  
13 those 2 feet off in the air--for there they  
14 receive warmth from the sun while they are  
15 sheltered from cold winds.

16           Now a days--we separate the warmth  
17 of the sun from the cold of the wind--&  
18 observe that the cold does not pervade  
19 all places--but being due to strong NW  
20 winds--if we get into some sunny & sheltered  
21 nook where they do not penetrate we quite  
22 forget how cold it is elsewhere--

23           In some respects our spring, in its  
24 beginning fluctuates a whole month--  
25 so far as it respects ice & snow--walking  
26 --sleighting &c &c-- For some years winter  
27                            about  
28 may be said to end {~~until~~} the first of March  
29 --and other years it may extend into April.

30           That willow clump by RR at  
31 Walden looks really silvery.

//

1 //           I see there that moles have  
2 worked for several days-- There are  
3 several piles on the grass--some  
4 quite fresh--& some made before the  
5 last rain. One is as wide as a bushel  
6 basket 6 inches high--contains a  
7 peck at least. When I carefully remove  
8 this dirt I cannot see & can scarcely  
9 detect by feeling any<sup>26</sup> ~~hole~~ looseness  
10 in the sod beneath where the mole  
11 came to the surface & discharged all this  
12 dirt. I do feel it, to be sure--but it is  
13 scarcely perceptible to my fingers--  
14 The mole must have filled up this door  
15 way--very densely with earth--perhaps  
16 for its protection.

17           Those small green balls--in the Pouts-  
18 nest--& in the river &c--are evidently the  
19 buds by which the Utricularia Vulgaris  
20 are propagated. I find them attached to  
21 the root as well as adrift.

22           I noticed a very curious phenomenon  
23 in this pond-- It is melted for 2 or 3  
24 rods around the open side--& in many  
25 places partly filled with a very slender  
26 thread-like spike-rush--(ap Eleocharis tenuis?)  
27 which is knotted more or less horizontally  
28 & floating--& is much bleached, being killed.  
29 In this fine matting--I noticed

---

<sup>26</sup>"y" written over a "g"

1                   or even  
2 perfectly straight ^ cuts a rod or more  
3 in length--just as if one had severed  
4 this mass of fine rush matting--with some  
5 exceeding sharp instrument-- How ever you could  
6 not do it with a scythe--though you might  
7 with scissors, if it were {ruled}. It is as if you  
8 were to cover a floor with very fine flaccid grass  
9 & tread it to 1 inch in thickness & then cut  
10 this web straight across.

11           The foot is this floating matting ~~was not~~  
12 (it also rests partly on soft sand) was not  
13 cut at all, but pulled apart on a  
14 straight line producing the exact appearance  
15 of a cut, as if you were to pull a piece  
16 of felt apart by a force on each side--&  
17 yet leave the edge as straight as if it had  
18 been cut. It had been frozen in--& when the  
19 ice cracked--it was in an instant thus  
20 pulled apart--without further disturbing the  
21 relative position of the fibers. I first conjectured  
22 this & then saw the evidence of it--for glancing  
23 my eye along such a cut which ran at right  
24 angles with the shore--I saw that it ~~was~~  
25 exactly correspond at its termination to {an} old  
26 crack in the ice which was still connected  
27 & which continued its course exactly-- This  
28 in the ice had been filled & {cemented} so as  
29 to look like a white {scum}.

30           Would this account for such a crack being continued;  
31 into the meadow itself, as I have noticed?

1 I meet some Indians just camped  
2 on Brister's Hill-- As usual, they are  
3 chiefly concerned to find where black  
4 ash grows, for their baskets-- This  
5 is what they set about to ascertain  
6 as soon as they arrive in any strange  
7 neighborhood.

8 Mar 9th

9 // Snows this Am whitening the ground gain  
10 2 & 3 Pm Therm 41°+  
11 or 4  
12 I have seen 3 ^ pieces of coral in the fields  
13 of Conant--& Mr Pratt has found 3 or 4 on  
14 his farm. How shall they be accounted for?  
15 Who brought them here? & when?

16 These farms shelter more beasts than  
17 oxen & horses-- If you stand awhile in one  
18 of them now--esp. where {grained} is piled--  
19 you will hear ever & anon a rustling in it  
20 made by the mice--which take the barn  
21 to be their home, as much as the house is yours.

22 As I recall it February  
23 & fine  
24 began cold--with some dry ^ driving snow  
25 making those shell shaped drifts behind  
26 walls--& some days after were some {wild}  
27 but low drifts on the meadow ice--

28 I walked admiring the winter-sky &  
29 clouds--

30 After the first week methinks--

1 it was much milder & I noticed that  
2 some sounds--like the tinkling of RR-  
3 {rails}--&c were spring like--indeed the  
4 rest of the month was earine<sup>27</sup>--river  
5 breaking up in part & closing again--& but  
6 little snow.

7 About 8th & 12 the beauty of the ice on  
8 the meadows--partly or slightly rofted was  
9 {intricable}--with the curious figures in it--  
10 & in the coolest evenings the green ice  
11 & rosy isles--of flat drifts--

12 About the 9th noticed the very black water  
13 of some open reaches--in a high wind & cold.

14 About the middle of the month was a moist  
15 lodging snow & the 18 a fine granular one--  
16 making about a foot--(the last-- Then sudden  
17 warm weather & rain--came & dissolve it all at once  
18 & the mts flowing with melted snow shone in the sun.  
19 & the little sleighing was all gone. And from  
20 the 25th to 27th the river generally broke up.

21 March began warm--& I  
22 admired the ripples made by the gusts on  
23 the {dark} {blue} meadow {pond }--& the {light}  
24 tawny color of the earth--and was on the  
25 alert for several days to hear the first birds.  
26 For a few days past it has been generally  
27 & the ground has been whitened with snow 2 or 3 times  
28 colder & rawer^--but it has all been  
29 windy.

30 You incline to walk now along the S  
31 side of hills which will shelter you from the  
32

---

<sup>27</sup>"earine" is derived from the Greek word for "spring."

1 blustering NW & N winds-- The side-  
2 // walks are wet in the morning from the  
3 frost coming out--  
4 // Mar 10th 2 pm about 30+°  
5 // Sunday Mar 11th 2 pm about 40+  
6 blustering  
7 It is cold & ~~raw~~ walking in the wind  
8 though the thermometer is at 40+  
9 i.e though the temperature is this high  
10 the strong & blustering NW winds of March  
11 make this notorious March weather  
12 which is worse to {bear} than some cold  
13 without wind.  
14 The farmers say that there is nothing  
15 equal to the march winds for dry-  
16 ing wood. It will dry more this  
17 month than it has in all the winter  
18 before.  
19 I see a woodchuck out on the  
20 // calm side of Lees Hill (Nawshawtuct)  
21 He has pushed away the withered  
22 leaves which filled his hole & come  
23 forth--& left his tracks in those slight  
24 patches of the recent snow which are  
25 left about his hole.  
26 I was amused with the be-  
27 havior of 2 red squirrels as I approached  
28 the hemlocks. They were as grey as red--  
29 & white beneath-- I at first heard a  
30 faint sharp chirp--like a bird within

1 the hemlock--on my account--& then  
2 one rushed forward on a descending limb  
3 toward me--barking or chirruping at  
4 me after his fashion within a rod.  
5 They seemed to vie with one another  
6 who should be most bold. For 4 or  
7 5 minutes at least they kept up an  
8 incessant chirruping--or squeaking bark--  
9 vibrating their tails & their whole bodies  
10 & frequently chirruping their positions or  
11 point of view--making a show of rushing  
12 forward--or perhaps darting off a few  
13 feet light lightning and barking still  
14 i.e. with a yet sharper exclamation  
15 more loudly ^ as if frightened by their own  
16 motions-- Their whole bodies quivering  
17 --their heads & great eyes on the qui-  
18 {vive}-- You are uncertain whether it  
19 is not half in sport after all.

20 Mar 12th

21 Sleet turning soon to considerable rain-- //  
22 a rainy day-- Therm. about 40+ Yet it  
23 seems a warm rain to walk in--it being  
24 still-- While yesterday--of the same tempe-  
25 rature--with that raw NW wind--was  
26 cold & blustering. It is the wind of March  
27 that makes it unpleasant often & to seem  
28 much colder than it is.

29 Mar. 12 13

30 Quite overcast all day-- Therm. 36+ //

1 Mar 14th 60  
2 2 pm Therm 39+  
3  
4 Overcast with a flurry of snow & a little  
5 rain till 4 1/2 pm--  
6 To Walden & Cliffs--  
7 I am surprised to find Walden almost  
8 entirely open. There is only about an acre  
9 of ice at the SE end N of the Lincoln  
10 drifted there  
11 Pond ^ & a little  
12 bottom of the deep S bay. I may say  
13 %v 17th%  
14 // it opens tomorrow--. I have not observed  
15 %Mar 19th 56 It was 26 inches {thick}!%  
16 it to open before before the 23d of Mar.  
17 // But F. H. Pond has not yet a channel through  
18 it--nor half thro' though it breaks is  
19 wholly {clear} on an average, 2 or 3 days  
20 before Walden. However, it is clear  
21 enough why Walden has broken up  
22 this early this year-- It does not ordi-  
23 narily freeze till near the end of December  
24 (average of 12 {obs}=Dec 25th) while  
25 also it froze over the 25th in 59  
26 F. H. Pond freezes about Dec 2d--  
27 But this past winter our cold weather  
28 {was} mostly confined to Dec.--which was  
29 remarkable for its uniform cold--while  
30 January & February were very open &  
31 pleasant-- So that F. H. Pond having  
32 more than 3 weeks the start--& that being  
33 almost all the cold weather that we  
34 had--froze much the thickest--

1 Walden did not freeze so thick as usual.

2 If we have an average winter up to  
3 Jan. but a particularly warm one after-  
4 ward--Walden will break up early--not  
5 having had any chance to freeze thick--

6 You must look sharp to see if the pond  
7 is wholly clear of ice--standing on the northerly  
8 shore-- I did not detect any--but having as-  
9 cended the peak I saw a field of an acre  
10 which had drifted to the SE corner--beside  
11 some in the deep S. bay--

12 As I stand there I see some dark ripples  
13 already drop & sweep over the surface of the  
14 pond--as they will ere long over Ripple L<sup>28</sup>ake  
15 & other pools in the wood. No sooner  
16 has the ice of Walden melted than  
17 the wind begins to play in dark ripples over  
18 the face of the virgin water-- It is affecting  
19 to see nature so tender however old & wearing  
20 none of the wrinkles of age. Ice dissolved  
21 is the next {moment} as perfect water as  
22 if it had been melted a million years  
23 --to see that which was lately so hard &  
24 immoveable--now so soft & impressible  
25 What if our moods could dissolve thus com-  
26 pletely? It is like a flush of life in a snake  
27 that was dead. It seems as if it must  
28 rejoice in its own newly acquired fluidity--  
29 as it affects the beholder with joy.

---

<sup>28</sup>looks like an "L" over an "l"

1 Often the March winds have no chance  
2 to ripple its face at all.

3 I see on the peak several young Eng-  
4 lish cherry trees 6 or 8 feet high--widely  
5 planted by birds & growing well-- I have  
6 seen a pretty large one {formerly} on F. H.  
7 Hill. If the {stone} falls in a sprout land  
8 like this--they may attain to be sizeable trees.  
9 These grew nearly a foot last year--& look  
10 quite healthy. The bird must have brought  
11 // the stone far to this locality--

12 Every craftsman looks at his own objects with  
13 peculiar eyes-- I thought of this on seeing these  
14 young cherry trees & remembering how I used  
15 to distinguish the erect & {lusty} shoots when  
16 I cultivated a small nursery--for budding.  
17 The eye will mark how much the twigs grew  
18 last year--another the lichen on the trunk.

19 Standing on the Cliff, I see that  
20 the young oaks on the plain beneath  
21 now look thin leaved--showing the upright  
22 gray stems-- The steady March winds  
23 have blown off so many leaves.

24 // The Peterboro Hills are covered with snow  
25 though this neighborhood is bare-- We  
26 thus see winter retreating for some time  
27 after she has left us commonly.

28  
29 I see that the Indians have got  
30 this black ash & made a basket

1 or 2--the large kind-- One a bushel  
2 basket--the rim of white oak--& they  
3 have hung them on the trees, as if to ex-  
4 hibit their wares. May not this size &  
5 style of basket be an Indian invention?

6 Mar 15th 60

7 I hear that there was about 1 acre of  
8 only  
9 ice ^ at the SW corner (by the road) of Flints  
10 Pond on the 13th. It will prob. then open  
11 entirely today with Walden. //

12 Though it is pretty dry & settled travelling  
13 on open roads, it is very muddy still  
14 in some roads through woods--as  
15 the Marlboro road--or 2 Division road.

16 2 Pm to Lees Cliff.

17 Therm 50+° On the whole the first day //  
18 (The therm. was equally high the 3d){%--2--&8--v n. p.%}  
19 yet-- ,^the condition of the earth, considering

20 as well as the temperature<sup>29</sup> of the air.

21 Yet I think I feel the heat as much if not

22 more than I did on the 23d of Feb. when

23 the thermometer rose to 58+°. Is it because

24 there was more snow lying about then?

25 The comparative stillness, as well as the ab-

26 sence of snow--has an effect on our imagi-

27 nations--I have no doubt.

28 Our cold & blustering days this month, thus

29 far--have averaged about 40°+--

30 Here is the 1st fair & at the same time calm &

---

<sup>29</sup>The horizontal line following temperature is not dash. It is a strikeout which represents that the comma is crossed out.

1 warm day-- Looking over my Journal I

2 find that the 1st of Mar was rainy

3                   2    at 2Pm       56+

4                   3                   50

5                   4                   44

6                   5    (prob as low)

7                   6    at 3 pm     44

8                   7    "       "     34

9                   8    2\_ pm       50

10                  9    "       "     41

11                  10                   30

12                  11                   40

13                  12                   40

14                  13                   36

15                  14                   39

16                  15                   50

17 The temperature has been ~~has~~ high on 3 days this

18 month--& on the 3d considerably higher--& yet

19 this has seemed the warmest & most summer-

20 like evidently owing to the calmness & greater

21 absence of snow-- How admirable in our memory

22 lies a calm warm day amid a series of cold

23 & blustering ones!

24                  The 11th was cold & blustering at 40+ today de-

25 lightfully warm & pleasant (being calm)

26 at 50°+

27 //                I see those devils-needle-like larva in

28 the warm pool S of Hub's grove (with 2 tails)

29 swimming about & rising to the top

30                  What a difference it makes whether

1 a pool lies open to the sun or is within  
2 a wood--affecting its breaking up--  
3 This pool has been open at least a week  
4 while that 3 or 4 rods from it--in the woods  
5 is still completely closed--& dead.

6           It is very warm under the south edge of the  
7 wood there--& the ground, as for some time,  
8 (since snow went off) is seen all strewn with  
9 the great white pine cones which have been  
10 blown off during the winter--part of the  
11 great  $\pi$  crop of last fall, of which, ap-  
12 parently as many at least still remain on  
13 the trees.

14           A hen hawk sails away from the wood south-  
15 ward. I get a very far sight of it sailing  
16 over head-- What a perfectly regular & neat  
17 outline it presents--! an easily recognized  
18 figure anywhere-- Yet I never see it  
19 represented in any books. The exact corre-  
20 spondence of the marks on one side to those  
21 on the other--as the black or dark tip  
22 of one wing to the other--& the dark line  
23 mid way the wing. I have no {idea} that  
24 one can get as correct an idea of the  
25 form & color of the undersides of a hen-  
26 hawk's wings by spreading those of a  
27 dead specimen in his study--as by looking  
28 up at a free & living hawk soaring above  
29 him in the fields-- The penalty for ob-

1 taining a petty knowledge thus dishonestly  
2 is that it is less interesting to me  
3 generally as it is less significant.  
4 Some seeing and admiring the neat figure  
5 of the hawk sailing 2 or 3 hundred feet  
6 above their heads--wish to get nearer &  
7 hold it in their hands perchance--not realizing  
8 that they can see it best at this distance--  
9 better now perhaps than ever they will again.  
10 What is an eagle in captivity! screaming  
11 in a courtyard! I am not the wiser re-  
12 specting eagles for having seen one there. I  
13 do not wish to know the length of its en-  
14 trails.

15           How neat & all compact this hawk! Its  
16 wings & body are all one piece--the wings at  
17 the greater part--while its body is a mere  
18 fulness or protuberance between its wings--an  
19 inconspicuous pouch hung there-- It sug-  
20 gests no insatiable maw--no corpulence  
21 but looks like a larger moth--with little  
22 body in proportion to its wings--its body naturally  
23 more etherialized as it soars higher-- <sup>30</sup>

24           These hawks, as usual, began to be  
25 common about the first of march--showing  
26 that they were returning from their winter quarters,

27 //           I see a little ice still under water  
28 on the bottom of the meadows by the Hub.  
29 B. causeway.

---

<sup>30</sup>There are one or two letters crossed out at the end of this line.



1 Mar 16th--60

2 2 Pm Therm. 55+ wind slight W by S  
3 to Abner Buttrick's Hill

4 The butter cup radical leaves are many of them  
5 now a healthy dark green, as if they had acquired  
6 new life-- I notice that such are particularly  
7 downy--& prob. that enables them to endure  
8 the cold so well--like mulleins-- Those & thistles  
9 & shepherd's purse &c have the form of rosettes  
10 on the brown ground.

11 // Here is a flock of red wings-- I heard one  
12 // yesterday--and I see {a} a female among these  
13 These are easily distinguished from grackles by  
14 the richness & clarity of their notes--as if  
15 they were a more developed bird. How handsome  
16 as they go by in a checker each with a bright  
17 scarlet shoulder! They are no so very shy--  
18 but mute when we come near

19 I think here are 4 or 5 grackles with them  
20 which remain when the rest fly. They cover  
21 the apple trees like a black fruit--

22 // The air is full of song-sparrows & blue-birds  
23 today.

24 The minister asked me yesterday-- "What birds are  
25 they that make those little tinkling sounds? I  
26 haven't seen one." Song sparrows.

27 // C. saw a green fly yesterday

28 Saw a flock of shell drakes 100 rod off  
29 on the great meadows--mostly males

1 with a few females--all intent on fishing.  
2 They were coasting along a {spit} of ~~of~~  
3 bare ground that showed itself in the middle  
4 of the meadow--sometimes the whole 12 ap.  
5 in a straight line at nearly equal distances  
6 apart--with each its head under water--  
7 --rapidly coasting along back & forth--&  
8 ever & anon one having caught something would  
9 be pursued by the others. It is remarkable  
10 that they find their finny prey--on the middle  
11 of the meadow now--& even on the very in-  
12 most side, as I afterward saw--though  
13 the water is quite low Of course, as soon as  
14 they are seen on the meadows then are fishes there  
15 to be caught. I never see them fish thus in the  
16 channel. Perhap the fishes lie<sup>31</sup> up there for  
17 warmth already.

18 I also see 2 gulls nearly a mile off--  
19 One stands still & erect for 3/4 of an hour--  
20 or till disturbed, on a little bit of {floated} meadow  
21 crust which rises above the water--just room for  
22 it to stand on--with its great white breast to-  
23 ward the wind-- Then another comes flying past  
24 it, & alights on a similar perch--but which  
25 does not rise quite to the surface--so that it stands  
26 in the water. There they will stand for an hour  
27 at least-- They are not of handsome form  
28 --but look like great wooden images of  
29 birds--bluish slate & white-- But when they

---

<sup>31</sup>"e" in "lie" written over a "g" and tail is crossed out

1 fly they are quite another creature.

2 // The grass is covered with gossamer  
3 %many short webs%  
4 today--though I notice no floating-flocks.

5 This then is a phenomenon of the first warm  
6 & calm day after the ground is bare--

7 // See larks about--though I have heard  
8 of them in the winter.

9 Mar 17--60

10 Pm to Walden & Goose Pond--

11 // Therm 56+ Wind S. gentle--some-  
12 what overcast.

13 // There is still perhaps 1/2 acre of ice at the  
14 bottom of the deep S. bay of Walden--  
15 Also a little at the SE end of Goose P.  
16 Ripple Lake is mostly covered yet.

17 I see a large flock of shelldrakes--which  
18 have probably risen from the pond go over  
19 my head in the woods. A dozen large  
20 & compact birds flying with great force &  
21 rapidity--spying out the land--eyeing every  
22 traveller--fast & far they "steam it" on  
23 clipping winds over field & forest--  
24 meadow & flood--now here & you hear  
25 the whistling of their wings--& in a moment  
26 they are lost in the horizon-- Like swift  
27 propellers of the air. What health  
28 %whichever way they are headed that way their wings propel them%  
29 vigor they suggest! The life of man  
30 seems slow & puny in comparison--reptilian.

31 // The cowslip leaves are now expanded

1           The rabbit & partridge can eat wood--  
2           therefore they abound & can stay here  
3           all the year.  
4           The leaves on the woodland floor are  
5           already getting to be dry. //

6           How handsome a flock of red wings--  
7           ever changing its oval form as it advances  
8           by the rear birds passing the others--  
9   a slate col. one  
10          Was not that a Marsh hawk ^ which I saw  
11          no doubt it was for I see another a brown one the 19th  
12          flying over Walden wood with {long} slender curving  
13          wings--with a diving zig zag flight?

14                                   Sunday Mar 18th  
15  
16          Quite a fog--(after 3 warm days) lasting till 8 am //  
17  
18          2 Pm Therm 56+ Wind S. //

19          but soon changes to SE--making the air  
20          fresh & hazy--& rippling the before smooth  
21          water-- the water is low on the meadows The--  
22          Mantatuket Mead nearly half {bare}.  
23  
24          Go Cold Pool--(J. P. B's)  
25          When we start it is stiller i.e calmer  
26          than the last 2 days--and therefore seems  
27          warmer-- Let there be a strong NW wind  
28          with the thermometer at 40+ at this season  
29          & we still call it cold & blustering; but  
30          let the temperature rise only 10 degrees  
31          or to 50+ & if it is quite fair & calm,  
32          we shall call it a summer day.  
33          The thermometer does not give account of  
34          the wind--but our moods are very obedient  
35          to it.

1           I examine the skunk cabbage now  
2 // generally & abundantly in bloom all  
3 along under Clam Shell. It is a flower  
4 as it were without a leaf. All that you  
5 see is a stout beaked hood just rising  
6 above the dead brown grass in the springy  
7 ground--now where it has felt the heat  
8 under some south bank-- The single  
9 enveloping leaf or "spathe" is all the  
10 flower that you see commonly--& those  
11 are as variously colored--as tulips &  
12 of similar color--from a very dark almost  
13 black mahogany to a light yellow streaked  
14 or freckled with mahogany-- It is a  
15 leaf simply folded around the flower with  
16 its top like a birds beak <sup>abruptly</sup> bent over it--  
17 for its further protection--evidently to keep  
18           with a sharp angle down its back  
19 off wind & frost-- These various colors  
20 are seen close together--& ther beaks  
21 are bent in various directions--  
22           All along under that bank I heard the  
23 // hum of honey bees in the air--attracted  
24 by this flower--especially the hum of one  
25 within a spathe sounds deep & loud. They  
26 circle about the bud at first hesitatingly--then  
27 alight & enter at the open door & crawl over  
28 the spadix--& reappear laden with the yellow  
29 pollen. What a remarkable instinct  
30 it is that leads them to this flower--  
31

1 This bee is said to have been introduced by  
2 the white man--but how much it has  
3 indigenious  
4 learned. This is the only ^ flower in bloom  
5 %Probably the very first alive & wht maple x [days] v 19 & 20%  
6 in this town at present--& probably I and  
7 my companion are the only men who have  
8 detected it this year-- Yet this foreign  
9 fly has left its home probably a  
10 mile off & winged its way to this warm bank  
11 indigenious  
12 to the only ^ flower that has been in flower for a  
13 fortnight past. (Probably the chickweed  
14 & shepherds-purse are of no use to it).  
15 There is but one indigenious flower in bloom  
16 in the town--& has been but one for 16 days past,  
17 and prob this is the only one which the honey bee  
18 can use--. & this has only been detected hither-  
19 -to by the botanist-- Yet this imported  
20 insect knows where to find it--& is sure to  
21 be heard near it. Six weeks hence children  
22 will set forth a-maying & have indifferent  
23 luck-- But the first sunny & warmer day in  
24 March the honey--come forth--stretches its  
25 wings--& goes forth in search of the earliest  
26 flower.  
27  
28 The curled dock has grown the most of any //  
29 plant I have noticed yet-- It had begun the 2d.  
30 Turning over a log--I see a fishworm out. //  
31 also a wire worm //  
32 & plenty of sow-bugs running about & ant-like //  
33 creatures-- Black spiders are more numerous  
34 than before--& it must be they that have

1 shot these webs of late--on all the stubble  
2 & bushes  
3       You see a fly come forth from its hibernaculum  
4 in your yard--stretch its wings in the  
5 sun & set forth on its flowery journey.  
6 You little think that it knows the locality of  
7 early flowers better than you-- You have not  
8 dreamed of them yet. It knows a spot a  
9 mile off under a warm bank side where  
10 the skunk cabbage is in bloom-- No doubt this  
11 flower too has learned to expect its winged visitor  
12 knocking at its door in the spring. The bee  
13 sees their low roofs on the brown & springy  
14 ground.  
15       It is very warm on the sandy slopes of Cam<sup>32</sup> Shell  
16 now-- The buzzing fly describes an unseen arc in  
17                               far off  
18 that cabin air reminding {us} of ^sultry treats to  
19 // come. A brown cicindela (green beneath)  
20 runs on the sand.  
21 //       I see a brown grasshopper also a green one  
22 each about 3/4 inch long hop at a ditch.  
23       C. picks up at Clam Shell--a very thin piece  
24 of pottery--about 1/8 inch thick--which appears  
25 to contain much pounded shell.  
26       See middling sized frogs at Hosmer's {early}  
27 // ditch--brown above whitish beneath--are  
28 they not R. {                }? though neither green  
29 nor yellow. Also a great many similar  
30 colored small ones--which may be male  
31 // sylvaticas

---

<sup>32</sup>The word clam is missing the "l"



1 //           The elm buds are expanded--partly opened--  
2           The first day in March--when {the} ground  
3 {very} bare--the temperature rises to 50°+ &  
4 the weather is clear & calm is a memorable  
5 one-- Is it not commonly a blue-bird day?  
6           On the 16th going behind Flint's the  
7 water on the meadow quite low, I observed this  
8 ~~this~~ portions were clear water (it very calm)  
9 while in other parts the stubble of the sedge  
10 rose just above the surface--& this sedge was  
11 seen thus to grow in rounded patches with  
12 a regular curved edge-- The water being  
13 just at this height you could easily see the boundary  
14 of a particular kind of sedge-- I think that  
15 many kinds of sedge spread in this manner--  
16           The sweet fern grows in large dense more  
17 or less rounded or oval patches in dry land--  
18 You will see 3 or 4 such patches in a single old  
19 field. It is now quite perfect in my old bean-  
20 field.  
21                                   19th  
22 //           Early willows in their silvery state<sup>33</sup>  
23 //           2 pm Therm 51+ wind easterly  
24 blowing slightly--to Everetts Spring.  
25 Going along the turnpike I look over to the  
26 p--pines on Moores Hill side--(Ground bare  
27 as it has been since Feb 23--except a slight  
28 whitening or 2) & it strikes me that this pine  
29 take the year round is the most cheerful

---

<sup>33</sup>This line begins at the left edge of the page in manuscript.

1 tree--& most {living} to look at--& have  
2 about your house--it is so sunny &  
3 full of light--in harmony with the yellow  
4 sand there--& the spring sun-- The deciduous  
5 trees are apparently dead & the white pine is  
6 much darker--but the p. pine has an in-  
7 grained sunniness--& are especially valuable  
8 for imparting warmth to the landscape  
9 at this season. Yet men will take pains  
10 to cut down these trees & set imported  
11 larches in their places! The P. pine shines  
12 in the spring {somewhat} as the osiers do.

13 I see in the ditch by the turnpike bridge  
14 a painted tortoise--& I think a //  
15 small shiner or 2. Also several suckers ?  
16 which swiftly dart out of sight rippling //  
17 the water-- We rejoice to see the waters inhabited  
18 again for a fish has become almost in-  
19 credible.

20 Myriads of water-bugs of various sizes  
21 are now gyrating--& they reflect the sun  
22 like silver. Why do they cast a double  
23 orbicular shadow on the bottom? {drawing}  
24 {drawing} I see some monstrous  
25 yel--lily roots in the ditch there just  
26 beyond the bridge on the right hand-- Great  
27 branching roots--3 or 4 of them from over  
28 here--2 feet long (or more) and as big  
29 as my arm--all covered with muddy

1 sediment. I know of no herbaceous  
2 plant which suggests so much vigor.  
3 They taper at the extremity down (or up)  
4 to the green leaf bud--and regularly  
5 marked as they are with the bases of the  
6 leaf stalks they look like pine apples  
7 there {drawing} Holding by an alder--  
8 I get my hand covered with those  
9 // whitsh lice which I suppose will cover them-  
10 selves with down.  
11 // The Rana halecina sits on the bank  
12 there  
13 prob. yesterday in some places  
14 // The alnus incana is out{x}^ near Everetts spring  
15 But not the a. serrulata (ie the smaller one)  
16 which grows S of scouring rush.  
17 The plants which have grown the most  
18 there--& they are very conspicuous now--are  
19 %much more than any bulbosus%  
20 // the forget me not--the ranunculus repens--  
21 & a common sedge--which already begins  
22 (just fairly begun  
23 // to yellow the tip of some tussocks {drawing} at Heywood Meadow  
24 the 25th)  
25 The lower part of the hill at Minotts  
26 // is decidedly green now--  
27 // The road & paths are perfectly dry &  
28 rutted in the village excep a very little  
29 frost still coming out on the S side the street.  
30 Mar 20th  
31 // Worm piles in door yard this am.  
32 // A foggy morning--turns to some April-like rain  
33 %after {E wind} of yesterday%  
34 H. Buttrick says he saw & heard wood cocks



1 I see where some one has lately killed a  
2 // striped snake.  
3 The white maple by the bridge is abundantly  
4 out--& { }<sup>34</sup> of course did not open this  
5 // {rainy} day-- Yesterday, at least, it began--  
6 I observed on the 18th a swarm of  
7 those larger--tipulidae or fuzzy gnats  
8 dancing on a <sup>warm</sup> ^ sproutland about 3 feet above  
9 a very large white pine stump--which  
10 had been sawed off quite smoothly--& was  
11 conspicuous-- They kept up their dance  
12 directly over this--only swaying {2} & fro  
13 slightly--but always recovering their position  
14 over it. This afternoon--in the sprinkling  
15 rain I see a very small swarm of the same  
16 kind--dancing in like manner in a garden  
17 only a foot above the ground but directly  
18 over a bright tin dish--(ap. a mustard  
19 box)--& I suspect that they select some  
20 such conspicuous fixed point on the ground  
21 over which to hover & by which to keep their  
22 place. finding it for their convenience to  
23 keep the same place. These gyrate in  
24 the air as water bugs on the water. <sup>%{for same v. Mar 10--59}%</sup> %^%  
25  
26  
27 Methinks this gentle rainy day--reminds me  
28 more of summer--than the warmest fair  
29 day would.  
30 H. Buttrick said today that the black  
31 ducks come when the grass begins to

---

<sup>34</sup>2 letters crossed out

1 grow in the meadows--i.e. in the water.

2 Perhaps calm weather & thermometer of  
3 about 50+ the frost being commonly out &  
4 ground bare maybe {ended}--an April-like rain.

5 The 15--16--17--18--&19 were very pleasant  
6 warm days The therm standing at 50°--55°  
7 (av. 53 1/2°)  
8 --55°--56°--^51° quite a spell of warm //

9 weather (succeeding to cold & blustering)  
10 in which the alders & white maples, as  
11 well as many more skunk cabbages bloomed--  
12 & the hazel catkins became relaxed & elon-  
13 gated--

14 H. Buttrick says he has seen ground squirrels //  
15 some time I hear that the 1st alewives  
16 have been caught in the Acushnet River //

17 Our own mistakes often reveal to us the  
18 true color of objects--better than a conscious  
19 discrimination-- Coming up the street the  
20 at first  
21 other Pm I thought that I saw a {-smoke}  
22 in Mr. Cheneys garden-- It was his white tool  
23 house.

24 Mar 21--60  
25 Colder--& overcast  
26 Did not look at Therm. Prob. not far from 40°  
27 22  
28 Colder yet--& a whitening of snow--  
29 some of it in the form of pellets--like //  
30 my pellet frost! but melts about as fast

1 F. H. P was seen entirely open the 20 th (I saw it the 15 & thought it would open in  
2 4 or 5 days-- The channel  
3 was not then open) say them 20°--channel open say 17  
4 as it falls--at 4 Pm 28+ prob about  
5 30 at 2 pm.--  
6 The phenomena, of an average March<sup>35</sup>  
7 are increasing warmth melting the  
8 snow & ice--& gradually, the frost  
9 in the ground.  
10 Cold & blustering weather--with high  
11 commonly N. W. winds for many days together.  
12 & other  
13 Misty ^ Rains taking out frost--& Whitenings  
14 often  
15 of snow--& winter, occasionally back  
16 again both its cold & snow--  
17 Bare ground & open waters & perchance  
18 more or less of a freshet--  
19 calm & pleasant  
20 Some days of reminding us of summer--  
21 {&}  
22 with a blue haze or a thicker mist  
23 wreathing the woods at last--in which  
24 awhile  
25 perchance we take off our coats^--& sit  
26 without a fire a day--  
27 Ways getting settled--& some greennes  
28 appearing on S Bank--  
29 April-like rains, after the frost is chiefly  
30 out.  
31 Plowing & planting of peas &c just beginning--  
32 & the old leaves getting dry in the woods  
33 or v {s crop} General Phenomena  
34 Vegetation fairly begins--Conferva  
35 grass & carex  
36 & mosses ^ &c & gradually many herba early herbaceous  
37 {& I noticed} rad. leaves  
38 plants start--^stellaria media & shepherds  
39 purse bloom--maple & button wood {sap} {6}  
40 cladonia flush & beomyces handsome {7}  
41 flow--Spiraeas start--^willow catkins become

---

<sup>35</sup>There should actually be a triple-underline beneath these two words.

1	(General phenomena for March)		<u>1st consid. rain taking out frost</u> 12
2	Sleighbg ends 1st		ways getting rutted in village 13
3	just over mt W side of cut		<u>gusts {wave} meadow {flood}</u>
4	<u>Icicles and trees</u> to bridge		3 inch or more of snow after bare 14 ground
5	Ice softens & skating ends 2d		River highest for march
6	organ pipe ice now {seen}		<del>gusts ripple meadow flood</del>
7	& meadow crust noticed		? (Rain bow--)
8	<u>Melting snow sinks</u> under you 3 <sup>36</sup>		Ice all out river {proper} & meadow 15 ( <u>except ground ice</u> )
9	Last glaze 4 5 <sup>37</sup>		
10	v {19 ps} forward		{Thin ice of night fills river in morning}
11	{ <del>very</del> } wet & muddy walking 5		Launch boar 16
12	notice ripples in ruts 4		<del>mts still covered with snow</del>
13	& <u>New ravines</u>		1st wind that shakes {house} 17
14	Snow {chiefly} gone 6		mts still covered with snow
15	( <u>Brown season begins</u> )		{Light} {on} {having} {pines}
16	Misty rain & moist brown earth 7		<u>Frozen side-walks melt in morning</u>
17	Beomyces handsome		Dry <u>scent of leaves</u> 18
18	arrowheads--& {lycopodon} <sup>38</sup> {or}		1st really warm day 19
19	<u>River ice mackerelled</u>		Wear but one coat
20	Dust blown over fields 8		{wreck left on shore}
21	Cold & blustering days		Thunder
22	<u>Severe cold</u>		1st <u>spring</u> cranberries--
23	Lightning 9		Dark {waved} <u>spring clouds</u> 21
24	A {dark} night (?)		<u>channel thro' F H. P.</u> 23
25	River opens 10		Blustering day 24
26	Morning frosts on {grass}		Icicles at causeways
27	<u>Earth begins to be drier</u> 10		River lowest for March 25
28	1st consid haze in Mar 11		Severe cold
29	Walden melts on edge 12		<u>River skims over along side</u>
30	Notice color of water		1st thick haze concealing <u>mts</u> 26
31	Whitenings of snow		Frost out of garden
32	<u>General Phenomena</u> for		<u>Plowing begins</u>
33		March	April-like rain (after frost 27 most out)
34			Sit without {fire} today {?} 28
35			<del>Plowing begins</del>
36			Pellet frost or snow 29
37			<u>F. H.P. open</u>
38			Fires in woods begin 30
39			<u>Burns brush</u> 30
40			Highways begin to be dusty 31
41			{Heels of snow to be seen}
42			

<sup>36</sup>On lines that include a number at the end to indicate the date, I tabbed once between the end of the line and the number. bf

<sup>37</sup>Thoreau makes notes in the margin to transpose notes from 4th and 5th (line 9 with lines 11-13). He also sets off lines 16-19 and 20 but apparently changes his mind--there are slash marks through the brackets.

<sup>38</sup>There is a moss called lycopodium.

1 Some native birds<sup>39</sup>  
2 {report}  
3 Buntings-- { }  
4 shrike?--  
  
5 birds  
6 plants  
7 Quadrupeds  
8 Reptiles  
9 fishes &c  
10 {Insects &c}  
  
11 1 {spider- }  
12 { grass--}  
13 {appears}  
14 gnats & {ants}  
15 2--flies buzz  
16 {gyrinus} 2  
17 {skater}  
18 spiders {native}  
19 bee  
20 { }  
21 Larvae  
22 2 large grass hopper  
23 {small ants}  
24 cicindela  
25 small {reddish}  
26 {butterflies}

27

---

<sup>39</sup>This list is written in very small type and is inserted into the journal upside-down.

1 aspens {—————}<sup>40</sup> downy  
 2 lively<sup>^</sup>--osiers &c look bright--white maple  
 3 oak woods thin leaved  
 4 & elm buds expand<sup>^</sup>.<sup>#†</sup> & open--alder & hazel  
  
 5 catkins become relaxed & elongated {—————}<sup>42</sup> spring rye--wheat lettuce  
 6 1st perceptible greenness on S. banks 22 plant peas on 26<sup>^</sup> Red-  
 7 The skunk cabbage begins to bloom (23)<sup>^43</sup>  
 8 -maple swamps red tinged (?) 28-9 lake grass  
 9 & perchance the gooseberry & lilac begin to show a little  
  
 10 green-- I. e. one indigenous native flower  
 11 blooms. (V. {if} the early sedge does--)  
  
 12 About 29 migratory birds arrive (including  
 13 hawks & crows) & 2 or 3 more utter their  
 14 & sounds. As nuthatch & chickadee-turkeys & woodpecker tapping  
 15 spring notes<sup>^</sup>-- While ap. the snow bunting--  
  
 16 lesser red poll--shrike--(& doubtless several more,  
 17 & woodcocks & hawks  
 18 (as owls--cross-bills?) leave us). begin today.  
  
 19 Many insects & worms come forth and are  
 20 --& The perla insects still about ice & water  
 21 active--<sup>^</sup>as Tipula-grubs--& fuzzy caterpillars  
  
 22 minute-hoppers on grass at springs-- Gnats large & small  
 23 dance in air--the common & the green fly--  
  
 24 buzz outdoors--the ~~2-kin~~ {gyrinus} large & small  
 25 & at last  
 26 on brooks--&c--& skaters--spiders shoot their webs<sup>^</sup>--  
  
 27 the honey bee visits ~~flowers~~ the skunk cabbage- Fish  
 28 sow bugs--wire worms {&c}  
 29 worms come up<sup>^</sup>--various larvae are seen in pools--  
 30 also  
 31 Small green & brown grasshoppers begin to hop--  
 32 vanessa antiopa Out 29--  
 33 small ants to stir (25)<sup>^44</sup> {cicindelas} run on road--&  
 34 small reddish butterflis are over in wood path{s}.  
 35 &c &c &c  
  
 36 Skunks are active & frolic--woodchucks &  
 37 ground squirrels come forth--moles root--musquash  
 38 & sometimes erect a new house  
 39 are commonly {drowned} out--& shot<sup>^</sup>-- & at length are {smelled}--  
  
 40 & Foxes have young (?)

---

<sup>40</sup>scratched-out word

<sup>41</sup>period with a strikethrough (not a dash)

<sup>42</sup>scratched-out word

<sup>43</sup>There is a line that runs from the caret to the inserted text.

<sup>44</sup>There is a line that runs from the caret to the inserted text.

1 As for Fishes &c.--Trout {glance} in the brooks  
 2 Brook-minnows are seen. See furrows in sandy  
 3 bottoms & small shell snails copulate-- Dead-  
 4 suckers &c are seen floating in meadows-- Pickerel  
 5 & perch are running up brooks--& suckers (24)  
 6 and pickerel begin to dart in shallows

7 And for reptiles--not only salamanders  
 8 & polywogs are more commonly seen--& also  
 9 those little frogs (sylvatica {m}ales?) at spring holes  
 10 & wood-turtle--  
 11 & ditches-- The yel. spot turtle<sup>45</sup>--Rana fontinalis &  
 12 painted tortoise come forth--& the rana  
 13 sylvatica croaks.

15 {Our} River opened in

16 50-51	51-52	52-53	53-54	54-55
17 <u>Much</u> before Feb 25	Mar. 14th at least	say Mar 8 at least	say Mar 9th	<del>Mar 4th</del>
18 opened				Mar 5
19 Hudson River ^ ac.	to Pat. Off. Rep: 54 -	p 435		
20 Feb. 25	Mar 28	Mar 23	Mar 17	Mar 16
21 Ac. to which our river opens some 11 days	the			
22 soonest-- Perhaps this is owing partly to	the			
23 fact that our river is nearer the Ocean--& that				
24 it { <u>rises</u> } southward--instead of northward.				

25  
 26 46

---

<sup>45</sup>There is a curved line that leads left to the inserted text from the tip of the caret.

<sup>46</sup>Vertical lines from chart extend to the bottom of the page.

1 Pat. of. Report. 53 p 332 (av. 26 years)

2 Average temperature at Boston

3										9	10	
4	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Ap.	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
5	27.8	27.9	36.2	46.4	56.5	66.2	71.6	69.4	62.2	51.5	41.	31.1
6	Spring	Sum	Autu	Winter	The year							
7		mer	mn.									
8	46.3	69.1	51.6	28.9	48.9							

---

9 {S. C.} Gray at Cam.

10 Pat. off. Rep. 54 p 427 Rain fall at

11 Cambridge Mass frm May, 47 to May, 48

12 which I have {\} inch & {decimals}

13 copied frm the Am. almanac^--p 84

14 (V. Mar. 24 {in} 6 ps forward)

15	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Ap.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep	Oct	Nov.	Dec	Whole
16	2.888	4.	2.500	1.2	1.938	5.491	2.517	5.215	6.536	1.444	4.94	4.37	43.049

17 v also p 428 for comp. temperature of Eng. & Salem.<sup>47</sup>

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18 Pat. Off. Rep. for 55 p 375 mean temperature

19 At Amherst Mass

20	i54Jan	Feb.	Ma	Ap.	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct.	Nov.	Dec	Annual
21									%27%			22	
22	22.36	21.97	30.47	43.07	57.27	66.80	74.23	68.80	63.27	51.51	39.82	22.23	46.81
23	27.72	19.88	31.53	43.83	56.63	64.84	71.22	65.75	60.19	49.61	38.49	28.12	46.48

---

24 Adding the 3 lines I get & dividing by 3

25	77.88	69.75	98.20	33.30	170.40	197.84	217.05	203.95	185.66	152.62	119.31	181.45	142.19
26	25.96	23.25	32.73	44.43	56.80	65.95	72.35	67.98	61.89	50.87	39.77	27.15	47.40

27 in order of cold they stand

28

29 V Am. Almanac

30	2	1	4	6	8	10	12	11	9	7	5	3	{p} 49. P 84
31													{&}86-{\&}87

32 or the 3 lines taken separately stand in order of cold thus

33	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	11	9	7	5	3	Boston av.
34													of 20 yrs
35	3	1	4	6	8	10	12	11	9	7	5	2	Amherst 1854
36													
37	2	1	4	6	8	10	12	11	9	7	5	3	Amherst 1855
38													

---

39 { M.} The successive increase of degrees of heat

40 8.48<sup>48</sup> 11.70 12.37 9.15 6.4

41 Decrease<sup>49</sup>

42 2.71 4.37 6.09 11.02 11.10 12.62 1.19

<sup>47</sup>There is a slash mark running through this section.

<sup>48</sup>Thoreau's math seems to be mistaken here. The average February temperature (23.25) subtracted from the average March temperature(32.73) is 9.48 as opposed to 8.48.

<sup>49</sup>There is a horizontal line drawn between lines 40 and 41 but it is unclear from the photocopy how far it extends.

1                    --18-60        &        19<sup>50</sup>

2                    --({    } 29 xxx 59)

3

4                    --2060

---

<sup>50</sup>This insertion indecipherable without access to original.

1 Mar 23d--60  
2 2 pm 40+° rather windy-  
3 Small dark-based cumuli spring clouds  
4 mostly in rows parrallel with the horizon  
5 I see one field which was plowed be-  
6 fore the 18th & spring rye sowed--the  
7 (Some fields might have been plowed earlier but the ground was too wet)  
8 earlier the better they say--^  
9 Farmer says that some 50 years ago he  
10 plowed & sowed wheat in January & never  
11 had so good a crop.  
12 I hear that Coombs has killed half a  
13 dozen ducks--one of them a large gray duck  
14 in Goose pond-- He tells me it weighed 5 1/2 lbs., while his black  
15 ducks weigh only 3 1/2--& was larger than a shelldrake-& very  
16 good to eat-- Simply gray--& was alone & had a {broad} flat  
17 bill. Was it the Gad-wall? or a kind of goose?  
18 <sup>51</sup>It will be seen by the annexed {scrap}  
19 that March is the 4th coldest month  
20 The same appears for the 15 years {obs} at {Mendon} (Am. almanac  
21 or about midway between Dec. & November^-- p.86  
22 The descent to extreme cold occuppies 7 months  
23 (though a part of it is more {rapid})  
24 & is therefore more gradual than the ascent to  
25 extreme heat which takes only 5 months.

---

<sup>51</sup>several blank lines between previous line and this one, about 1/4 of page blank

1 mean  
2 The ^ average temperature of the coldest  
3 32.73 = Mar.  
4 month (Feb.) being 23.25 & of the warmest  
5 (July), being 72.35 this whole ascent from ex-  
6 treme cold to extreme heat is 49.10° &  
7 a little less than  
8 in march we have accomplished 8.48° or ~~about~~  
9 ac to the Mendon 15 yrs Av the whole ascent is 47.5  
10 1/6 the ascent & in Mar. we have advanced 9.2 or little more than 1/5<sup>52</sup>

11 It appears (frm the scrap) that Dec.  
12 the 3 winter months  
13 Jan. & Feb. ^ differ very little in temperature  
14 and the 3 summer months & September are  
15 next most alike, though they differ con-  
16 siderably more- (Same from Mendon table)

17  
18 The greatest or abruptest change is from  
19 (In Mendon tables from Sep. to Oct.)  
20 Nov. to Dec. ^ the next most abrupt from  
21 (in Mendon table from Mar. to April)  
22 April to May.

23 The least change (ac. to the above tables) is  
24 ac. to Mendon tables the same from Dec to Jan--  
25 from Dec to Jan. as from Jan to Feb.<sup>53</sup>

26 The 3 spring months & also Oct & Nov. are  
27 transition months, in which the temperature  
28 rapidly changes.

29 Mar 24--60

30 Cold & rather blustering again with  
31 flurries of snow--

32 The boatman, when the {chain} of his  
33 boat has been broken with a stone by  
34 some scamp, and he cannot easily  
35 transport his boat to the blacksmiths  
36 to have it mended, gets the latter

---

<sup>52</sup>There is a bracket around lines 9 and 10. The left bracket begins after the word "ascent" in line 10 (at ac/&).

<sup>53</sup>There is a box around this insertion



1 // 5 large dark colored ducks prob. black  
2 ducks--far away on the meadow--with  
3 heads erect necks stretched--on the  
4 alert--only one in water--Indeed there  
5 is very little water on the meadows--  
6 For length of neck--those most {wary} look  
7 much like geese-- They appear quite large  
8 & heavy-- They probably find some sweet grass  
9 &c where the water has just receded--  
10       There are half a dozen gulls on  
11 the water near-- They are the large white  
12 birds of the meadow--the whitest we  
13 have-- As they so commonly stand above water  
14 on a piece of meadow they are so much  
15 the more conspicuous-- They are very con-  
16                   a mile off, or  
17 spicuous to my naked eye ^ as soon as I  
18 come in sight of the meadow--but I  
19 do not detect the shelldrakes around  
20 them till I use my glass--for the latter  
21 are not only less {conspicuously} white--  
22 but as they are fishing sink very low  
23 in the water-- Three of the gulls stand  
24 together on a piece of meadow & 2 or  
25 3 more are standing solitary half immersed--  
26 & now & then one or 2 circle slowly  
27 about their companions  
28       The shelldrakes appear to be the most  
29 native to the river--briskly moving along  
30 up & down the sides of the stream

1 or the meadow 3/4 immersed--& with heads  
2 under water--like cutters collecting the  
3 revenue of the river bogs--or like {pirate}  
4 crafts peculiar to the stream-- They came  
5 the earliest & seem to be most at home.

6 The water is so low that all these  
7 birds are collected near the {Holt},  
8 the inhabitants of the village--{poultry } fanciers  
9 perchance though they be--these active &  
10 vigorous wild fowl (the shelldrakes) pur-  
11 suing their {finny} prey ceaselessly within  
12 a mile of them--in March & April--  
13 probably from the henyard fence with a good  
14 glass you can see them at it. They are as much  
15 at home on the water as the pickerel  
16 Their {serrated} bill reminds me of a pickerel's snout  
17 is within it. ^ You see a long row--  
18 of these schooners black above with  
19 a white stripe beneath--rapidly gliding  
20 along--& occasionally one rises erect on  
21 the surface & flaps its wings--showing  
22 its white lower parts-- They are the duck  
23 most common & most identified with  
24 the stream at this season-- They appear  
25 to get their food wholly within the water--  
26 Less like our domestic ducks.

27 I saw 2 red squirrels in an apple tree  
28 which were rather small--had simply the  
29 tops of their backs red--& the sides & be-  
30 neath grey!

1 // Fox colored--sparrows go flitting past  
 2 with a faint sharp chirp--amid some oaks  
 3 Ac. to a table, in the Am. Almanac for  
 4 p 84  
 5 49, made at Cambridge, from  
 6 May '47 to May 48 the monthly mean  
 7 force of the wind for the 12 months (I putting  
 8 Jan Feb. Mar. & April 48 before May &c  
 9 of 47) {-}<sup>55</sup> numbering them ~~from~~ 1.2.3 &c  
 10 from the highest force ~~upward~~ downward--  
 11 was

12			48					47				
13	Jan	Feb	Mar.	Ap.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec <sup>56</sup>
14	6	5	3	3	3	2	1	4	4	6	5	4
15												
16	4	9	7	10	7	5	8	6	3	11	2	1
17												
18	7	6	9	12	10	2	8	3	1	11	4	5 <sup>57</sup>

19 I. e. from force of wind Mar. Ap. & May were  
 20 equal & were inferior to July & June--  
 21 For quantity of clouds Mar. & May were  
 22 equal & were preceded by Dec. Nov. Sep. Jan.  
 23 June & Aug.

24 For Depth of rain Sep stood first  
 25 & Mar 9th succeeded only by May. Oct. & April.

26 The wind's force was observed {at} Sun-  
 27 rise--9 am--3 pm--& 9 pm & in Mar. the greatest  
 28 force was at 3 pm & the least at 9pm  
 29

---

<sup>55</sup>crossed out letter

<sup>56</sup>There is an arc drawn from January to April and another from May to December.

<sup>57</sup>There are vertical lines separating the columns in this table.

1           So far the whole year the greatest force was  
 2 at 3 pm--but the least at sunrise & 9 Pm  
 3 both alike--

4           The clouds were observed at the same time & in  
 5 Mar. there was the greatest quantity at 9 Pm  
 6 & the least at sunrise--but for the year the  
 7 greatest quantity at 3 Pm--s the least at  
 8 sunrise & 9 am alike--

9           At Mendon Mass for the whole year  
 10 1847 alone (i.e a different Jan. Feb. Mar. and Ap.  
 11 from the last) it stood for Force of wind

12	Jan	Feb	Mar	Ap	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov.	Dec. <sup>58</sup>
13	3	5	3	1	4	1	3	2	3	2	3	3
14						For clouds						
15	5	1	6	8	7	9	11	8	3	10	4	2

16 Ac to which for force of wind Mar. July, Sep  
 17 Nov. & Dec. were equal & were inferior to  
 18 April June Aug. & Oct.  
 19 & for clouds Mar. was 6th

20           The winds force for March was greatest  
 21 at 9 am & 3 pm which were equal

22           But for the year greatest at 9 am & least  
 23 ~~at 9 pm~~ sunrise.

24           For march there was the greatest quantity of  
 25 clouds at 9 am. but for the years at both  
 26 sunrise & 9 am.

27           In the last table 8 points of the wind were noticed.  
 28 viz NW, N, NE. E. SE. S. SW. W.

---

<sup>58</sup>Vertical lines separate the columns of the chart. They extend through line 16.

1           During the year the wind was SW 130 days  
2   NW. 87 NE 59 S 33 W 29 E 14 SE 10  
3   N 3 days  
4   In Mar--it was NW 9 days--SW 8--NE 5.--S 4--W  
5   3--N. 2  
6                           Mar. 25--60  
7           Cold & blustering--2 Pm 35+  
8           to Well Meadow & Walden-  
9 //       See first cloudy dust in street  
10         One early willow on RR--near cow catcher  
11 //     just sheds pollen from one another ~~xxxx~~ but  
12     prob. might find another more forward x<sup>59</sup>  
13         I notice on hill side in Stow's wood-  
14     lot on the W. of the cut what looks like  
15                         semi  
16     a rope or hollow ^ cylinder of saw dust  
17     around a large white pine stump just  
18     over its instep-- There are 2 or 3 mouse  
19     holes between the {prongs} & the mice  
20     have evidently {had} a gallery through  
21     this dust-- Much of it is very {crude}  
22     & fibry--fibres of wood an inch or more  
23     long mixed with {pines}-- This is prob.  
24     the work of the mice in the winter in the  
25     roots below--making room for them-  
26     selves-- Some of the fine dust is formed  
27     into a pellet 1/4 of an inch wide &  
28     flat--of a regular form {drawing} half  
29     If not so large you might think they had passed through the {creature}  
30     as thick as wide--^ The ring of

---

<sup>59</sup>It is possible that there is no "x" but that T began another letter after the "d" in forward and crossed it out.

1 this dust-{chewings} is not more than  
2 2 inches wide & yet it is a hollow semi-  
3 cylinder--more or less regular-- I think  
4 that I can explain it thus. The mice-  
5 of course deer mice--had a gallery  
6 in the snow around the stump from hole  
7 to hole. When they began to gnaw away the  
8 stump underground--they brought up their  
9 gnawings-& of course had no place  
10 to cast them but in the gallery--through  
11 which they ran-- Can it be that they  
12 eat any of this wood? The gnawings & dust  
13 {are} abundant & fresh--while that made  
14 by worms under the bark was old & dirty  
15 & could not have been washed into this  
16 position--though some of it might have  
17 been made by worms beneath the  
18 ground.

19 At Well Meadow I notice--as usual  
20 that the common cress has been eaten  
21 down close & the uncertain coarse  
22 sedge--there &c

23 The skunk cabbage leaf buds have  
24 just begun to appear--but not //  
25 yet any {hellebore}<sup>60</sup> //

26 The senecio is considerably grown //  
27 & I see many little purplish rosettes  
28 of viola pedata leaves in sandy paths //  
29 well grown-

---

<sup>60</sup>The proper spelling is "hellebore."

1           One Caltha palustris flower ~~wh~~  
2    just on the surface of the water  
3                        None out at 2d Div. Brook  
4 // is perfectly out xx ^ the next day or 26th.  
5            See no ducks on F. H. P.--but  
6    sailing over it--& at length hovering  
7    very long in one place, with head stretched  
8 // downward a fish-hawk  
9            It is hard descending steep N. hill-sides  
10 as yet because the ground is yet frozen  
11 there & you cannot get a hold by sinking  
12 your heels into it.  
13            The grass is dense & green as ever--& the  
14 caltha bloom in {sheltered} springy places--  
15 being protected from frosts in the night prob.  
16 by a vapor arising from the warm water.  
17                        flood is  
18            Though the meadows ~~are~~ low methinks  
19 they must be covered with a sweet grass  
20 which has lately {grown} under water (parts of  
21 them at least) so much the more ac-  
22 cessible to such ducks as feed on shore  
23 prob many ducks as well as geese do  
24 feed on shore in the night.  
25            Windy as it is--you get along com-  
26 fortably enough in the woods--&. see  
27 the chill-lills & cinnamon & ~~tree~~ sparrows  
28 flitting along frm bush to bush--  
29 Methought on the 18th a warm day--  
30 that the chill-lills & tree sparrows  
31                                yet  
32 haunted rather the shaded & ^ snowy

1 hollows in the woods-- The deep {source}  
2 30 rods behind where I used to live is mostly  
3 covered with ice yet--but no doubt such //  
4 are generally open now--(ripple lake e. g.)  
5 To speak of the General phenomena  
6 a tolerably calm clear sunny spring-like day  
7 of March-- When Mar.{arrives} the snow is  
8 so far gone that sleighing ends--& our com-  
9 passion is excited by the sight of horses laboriously  
10 dragging wheeled vehicles through mud & water  
11 We shall no longer {hear} the jingling of sleigh bells  
12 & slush-- ^ The sleigh is housed--or perchance  
13 converted {into} a wheeled vehicle by the travelling  
14 pedlar caught far from home-- The wood  
15 sled is perhaps abandoned by the roadside--  
16 where the snow ended--with 2 sticks put  
17 under its runners--these to rest it may be  
18 while the grass springs up green around it--  
19 till another winter comes round-- It may  
20 be near where the wagon of the careless  
21 Dec.  
22 farmer was left last ~~fall~~ on account of  
23 the drifted snow-- As march approaches  
24 at least, pedlars will do well to  
25 travel with wheels slung under their  
26 sleigh{s}--ready to convert their slights  
27 {into} wheeled vehicles at an ~~moment~~ hour's  
28 warning.  
29  
30 Even the boys sled gets put away by de-  
31 or {when} it is {found} to be in the way  
32 gres-^& his thoughts are directed gradually  
33 to more earthy} games-- There are now  
34 water privileges for him by every road-side

1 The prudent farmer has teamed home,  
2 or to market, his last load of wood from  
3 the lot--nor left that which was corded  
4 a year ago to be consumed by the worms  
5 & the weather. He will not have to sell  
6 next winter oak wood rotted an inch deep  
7 all round--at a reduction in the price--  
8 if he deals with knowing customers--  
9         He has hauled his last logs to mill--  
10 No more shall we see the sled-track shine--  
11 or hear the sled squeak along it--  
12         The boys sled gets put away--in the barn  
13 or shed or garret & there lies dormant  
14 all summer--like a woodchuck in the winter  
15 It goes into its burrow just before woodchucks  
16 come out-- So that you may say a wood-  
17 chuck never sees a sled--nor a sled a wood-  
18 chuck--(unless it were a prematurely risen  
19 wood chuck--or a belated & unseasonable  
20 sled.) Before the woodchuck comes out  
21 the sled goes in-- They dwell at the antip-  
22         Before sleds rise wood chucks have set  
23 odes of ~~meach~~ each other. ^ The ground squirrel too  
24 shares the privileges & misfortunes of the  
25         The {sun}{now} passes from the constellation of  
26 woodchuck-- the sled {into} that of the wood chuck.  
27         The snow plow too has now nothing  
28 more to do but to dry-rot against another  
29 winter--like a thing whose use is forgotten.  
30 --inaudible to the beholder-- Its vocation  
31 gone--  
32

1           I often meet with the wood sled by the  
2 path--carefully set up on 2 sticks  
3 & with a chip under the {cop}--to prevent  
4 its getting set--as if the woodman ~~were~~  
5 had waited only for another snow-storm  
6 to start it again--little thinking that  
7 he had had his allowance for the year  
8 And there it rests--like many a human  
9 enterprise post-poned--sunk further than  
10 he thought into the earth after all--its  
11 runners ~~rath~~ by which it was to slide along  
12 so glibly--rotting--& its iron work rusting.  
13 You question if it will ever start again.

14           If we must stop, says the schemer--leave  
15 the enterprise so that we can start again  
16 under the best possible circumstances--  
17 But a scheme at rest begins at once to  
18 rust & rot--though there may be 2  
19 examine such a scheme & see if it rests on 2 sticks & can be  
20 sticks under the runner & a chip under  
21 started again-- Examine also its joints & see if it will cohere when  
22 the cop. The ineradicable grass will bury  
23 it is started.  
24 it--& when you hitch your forces to it  
25 a year hence--it is a chance if it ~~does~~  
26 has not lost its cohesion

27           You can easily find sticks & chips--but  
28 who shall find snow to put under it?  
29 There it slumbers sinking into the ground--  
30 willingly returning to the earth from which  
31 it came-- Mortices & tenons & pins avail not  
32 to withhold it.

33           All things decay.  
34           & so must our sleigh.

1           The sleighing, the sledding--or sliding  
2   is gone--we now begin to wheel or roll  
3   our-selves & commodities along--which  
4   requires more tractile power-- The ponderous  
5   cart & the spruce {bugy} appear from  
6   out their latebrae like the {dusty} flies  
7   that have wintered in a crevice--& we  
8   hear the buzzing of their wheels--  
9   The high-set chaise--the {lumbering}  
10   coach--like wasps & gnats & bees come  
11   humming forth--  
12           The runners have cut through--  
13   to the earth--they go in search of the  
14   snow into the very gutters--or invade  
15   the territory of the {post} passenger-- The  
16   traveller when he returns <sup>{hired}</sup> {the} ^ {horse} to ~~the~~ his  
17   stable conclude at last that it  
18   is worse sleighing than wheeling-- To  
19   be sure {there} was one {road} when he  
20   slid along pretty well under the N. side  
21   of a wood--but for the most part  
22   he cut through--as when the cook cuts  
23   <sup>61</sup>{edgings} of dough for her pies--&  
24   the grating on the gravel set his  
25   teeth on edge.  
27           You see where the teamster threw off  
28   2/3 his load by the road-side--&  
29   wonder when he will come back for  
30   it.

---

<sup>61</sup>There is a letter scratched out before {edgings}.



1           It is too late to get ice for ice-houses  
2 ? and now--if I am not mistaken--you  
3 cease to notice the green ice at sunset  
4 & the rosy snow--the air being warmer  
5 & softer-- Yet the marks & creases  
6 & shadings & bubbles {&cc} in the  
7 rotting ice are still very interesting.

8           If you walk under cliffs you see  
9 {where the melted snow which trickled down  
10 & dropped from their perpendicular walls  
11 has frozen into huge organ-pipe icicles--

12           The water going down you notice  
13 perchance where the meadow crust  
14 has {been} raised & floated off by the super-  
15 incumbent ice--(i.e if the water has been  
16 high in the winter) Often successive  
17 layers of ice & meadow crust several feet  
18 in thickness-- The most sudden & greatest  
19 revolution in the condition of the earths,  
20 surface perhaps that ever takes place in  
21 this town.

22           The air is spring-like The milk man  
23 closes his ice house doors--against the  
24 milder air-

25                                 banks  
26           By the 3d The snow are softened through to  
27 earth--perchance the frost is out  
28 beneath in some places--& so it melts  
29 from below upward--& you hear it  
30 sink as it melts around you as you

1 walk over it--. ~~And as~~ It is soft--saturated  
2 with water--& glowing white.  
3 to day  
4 An east wind^--& may be brings rain  
5 on the 4th--a cold mizzling rain--&  
6 the temperature falling below zero it forms a  
7 thin glaze on your coat--the last glaze  
8 of the year-  
9 Next day perchance (5th it clears off--  
10 dirty  
11 The 4th ~~but~~ is very {wet} & ~~muddy~~ walking-- Melted  
12 snow fills the gutters--& as you ascend  
13 the hills you see bright {braided} streams of it  
14 rippling down in the ruts. It glances and shines  
15 like burnished silver-<sup>62</sup>  
16 If you walk to sandy cliffs you see where now  
17 ravines have formed & are forming.  
18 The 6th it clears off cold and windy--  
19 The snow is chiefly gone--the brown season begins  
20 The tawny frozen earth looks drier than it is--  
21 The thin herds or piper grass that was not cut last  
22 summer--is seen all slanting SE as the prevailing  
23 wind bent it before the snow came--& now it  
24 has partly sprung up again. The bleached grass  
25 {whiter}  
26 The 7th is a day of misty rain & mistling.  
27 --& of moist brown earth--into which you sink  
28 as far as it is thawed at every step-- Every now  
29 & then the mist thickens & the rain drives in  
30 upon you from one side-- Now you admire  
31 the various brown colors of the parded earth-  
32 the plump cladonias-&c &c  
33 Perchance you notice the beomyces in fruit

---

<sup>62</sup>There are big end brackets on the right side of the first two full paragraphs.

1 & the great chocolate colored puff ball  
2 still loosing its dust and {on} bare sandy places  
3 <sup>then</sup>  
4 the {lycoperdon} stellata-& ^ your thoughts  
5 are directed to arrowheads--& you gather  
6 the first Ind. relics for the season--  
7 The open spaces in the river are {now} long reaches  
8 & the ice between is mackerelled-& you  
9 no longer think of crossing it except  
10 at the broadest bay. It is perhaps lifted up  
11 by the melted snow & {the} rain-

12         The 8th it is clear {agan}--but a very cold  
13 & blustering day--yet the wind is worse than  
14 the cold-- You calculate your walk before-  
15 hand so as to take advantage of the shelter  
16 of hills & woods. A very slight elevation is  
17 often a perfect fence-- If you must go  
18 forth facing the wind--bending to the blast  
19 & sometimes scarcely making any progress--you  
20 study how you may return with it on your  
21 back

22         Perchance it is suddenly cold--water freezes in  
23 your chamber--& blasts even in the house--the  
24 strong draft consumes your fuel rapidly--though you  
25 have but little left-- You have had no colder  
26 walk in the winter.

27         So rapidly is the earth dried that this day  
28 or the next perhaps you see a cloud of dust  
29 blow over the fields in a sudden gust-



1 of 1760--& you forget the haze of yesterday  
2 & the blue bird-- It tries hard but only  
3 %1%succeeds to whiten the ground--& when I go  
4 forth at 2 Pm--the earth is bare again

5 As I walk I am excited by the living  
6 dark blue color of the open river--& the  
7 meadow flood(?) seen at a distance over the  
8 fields--contrasting with the tawney earth  
9 & the patches of snow-- In the high winds  
10 in February--at open reaches in the river  
11 it was {positively} angry & black--now it it  
12 is a cold dark blue--like an artery.

13 The storm is not yet over-- The night  
14 sets in dark & rainy--thus far considerable  
15 rain taking out the frost. I am pleased  
16 to hear the sound of it against the windows & for  
17 that copious rain which {made} the winter of the  
18 Greeks & Romans is the herald of summer to us.

19 The 13th the ways are getting settled in our  
20 {sandy} village-- The river is rising fast--  
21 I sit under some sheltering promontory & watch the gusts ripple  
22 the meadow flood.

23 14th This morning it snows again--& this  
24 time it succeeds better--is a real snow storm--  
25 by 2 o'clock--3 or 4 inches deep--& winter  
26 is fairly back again-- The early birds are  
27 driven back or many of them killed-- The  
28 river flood is at its height looking dark amid  
29 the snow-

1           15th The ice is all out of the River proper--  
2     & the meadow--except ground ice or such as lies  
3     still at the bottom of the meadow under water--  
4           16 The ice of the night fills the river in the  
5     morning--& I hear it go grating downward at  
6     sun rise. As soon as I can get it painted &  
7     dried I launch my boat--& make my first  
8     voyage for the year up or down the stream--on  
9     that element from which I have been debarred  
10    for 3 months & a half. I taste a spring cranberry  
11    save a floating rail--~~to~~ feel the element fluctuate  
12    beneath me-- <sup>am</sup> ~~{the}~~ tossed bodily as I am in thought  
13    & sentiment. Than longen folk to gon on voyages<sup>66</sup>  
14    --The water presses on the oars-- I wish to  
15    hear my mast crack & see my {my}  
16    {rapt} boat run on her side so low  
17    her deck drinks water & her keel plows  
18    air-- My only competitors or fellow-  
19    voyagers are the musquash hunters.  
20    To see a dead sucker washing in the meadows.  
21    -- The ice was broken up & navigation commenced  
22    --we may set sail for foreign parts--or  
23    expect the {1st} arrival any day--to see the  
24    phenomena of the water--& see the earth  
25    from the water side-- To stand outside of  
26    it on another element & so get a {pry} {on} {it}

---

<sup>66</sup>from the 12th line of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

1 in thought at least, that is not a small ad-  
2 vantage. I make more boisterous & stormy voyages  
3 now than at any season. Every musquash  
4 {shooter} has got his boat out ere this-- Some  
5 improvident fellows have left them out--or  
6 let them freeze in & now find them in a leaking  
7 condition. But the solid ice of Fair Haven  
8 as yet bars all progress in that direction.  
9 I vastly increase my sphere & experience by  
10 a boat

11 17th The last night perhaps--we experience  
12 the {first} wind of the spring that shakes the  
13 house-- Some who sleep in attics expect  
14 no less than that the roof will be taken off--  
15 They calculate what chance there is for  
16 the wind to take hold of the overlapping roof-  
17 or eaves-- You hear that your neigh-  
18 bors chimney is blown down-- The street  
19 is strewn with rotten {limbs}--& you notice  
20 here & there a prostrate pine on the hills.

21 The frozen side walks melt each  
22 morning-- When you go to walk in the Pm  
23 {think} the wind is gone down very much-- You  
24 watch from some hill top the light flashing  
25 {across} some waving white pines-- The whole  
26 forest is waving like a feather in the  
27 wind.

1           Though the snow is gone again here the  
2 mts are seen to be still covered--& have been  
3 ever since the winter--with a spy glass I can look  
4 into such winter there as it seems to me, I have  
5 only read of-- No wonder the N. W. wind is so cold  
6 that blows from them to us.  
7                    A warm day  
8           18th I perceive on some warm wood or hill sides  
9 half open to the sun--the dry scent of the withered  
10 leaves--gathered in piles here & there by the wind--  
11 They make dry beds to recline on & remind me  
12 of fires in the woods that maybe expected ere long.  
13                    say 56 or 60--& calm  
14           The 19th ^ is yet warmer--a really warm day--  
15 perhaps I wear but one coat in my walk--or sweat  
16                    genial  
17 in 2. The ^ warmth ~~of~~ is the universal topic--  
18 gnats hum the early birds warble-- Especially  
19 the calmness of the day is admirable-- The  
20 wind is taking a short respite--locked up  
21 in its cave somewhere-- {We} admire the  
22 smoothness of the water--the shimmering  
23 {over} the land--all vegetation feels the  
24                    {Many} first go forth to walk--& sit out  
25 influence of the season--doors awhile--  
26           The river falling-- I notice the coarse {muck}  
27 left along the shore--dotted with the scarlet  
28                    spring  
29 ^cranberries.  
30           Before night a sudden shower--& some  
31 hear thunder--a single low rumble-

1           The 21st is warm too by the therm. but more  
2 windy-- ~~A channel is now worn through F. H.~~  
3 ~~Pond.~~

4           The 23d A channel is 'worn thro' F. H. Pond.

5           24 The winds are let out of their cave & have  
6 fairly resumed their sway again--with oc-  
7 casional flurries of snow--which scarcely  
8 reach the earth--gusty electric clouds--  
9 appear here & there in the sky-- {Like} {charges}  
10 of cavalry on a field of battle-

11           It is icy cold too--& you need all your  
12 winter coats at least-- The fresh spray  
13 dashed against the alders & willows--  
14 {makes} {rake} & {churn} icicles along the  
15 causeways--

16           25th colder yet--considerable ice  
17 forms The river skims over along the side--  
18 The river is down again-- ~~an~~ lower than any-  
19 time this month.

20           26 Warm again-- The frost {is} at length  
21 quite out of early gardens--a  
22 few begin to plow & plant peas & rye--&c

23           ~~At~~ In the Pm a thick haze conceals  
24 the mts. & wreathes the woods--the  
25 wind going East-

1           Steady--{p}attering April like rain--  
2                           foretold by the thick haze of yesterday--  
3           27 dimpling the water--^& soaked up  
4 by the ground for the most part--the frost  
5 being so much out--  
6           28-- Some sit without a fire in Pm--  
7 it is so warm-- I study the honey combed black  
8 ice of F. H. P.  
9           29 See a pellet {frost} in the morning--(or snow.  
10 F. H. P. is open--  
11           30 You see {smoke} rising above the woods  
12 in the horizon this dry day & know not if it  
13 be burning brush or an accidental fire  
14           31 The high ways begin to be dusty--& even  
15 our minds--some of the dusty routine of sum-  
16 mer even--begins to invade them.  
17           A few heels of snow may yet be discovered--or  
18                   the  
19 even seen from ^ window-

1 Mar 26th  
2 A Pleasant day--  
3 I think I heard the last lesser red polls {Near}  
4 //the beginning of this month--say about 7th  
5 The top of a white maple swamp-land  
6 a reddish tinge at a distance day before  
7 //  
8 yesterday-- Was it owing to any expansion of the  
9 buds?  
10 2 Pm Therm 4+ to 2d Div.  
11 Brook-- Though there is very considerable  
12 greenness on the warmest southerly banks  
13 --there is no change {perceptible} in  
14 the aspect of the earths surface generally  
15 or at a little distance-- It is as bare  
16 & dead a brown as ever-- When the sun  
17 comes out of a cold slate colored cloud  
18 These windy days--the bleached & withered  
19 pastures reflect its light so brightly  
20 {they} they are almost white-- They are a  
21 pale tawney--or say fawn color without  
22 any redness--  
23 The brown season extends from about the  
24 sixth of March ordinarily into April  
25 The first part of it when the {frost} is rapidly  
26 coming out & transient snows are melting  
27 the surface of the earth is saturated with  
28 moisture-- The latter part is dry--the  
29 whitish tawny pastures being {larded} with  
30 brown & green mosses (that commonest one)

1 & pale brown lecheas--which mottle it  
2 very pleasingly. This dry whitish tawney  
3 or drab  
4 ^color of the fields--withered grass lit  
5 by the sun--is the color of a teamster's  
6 coat. It is one of the most interesting effects  
7 of light now--when the sun coming out  
8 of clouds shines brightly on it-- It is the  
9 fore-glow of the year. There is certainly a  
10 singular propriety in that color for the  
11 or a hunter  
12 coat of a farmer or teamster or shepherd^  
13 who is required to be much abroad in our  
14 landscape at this season-- It is in harmony  
15 with nature--& you are less conspicuous  
16 in the fields & can get nearer to wild  
17 animals for it. For this reason  
18 I am the better satisfied with the color  
19 of my hat--a drab--than with  
20 that of my companion which is black --  
21 though his coat is of the exact  
22 tint-& better than mine--but again  
23 my dusty boots harmonize better  
24 with the landscape than his black  
25 & glossy India rubbers.  
26 I had a suit once in which methinks  
27 I could glide across the fields unper-  
28 ceived--half a mile in front of a  
29 farmers windows-- It was such a skil-  
30 ful mixture of browns--dark & light  
31 properly proportioned--with even

1 some threads of green in it by chance-  
2 It was of loose texture & about the  
3 color--of a pasture with patches of  
4 withered sweet fern & lechea-- I trusted  
5 a good deal to my invisibility--in it when  
6 going across lots--& many a time  
7 I was aware that to it I owed the  
8 near approach of wild animals.

9         No doubt my dusty & tawny cowhides  
10 surprise the street walkers who wear  
11 patent leather Congress shoes--but  
12 they do not consider how absurd such  
13 shoes would be in my vocation  
14 to tread the woods & swamps in-- Why  
15 should I wear Congress who walks  
16 alone & not where there is any congress of  
17 any kind.

18         C! was saying properly enough the other day  
19 as we were making our way through a  
20 dense patch of shrub oak. I {suspectthat}  
21 those villagers think that we wear  
22 these old & worn hats with holes all  
23 along the corners for oddity--but  
24 Coombs the musquash hunter--&  
25         & rabbit  
26 partridge ^ snarer--knows better, he  
27 understands us-- He knows that a  
28 new & square-cornered-hat would  
29 be spoiled in our excursion through  
30 the shrub oaks.

1           The walker & naturalist does not wear  
2   a hat or a shoe or a coat, to be looked  
3   at--but for other uses-- When a citi-  
4   zen comes to take a walk with me I com-  
5   monly find that he is lamed disabled by  
6   his shoeing. He is sure to wet his feet  
7   tear his coat--& jam his hat--& the su-  
8   perior qualities of my boots coat & hat  
9   appear-- I once went into the woods <sup>with</sup> ~~for~~  
10   a party for a fortnight-- I wore my  
11   old & common clothes which were of Ver-  
12   mont gray-- They are no doubt the best  
13   they had for such an occasion--of a  
14   fashionable color & quality-- I thought  
15   that they were a little ashamed of me while  
16   we were in the towns-- They all tore their  
17   clothes badly but myself, & I who it  
18   chanced was the only one provided with  
19   needles & thread, enabled them to mend  
20   them-- When we came out of the woods I  
21   was the best dressed of any of them.

23           One of the most interesting sights  
24   this Pm is the color of the yellow sand  
25   in the sun at the bottom of Nut meadow  
26   & 2d Div. Brooks-- The yellow sands  
27   of a lonely bush--seen through the rippling  
28   water--with the shadows of the  
29   ripples like films passing over it.





1 Fair Haven Pon may be open by the  
 2 20th of mar, as this year, or not till  
 3 Ap 13 as in 56 or 23 days later  
 4 Tried by the Skunk cabbage-- This may  
 5 flower Mar 2 (60)--or Ap 6 or 8 (as in 55--  
 6 & 54) or some 5 weeks later-- (say 36 days  
 7 The blue bird may be seen Feb 24 as in '50--  
 8 57 & '60 or not till Mar 24 as in '56  
 9 (say 28 days)  
 10 The yel. spotted tortoise may be seen Febr. 23d  
 11 as in 57 or not till Mar 28 as in 55  
 12 (33 days  
 13  
 14 The wood frog may be heard Mar 15th as  
 15 this year, or not till Ap 13, as in 56--  
 16 (29 days  
 17 That is tried by the last 4 phenomenon  
 18 there may be about 36 a months fluctuation  
 19 so that March 28  
 20 33  
 21 29 may be said  
 22 126  
 23 ~~be changed into~~ 31  
 24 to ~~have receded half way~~ into Feb. ~~or advanced~~  
 25 or  
 26 ~~half way~~ in to March April-- i.e it borrows<sup>67</sup>  
 27 half of Feb. or half of April.

---

<sup>67</sup> The word "retain" is written in the left margin, sloping downward from line 24 to line 25 and at a 45 degree angle with the text.

1 Mar 27th & 28th  
2 Surveying Ed. Hoar's Farm in Lincoln--  
3 fair--but windy & rather cool.  
4 Louis Minor tells me he saw some geese about the  
5 23d  
6 Mar 29th  
7  
8 Calm warmer & pleasant at one. //

9 Mar 30  
10 A very warm & pleasant day. (at 2 Pm 63+° & rising) //  
11 more worm piles in yard (not seen since morning //  
12 of 20th on ac. of cold &c) You will see them  
13 earlier on warm banks, as at clam shell, earlier  
14 than in our yard. Do not wood{ } &c  
15 feed on them at night. They ~~se~~ to come out  
16 just before the toads which feed on them--  
17 These little piles on the bare earth, like dimples  
18 on water, remind you of April.  
19 wind S. W.  
20 The Pm so warm ^ you take off coat. //

21 The streets are quite dusty for the first time.  
22 The earth is more dry & genial--& you seem to  
23 threshold  
24 be crossing the portals between winter & summer.  
25 At eve I go listening for snipe, but hear none //  
26 The inhabitants come forth from their burrows  
27 such an afternoon as this--as the wood duck  
28 & ground squirrels have--as the toads do--  
29 was a small one the 28th  
30 I hear of the first fire in the woods this Pm^ //  
31 As I walk the street I realize that a new  
32 season has {arrived}. It is time to begin to leave  
33 your great coat at home--to put on shoes

1 instead of boots & feel light-footed.  
2 Mar 31st  
3 Surveying again for Ed. Hoar the wood--  
4 land adjoining his farm--~~prob~~. A yet warmer  
5 //  
6 day-- A very thick haze concealing mts--  
7 & all distant objects--like a smoke--  
8 with a strong but warm S. W. wind.  
9 Your outside coat is soon left on the  
10 ground in the woods where it first becomes  
11 //quite intolerable. The small red butter-  
12 fly in the wood paths & sproutlands--&  
13 I hear at mid Pm a very faint but  
14 positive singing sound--rising above the  
15 susurrus of the pines--of the breeze--  
16 which I think is the note of a distant &  
17 perhaps solitary toad--(not loud & singing  
18 as it will be--) toward night I hear it  
19 more distinctly & am more confident about  
20 it. I hear this faint first reptilian sound  
21 added to the sound<sup>68</sup> of the winds--{thus} each  
22 year a little in advance of the unquestionable  
23 note of the toad. Of constant sounds  
24 in the warmer parts of warm days--there now  
25 begins to be added--to the rustling or crashing  
26 waterfall<sup>69</sup>-like sound of the wind--this  
27 faintest imaginable prelude of the  
28 toad-- I often draw<sup>70</sup> my companions atten-  
29 tion to it & he fails to hear it at all--

---

<sup>68</sup>There is either a stray mark or dash here.

<sup>69</sup>Ends in a flourish.

<sup>70</sup>Ends in a flourish.

1 it is so slight a departure from the previous  
2 monotony of March. This morning {——} you  
3 walked in the warm sproutland--the strong  
4 but warm south west wind blowing--& you  
5 heard no sound but the dry & mechanical  
6 susurrus of the wood--now there is mingled  
7 with or added to it--to be detected only by  
8 the sharpest ears--this first & faintest im-  
9 aginable voice. I heard this under Mt.  
10 Misery-- Probably they come forth earlier under  
11 the warm slopes of that hill.

12 The Pewee sings in earnest-- The first I have heard //  
13 and at even I hear the first real robin's //  
14 song.

15 I hear that there has been a great fire  
16 in the woods this Pm near the factory-- Some  
17 say a thousand acres have been burned over-- //  
18 This is the dangerous time--between the  
19 drying of the earth--(or say when dust begins  
20 to fly)--& the general leafing of the trees--  
21 when it is shaded--again-- These fires  
22 are a perfectly regular phenomenon of this  
23 season. Many refer to them this thick  
24 haze--but though in the evening I smell  
25 the smoke (no doubt) of the Concord fire/ I  
26 think that the haze generally is owing  
27 to the warm S. W wind having its vapor  
28 condensed by our cooler air-- An engine cart  
29 from town & a crowd of boys--& I hear that

1 one man had to swim across a pond  
2 to escape being burnt.  
3 One tells me he found the saxifrage out  
4 // Ellen Emerson  
5 at Lees Cliff this Pm & another ^saw  
6 "a yellow--or "little brown snake"  
7 evidently either the C. ordinatus (or else amaenus--  
8 prob. the first.  
9 // Sit without fire  
10  
11 Sunday--Ap. 1st  
12 Warm--with the thick haze still con-  
13 // cealing the sun.  
14  
15 Worm piles abundant this morning  
16 Pm Gooseberry begins to show a little green  
17 but not our currant.  
18 //  
19 3 Pm up assabet--in boat  
20 There is another fire in the woods this Pm  
21 //  
22 It is yet more hazy than before-- About  
23 as thick as a fog. & ap. clouds behind it.  
24 //Still warmer than yesterday-- 71+ at 3 Pm  
25 The river was lowest for March yesterday  
26 //viz just 3 feet below Hoars wall.  
27 It is so low that the mouths of the ~~wooden~~  
28 musquash burrows in the banks are ex-  
29 posed with the piles of shells before them--  
30 Willows about the stump on S. Brown's land  
31 ? very one is ap discolor?  
32 are ^ well out.^ The red-maple buds are consid-  
33 //expanded & no doubt make a greater impression  
34 of redness  
35 // A king-fisher seen & heard.

1           As we paddle up the assabet--we hear  
2  
3           the wood-turtles (the first I have noticed) //  
4           & painted turtles rustling down the bank  
5           into the water--& see where they have travelled  
6           over the sand and the mud-- This & the pre-  
7           vious 2 days have brought them out in numbers  
8  
9           Also see the { } on the bottom //  
10           The river being so low we see lines of saw  
11           dust perfectly level & parallel to one--  
12           another--on the side of the steep dark bank  
13           of the hemlocks for 30 rds--or more visible  
14           at {once},--reminding you of a coarse  
15           chalk line made<sup>71</sup> by snapping a string--  
16           not more than 1/2 inch. wide much of it  
17           ^ but more true than that would be. The  
18           sawdust adheres to the perfectly upright  
19           bank--& probably marks the stand still or  
20           highest water for the time. This level line  
21           drawn by nature is agreeable to behold.  
22           The large Rana fontinalis sits en-  
23           joying the warmth on the muddy shore--  
24           I hear the first hylodes by chance--but //  
25           no doubt they have been heard some time.  
26           Hear the hum of bees on the maples-&  
27  
28           Rye fields look {green} //  
29  
30           Pickel dart--& prob have some time //  
31                                    My next pleasant day  
32           The sweet gale is almost in bloom^ //  
33           It sheds its pollen the same night in my chamber--from the old mill site N. side  
34           The first a<sup>72</sup> thinker hears is sentences  
35           statements or opinions-- He seeks to affirm  
36           some thing as true-- I am surprised that

---

<sup>71</sup>"made" written over "may"

<sup>72</sup>possibly written over "is"

1 my affirmations or utterances come to me  
2 ready made--not forethoughts--  
3 so that I occasionally awake in the  
4 night simply--to let fall ripe a state-  
5 ment which I had never consciously  
6 considered before--and as surprising  
7 & novel & agreeable to me as anything  
8 can be. As we are only thought by  
9 sympathy with the universal mind--  
10 which thought while we were asleep.

11 There is {a} such a necessity make a defi-  
12 nite statement--that our minds at length  
13 do it without our consciousness--just  
14 as we carry our food to our mouths--

15 This occurred to me last night--but  
16 I was so surprised by the fact which I  
17 have just endeavored to report--that  
18 I have entirely forgotten what the par-  
19 ticular observation was.

20 Ap. 2d 60

21 // Cold & windy

22 2 Pm therm 31°+ or fallen 40°  
23 since yesterday--& the ground slightly whitened by a  
24 flurry of snow. I had expected rain to succeed the  
25 thick haze-- It was cloudy behind the haze & rained  
26 a little about 9 Pm but the wind having gone  
27 NW (from S. W.) it turned to snow.

28 The shrubs whose buds had begun to unfold yesterday

1 are the spiraea--gooseberry--lilac--&  
2 Missouri currant-- The first {much} the  
3 most forward & green-- The rest in the order  
4 named.

5 Walked to the May-flower path & to see  
6 the great burning of the 31st--

7 I smelled the burnt ground 1/4 of a mile  
8 off-- It was a very severe burn--the ground as  
9 black as a chimney {back}-- The fire is said  
10 to have began by an Irishman burning brush near  
11 Wild's house in the S part of Acton & ran N &  
12 NE--some 2 miles before the SW. wind crossing  
13 Fort Pond Brook-- I {walke } more than a mile  
14 along it--could not see to either end--&  
15 crossed it in 2 places-- A thousand acres  
16 must have been burned. The leaves being  
17 thus cleanly burned you see amid their  
18 cinders countless mouse galleries--where  
19 they have run all over the wood esp. in  
20 shruboak land--there lines crossing each  
21 other every foot & at every angle. {Your}  
22 are surprised to see by these traces how  
23 many of these creatures live & run under  
24 the leaves in the woods--out of the way of  
25 cold & of hawks. The fire has burned off  
26 the tip & half way down their galleries. Every  
27 now & then we saw an oblong square mark  
28 of pale brown or fawn colored ashes  
29 amid th black cinders, where corded  
30 ^wood had been burned.-- a

1 In one place though at the north edge of  
2 a wood--I saw white birch & amelanchier  
3 buds ({the} {base} ~~buds~~ of {whose} {stems} {had} {been} burned  
4 or scorched) just bursting {into} leaf--evidently  
5 the effect of the fire--for none of their kind  
6 is so forward elsewhere.

7 This fire ran before the wind which was S. W. and  
8 as nearly as I remember the firs generally at  
9 this season begin on that side--& you need  
10 to be well protected there by a plowing or raking  
11 away the leaves. Also the men should  
12 run ahead of the fire before the wind--  
13 most of them & stop it at some  
14 cross road by raking away the leaves &  
15 setting back fires.

16 Look out for your woodlots between the time  
17 when the dust first begins to blow in the streets  
18 & the leaves are partly grown.

19 // The earliest willows are ap in p. %v. forward%<sup>73</sup>

20 I find that the signs of the weather in  
21 Theophrastus are repeated by many more  
22 recent writers--without having referred to  
23 him or thro him. E.g. by an authority quoted  
24 by Brand in his Pop. Antiq.--who evidently  
25 does not know that they are in Theophrastus.

26 Talking with a farmer who was  
27 milking 16 cows in a row the other evening--  
28 an ox near which we stood at the end  
29 of the row--suddenly half lay half fell

---

<sup>73</sup>There may be something written after this in pencil, but it is illegible in the copy.

1 down-on the hard & filthy floor-extending  
2 its legs helplessly to one side in a mechanical  
3 manner while its {head} was uncomfortably  
4 held between the stanchions as in a  
5 pillory-- Thus man's fellow laborer the ox,  
6 tired with his days work is compelled  
7 to take his rest, like the most wretched  
8 slave or culprit-- It was evidently a difficult  
9 experiment each time to lie down at all  
10 without dislocating his neck--& his neigh-  
11 bors had not room to try the same at the  
12 same time.

13 Wednesday Morn. Ap 4th

14  
15 Lodged at Sanborn's last night--after his

16 rescue--he being away-<sup>74</sup>

17 after 2 colder & windy days

18 It is warmer--an April-like morning^

19 threatening a moist or more or less showery day //

20 which followed--

21 The birds sing quite numerously at sunrise

22 about the villages robins--tree-spars //

23 & methinks I heard the purple-finch.<sup>75</sup> ?

24 The birds are eager to sing--as the

25 flowers to bloom--after raw weather

26 has held them in check--

27

28 Ap. 5th

29 Pm Row to Clam Shell & walk

30 beyond-- Fair but windy & cool //

31 When I stand more out of the wind--under

32 the shelter of the hill beyond Clam Shell--where

33 there is not wind enough to make a noise

---

<sup>74</sup>See Harding, *Days*, 423-424.

<sup>75</sup>There is a question mark in the right margin.

1 on my person--I hear or think that  
2 I hear a very faint distant sing of toads  
3 //  
4 which though I walk & walk all the  
5 pm I never come nearer to. It is  
6 hard to tell if it is not a ringing in<sup>76</sup> my  
7 ears-- Yet I think it is a solitary & distant  
8 toad called to life by some warm & sheltered pool  
9 or hill--its note having as it were a chemical  
10 affinity with the air of the spring-- It merely  
11 gives a slightly more ringing or sonorous  
12 sound to the general rustling of inanimate na-  
13 ture-- A sound--more ringing & articulate--  
14 my ear detects--under & below the noise  
15 of the rippling wind. Thus gradually & moder-  
16 ately the year begins. It creeps into the  
17 ears so gradually that most do not observe  
18 it--& so our ears are gradually accustomed  
19 to the sound & perchance we do not perceive  
20 it when at length it has become very much  
21 louder & more general.

22 It is to be observed that we heard of fires  
23 in the woods--in various towns & more or  
24 less distant--on the same days that they occ-  
25 urred here--(the last of Mar. & 1st of Ap.)  
26 The newspapers reported many-- The same cause--  
27 every where produced the same effect.

28 Ap 6th  
29 Rainy more or less--April weather  
30 //  
31 I am struck by the fact that at this

---

<sup>76</sup>The letter "p" is crossed out and "in" is written above it.

1 season all vegetable growth--is  
2 confined to the warm days--during the  
3 cold ones it is stationary or even killed. Vegetation  
4 thus comes forward rather by fits & starts than  
5 by a steady progress--<sup>some</sup>~~many~~ flowers would blossom  
6 tomorrow if it were as warm as today--but  
7 cold weather intervening may detain them a week  
8 or more-- The spring thus advances & recedes repeatedly  
9 its pendulum oscillates while it is carried steadily  
10 forward-- Animal life is to its extent  
11 subject to a similar law-- It is in warm &  
12 calm days that most birds arrive--& rep-  
13 tile & insects--& men come forth.  
14  
15 A toad has been seen dead on the side walk. //  
16 flattened.  
17 Ap 7th  
18 The purple finch--(if not before) //  
19 Pm to Annursnack--  
20 This is the R. halecina day--awakening of //  
21 the meadows--though not very warm-- The  
22 Therm in Boston today is said to be 49+. Prob.  
23 then when it is about 50+ at this season--the  
24 river being low--they are to be heard in calm places.  
25 Fishes now lie up abundantly in shallow //  
26 water--in the sun--pickerel--& I see //  
27 several bream. What was lately motionless  
28 & lifeless ice--is a transparent liquid in  
29 which the stately pickerel moves along.  
30  
31 A novel sight is that of the 1st

1     bream--that has come forth from I know  
2     not what hibernaculum moving gently  
3     over the still brown river bottom--where scarcely  
4     a weed has started. Water is as yet only  
5     melted ice--or like that of Nov. which  
6     is ready to become ice.

7             As we were ascending the Hill in the road be-  
8     yond College meadow--we saw the dust &c in  
9     the middle of the road at the top of the hill  
10    taken up by a small whirlwind-- Pretty soon  
11    //  
12    it began to move NEasterly through the  
13    balm of Gilead grove--taking up a large body  
14    of withered leaves beneath it, which were whirled  
15    about with a great rustling--& carried for-  
16    ward with it into the meadow--frightening  
17    some hens there. And so they went on  
18    gradually--or rather one after another  
19    settling to the ground--& looking at last  
20    almost exactly like a flock of small  
21    birds dashing about in sport--till they were  
22    out of sight 40 or 50 rds off-- These leaves  
23    were chiefly only a rod above the ground.  
24    (I noticed some taken up last spring very high into  
25    the air--& the diameter of the whirl may have  
26    been a rod more or less.

27             Early potentilla out how long? far side of  
28    //  
29    Anurnsnack--

30             Ap. 8th & 9th & 10th-11th more or less  
31    //rainy.

1                           Ap. 10th  
2                           many  
3           Cheney elm--~~some~~ anthers shed pollen--prob. 7th x                           //  
4   some are killed. Salix purpurea ap. will not   //  
5   open for 4 or 5 days-- 2 Pm 44+ & E wind   //  
6   (followed by some rain still the next day--as usual)  
7                           Ap. 11th  
8           Pm to Cliffs.  
9           The hills are now decidedly greened as seen a                                   //  
10   mile off--& the road or street sides pretty brightly so.  
11           I have not seen any lingering heel of a snow bank                           //  
12   since April came in.  
13           Acer rubrum--W. side deep cut--some well out                               //  
14   some killed by frost--prob. a day or 2 at least.  
15   Hazels there are all done--were in their p.                                       //  
16   methinks a week ago--at least--  
17           The early willow still in p.   //  
18           S. humilis abundantly out how long?                                       //  
19           Epigaea--abundantly out (--prob. 7th at least.)                           //  
20           Stows' cold pool 3/4 full of ice.   //  
21                   My Early sedge--which has been out at  
22   Cliffs ap. a few days--(not yet quite generally)--the                               //  
23   highest only 2 inches--is prob. C. umbellata.  
24                   Ap 12  
25           White bellied swallows-- Elm bud-scales have                               //  
26   begun to strew the ground. & the trees look richly                               //  
27   in flower.       60+ at 2 pm   //  
28           Hear a pig. woodpecker's prolonged cackle.                               //

1 Ap. 13th

2 Pm I go up the Assabet to look at

3 the Sweet Gale--which is ap. out at merricks

4 shore. It is abundantly out at Pinxter-swamp

5 //

6 --& has been some time-- So I think I may say that

7 the very first opened Ap. 1st (q. v.) xxxx--

8 This may be not only because the season was

9 early & warm--but because the water was so low--

10 or would that be favorable?--

11 ~~Paddling past the upp~~ At first I had

12 felt disinclined to make this excursion up

13 the Assabet--but it distinctly occurred to me

14 that perhaps if I come against my will

15 as it were--to look at the sweet-gale--as a

16 matter business-- I meet discover something

17 else interesting--as when I discovered the shell-

18 drake. As I was paddling past the upper-

19 most hemlocks I saw 2 peculiar & plump

20 birds near me on the bank there--which

21 reminded me of the <sup>cow</sup> ^ blackbird & of the oriole

22 at first. I saw at once that they were new

24 to me--& guessed that they were cross bills--which

25 //

26 was the case--male & female. The former

27 was dusky greenish (through a glass) orange & red

28 the orange &c on head breast & rump. The rest

29 dark large bill

30 white-- The female more of a dusky slate

31 color & yellow in-stead of orange & red.

32 They were very busily eating the seeds of

33 the hemlock--whose cones were strewn over

34

1 the ground & they were very fearless--allowing me  
2  
3 to approach quite near-

4 When I returned this way I looked for  
5 them again--& at the larger hemlocks heard  
6 a peculiar note cheep, cheep, cheep, cheep,  
7 in the rhythm of a fish hawk but faster & rather  
8 loud--& looking up saw them fly to the N side  
9 & alight on the top of a swamp white oak--while  
10 I sat in my boat close under the S bank-

11 But immediately they recrossed & went to feeding on  
12 the bank within a rod of me- They were very parrot-  
13 greenish & orange &c  
14 like both in color--(esp the male) & in their  
15 manner of feeding--holding the hemlock cones  
16 in one claw & rapidly extracting the seeds with their  
17 bills- Thus trying one cone after another very fast.  
18 But they kept their bills a going that near as they  
19 were I did not distinguish the cross--I should have  
20 looked at them in profile. At<sup>77</sup> last the 2  
21 hopped within 6 feet of me & one within  
22 4 feet--& they were coming still nearer--as if  
23 partly from curiosity--though nibbling the cones all the  
24 while when my chain fell down & rattled loudly  
25 for the wind shook the boat--& they flew off a  
26 rod. In Bechstein I read that "It frequents  
27 fir & pine woods, but only where there are abundance  
28 of their cones". It may be that the abundance of  
29 white p. cones--last fall had to do with their coming  
30 here- The hemlock cones--were very abundant too methinks

---

<sup>77</sup>Ends in a flourish.

1                                    Ap. 14th 60

2                    A strong westerly wind in Am shaking the  
3 //  
4                    house

5                    2 Pm 44°+    To Easterbrook's

6 //Benzoin not for 2 or 3 days at least-- Goldfinches  
7  
8 //the 11th & in winter--

9                                    Ap 15th

10                    Strong NW wind & cold--thin ice  
11 //  
12                    this am along meadow side & lasts all day--

13                    2 Pm Therm 37+-- to Conantum

14                    At Conantum P. pines--hear the first  
15                    pine warbler-- Have not heard snipe yet--  
16 //  
17                    Is it because the meadows having been bare--  
18                    have not been thawed?--

19                    See ripples spread fan-like over F. H. Pond--  
20 //  
21                    from Lees Cliff--as over Ripple Lake

22 //                    Crowfoot abundant--say in p.    A cedar under  
23 //  
24                    the Cliff abundantly out how long? some still not

25 //out Say 13 x    Mouse-ear Ap. x

26 //                    Turritis about out say 16 x

27                    There is a small early sedge under this Cliff  
28                    (as at base of the 2 hickories) 3 ~~4~~ to 6 inches high  
29                    now abundantly out--prob. as early as the C.

30 //umbellata of the Cliffs.-- It has 3 & sometimes

31                    4 fertile spikes sessile close below the single  
32                    --It has not dark chestnut scales like what I call Pennsylvanica--which I  
33                    first noticed

34                    sterile one--Call it C. varia.  
35                    The 26th at the Cliffs--& which is the commonest of the 3.  
36                    4 or 5 inches long.

37 //some little ferns already fairly unfolded ^ those  
38                    base  
39                    close under the ~~edg~~ of the rocks--ap. Woodsia  
40                    ilvensis--?

1                   the  
2            See & hear ^ seringo--rather time comp-- //

3 with song sparrow-- Prob. see baywing--(surely //  
4 the 16th) about walls--

5 The arbor vitae appears to be much of it effete? //

6            At this season of the year, we are  
7 continually expecting warmer weather than  
8 we have.

9                    Ap. 16th

10           Rather warm--

11            In Pm a true April--

12 rain--dripping & soaking into the earth & //  
13 heard on the roof--which continuing  
14 in the night it is very dark. //

15 This is owing to both the absence of the moon &  
16 the presence of the clouds.

17            I observed yesterday in the cellar of the  
18 old Conantum house, a regular frame or "horse"  
19 to rest barrels (of cider vinegar &c) on--  
20 It was prob. made before the house was built  
21 --being exactly the length of the cellar--2 pieces  
22 of timber framed together i.e--connected by  
23 cross pieces--& lying on the cellar bottom against  
24 one side--the whole length--with concavities  
25 cut in them to receive the barrels & prevent their  
26 rolling-- There were places for 8 barrels  
27 {drawing}

28            It suggests how much more preparation  
29 was made in those days for the storing  
30 of liquors.

1 We have at most one keg in our cellar  
2 for which such a horse would be a convenient  
3 place-- Yet in this now remote & uncovered  
4 cellar hole lies a horse with places for  
5 8 barrels of liquor. It would make a toppers  
6 mouth water to behold it. You wonder  
7 how they got apples & cider mills a going so  
8 early--say 150 years ago. No doubt  
9 they worked hard & sweated a good deal--  
10 & perhaps they required or could bear more  
11 strong drink than the present generation?  
12 This horse is a fixture--framed with the  
13 house or rather with the cellar--a first  
14 thought it must have been--perchance made  
15 by a separate contract--since it comes below  
16 the sills. The barrels & their contents & they who  
17 emptied them--& the house above are all  
18 gone--& still the scalloped logs remain  
19 now in broad daylight to testify to the exact  
20 number of barrels of liquor which the former  
21 occupant ~~but~~ expected to & probably did lay in.  
22 His grave stone somewhere tells one sober story  
23 no doubt--& this his barrel horse--tells another  
24 --& the only one that I hear. For 20 & odd  
25 years only the wood ducks & wild mice to  
26 my knowledge have occupied this cellar--  
27 Such is the lowest stick of timber in an  
28 old New England man's house. He dug a  
29 hole six feet into the earth--& laid down

1 a timber to hold his cider barrel-- Then he proceeded  
2 to build a house over it--with kitchen & sitting  
3 travellers stories of  
4 & sleeping rooms. It reminds me of ^ the London  
5 docks--of rows of hogsheads--of bonded liquors--  
6 Every New England cellar was once something like it--  
7 It is a relic of old England with her ale.  
8 The first settlers made preparations to drink a  
9 good deal--& they did not disappoint themselves.  
10 Ap 17--  
11 I hear this am the soothing ~~chi~~ & simple  
12 though monotonous notes of the chip bird--telling //  
13 us better than our thermometers what degree  
14 of summer warmth is reached--adds its humble  
15 but very pleasant contribution to the steadily increasing  
16 quire of the spring. It perches on a cherry tree per-  
17 chance near the house--& unseen, by its steady  
18 che-che-che-che-che che --affecting us often  
19 without our distinctly hearing it--it blends  
20 all the other & previous sounds of the season  
21 together-- It invites us to walk in the yard  
22 & inspect the springing plants  
23 very  
24 The evenings are ^ considerably shortened //  
25 we begin to be more out of doors--the less housed--  
26 Think less--stir about more--are fuller of  
27 affairs--& chores-- Come in chiefly to eat & to  
28 flower  
29 sleep. The amelanchier ^ buds are con- //  
30 spicuously swollen-- Willows (S alba) prob. //  
31 (did not 4 or 5 days ago)  
32 Pm sail to ~~Buttriks~~ or Bull's Hill

1 //It is quite warm 67+ at 2 pm & hazy  
2 //though ~~str~~ rather strong & gusty NW wind.  
3           We land at the Holt & walk a little  
4 inland-- It is unexpectedly very warm on  
5                            top  
6 lea side of hill ^ just laid bare & covered  
7 with dry leaves & twigs. See my first  
8 //Vanessa antiopa--  
9           Looking off on to the river meadow--I noticed  
10 as I thought, a stout stake aslant--  
11                         3 or or more rods off  
12 in the meadow-- ^ sharp at the top & rather  
13 light colored on one side as is often the  
14 case-- Yet at the same time it occurred to  
15 me that a stake driver often resembled a stake  
16 very much--but I thought nevertheless that  
17 there was no doubt about this being a stake.  
18 I took out my glass to look for ducks--& my  
19 companion seeing what I had & asking if it  
20 was not a stake driver--I suffered my glass  
21 at last to rest on it--& I was much surprised  
22 //to find that it was a stake driver after all.  
23 The bird stood in shallow water near a tussuck  
24 perfectly still with its long bill pointed up  
25 wards in the same direction with its body &  
26 neck--so as perfectly to resemble a stake aslant  
27 --If the bill had made an angle with the  
28 neck it would have been betrayed at once--  
29 Its resource evidently was to rely on its ~~all~~ form  
30                         & immobility  
31 & color ^ solely for its ~~pr~~ concealment-- This  
32 was its instinct--whether it implies any

1 conscious artifice or not-- I watched it for 15 minutes  
2 & at length it relaxed its muscles & changed  
3 its attitude & I observed a slight motion--  
4 & soon after when I moved toward it it flew.

5 It resembled more a piece of a rail than  
6 anything else--more than anything that would  
7 have been seen here before the white man came.  
8 It is a question whether the bird consciously cooperates  
9 in each instance with its maker who contrived  
10 this concealment. I can never believe that this  
11 resemblance is a mere coincidence--not designed  
12 to answer this very end--which it does answer so  
13 perfectly--& usefully.

14 The meadows are alive with purring frogs. //

15 J. Brown says that he saw martins on his //  
16 box on the 13 & 14th & that his son saw ~~them~~ one  
17 the 8th?<sup>78</sup>

18 I notice now & of late holes recently dug-- //

19 woodchuck? or fox--

20 a foot or 2  
21 Lake grass was very long ^ & handsome the 15th //

22 Heard a pig. woodpecker on the 16 //

23 Ap 18  
24 //

25 Cold--& still a strong wind--46+ at 2 Pm

26 The S. discolor--peels well //

27 also the aspen (early) has begun to peel X //

28 Melvin says he has heard snipe some days //

29 but think them scarce.

30 As I go by the side of Staple's new barn on  
31 the Kettle place-- I see that they have just

---

<sup>78</sup>There is a half circle underneath this question mark and a slash to the right side.

1 dug a well on the hill side--& are bricking  
2 it up-- They have dug 24 feet through sand  
3 no stones of any size or consequence in it-- I see  
4 none at all in what was thrown out--  
5 Should say it was pure sand--and have some  
6 4 feet of water in the well-- This is prob.  
7 as low as water in the meadow in front.  
8 It is just as far to water as in Messer's well  
9 east of it--& about as high up the hill.  
10 This whole range ~~of (hill)~~ appears to be strictly a  
11 sand-hill-- Humphrey Buttrick--the sports  
12 man was at the bottom bricking up the well--  
13 a Clark who had been mining lately in California  
14 & who had dug the well, was passing down  
15 brick & mortar to him, & Melvin with a  
16 bundle of apple scions in his hand, was  
17 sitting close by & looking over into the well from  
18 time to time.

19 Melvin said he feared that the water being so  
20 low--the snipes would be overtaken by it & their  
21 nests broken up when it rose--that Josh. Haynes<sup>79</sup>  
22 told him that he found a a wood cocks nest, &  
23 afterward he sailed over the nest in a boat--&  
24 yet when the water went down the bird went  
25 on & hatched the eggs.

26 // Melvin has seen a dandelion in bloom--

27 //Clark has heard a partridge drum

28 I find that the side hill just be-  
29 low the dutch<sup>80</sup> House is more loose & sandy

---

<sup>79</sup>Josiah Haynes, Jr.

<sup>80</sup>There is a stray mark through the "d" which may or may not be a  
strikeout-perhaps a capital "D" written over a lowercase?

1 than half a dozen years ago-& I attribute it  
2 & dusting themselves  
3 to the hens wallowing in the earth--and also  
4 pecking the grass--& preventing its growing.

5 Ap 19th

6 Surveying J. B Moores' Farm

7 Hear the pied sparrow sing on his dry upland, //  
8 it being a warm day--& see the small blue--  
9 butterfly ~~hoving~~ hovering over the dry leaves-- //  
10 Toward night--hear a partridge drum //  
11 You will hear at first a single beat or 2 far apart  
12 & have time to say there is a partridge--so distinct  
13 and deliberate is it often, before it becomes a rapid  
14 roll.

15 Part of the Bedford road in Moore's swamp  
16 had settled a few days ago so much more that  
17 the water was six ~~feet~~ inches deep--over it--  
18 When they proceeded to cart on more sand--&  
19 about the 17th when they had carted on considerable  
20 --half a dozen rods in length suddenly sank  
21 before their eyes & only water & mud was seen  
22 where the road had been-- One said that  
23 the water was 6 feet deep over the road. It  
24 certainly was 4 or 5-- The road was laid out  
25 50 feet wide & without this on each side  
26 a broad ditch had been dug--thus-- As I cal-  
27 culate at least 10 feet  
28 {drawing} in thickness of sand have  
29 been placed in this swamp  
30 & the firm mud could not have been less than a

1 dozen more-- The weight of the sand has now  
2 at last pressed down the sand & broke through  
3 it--causing the sides to turn up suddenly--  
4 i.e a thickness of 6 feet or more--to turn indeed  
5 completely over & bottom side up onto the middle  
6 of the road a part of the way.

7                                   The weight of  
8                                   suddenly<sup>81</sup> suddenly  
9 jerked this tremendous weight of sand right  
10 back on to the road--bottom up

11           The eve of the 21st a few rods more  
12 with the culvert went down so that it  
13 was prob four feet under water--making  
14 some 7 or 8 rods in all

15           Up to about the 17 it had settled gradually--  
16 but then it sank instantly some 5 feet.

17 This shows that the weight of sand had burst  
18 through the mud--& that therefore ~~there~~ it  
19 must have been comparatively liquid beneath.

20 Perhaps it was water-- In the deepest part of  
21                                   which is cultivated  
22 many a seemingly firm swamps ^ --there is an  
23 exceedingly thin & liquid mud--so perhaps water.

24 Here was probably once a pond which was  
25 filled up & grown over--but still a relic  
26 of it survives deep under the mud in the  
27 deepest part--

28           There are thus the relics of ponds concealed  
29 deep under the surface--where they are

---

<sup>81</sup>Thoreau writes suddenly twice, but probably meant "sand" in the first instance.

1           suspected  
2 little ^ perchance--as under cleared & cultivated  
3 swamps--or under roads & culverts  
4 The 2 walls of the culvert must have been  
5 10 or 12 feet high of heavy rocks & yet they had  
6 not broken through in all this time till now!  
7                   Ap 20th  
8           The Salix purpurea in p. began say 18-- //  
9 A warm day-- Now begin to sit without  
10 fires more commonly--& to wear but one //  
11 coat commonly //  
12           Moore tells me that last fall his men digging sand  
13 in that hollow just up the hill--dug up a  
14 parcel of snakes half torpid. They were both  
15 striped & black--together in a place somewhat  
16 porous he thought where a horse had been buried  
17 once. The men killed them & laid them all  
18                   on the ground  
19 in a line & they measured several hundred feet  
20 This seems to be the common practice when  
21 such collections are found-- They are at once  
22 killed--& stretched out in a line & the  
23 sum of their lengths measured--& related.  
24           It is a warm eve & I hear toads sing  
25 distinctly for the first time. //  
26           C. sees bluets--& some kind of thrush today //  
27 size of wood thrush he thought prob. hermit. T.

1 Ap. 22d Row to F. Haven  
 2 // Therm 56° or 54°+  
 3 // See shadflies. Scare up woodcock on the  
 4 were  
 5 //shore by my boat, ^ the first I had seen. It  
 6 was feeding within a couple of rods, but I  
 7 {had} seen or thought of it-- When I made a  
 8 loud & sharp sound driving in my<sup>†</sup> row locks, it  
 9 suddenly flew up. It is evident that we  
 10 very often come quite near woodcocks & snipe  
 11 thus concealed on the ground without starting  
 12 them & so without suspecting that they are near.  
 13 These marsh birds--like the bittern have this  
 14 habit of keeping still--& trusting to {their} re-  
 15 semblance to the ground.  
 16  
 17 See now henhawks a pair soaring high  
 18 //as for pleasure--circling ever further & further  
 19 away--as if it were mid summer-- The  
 20 peculiar flight of a hawk--Thus fetches  
 21 the year about-- I do not see it sore in  
 22 this serene & leisurely manner very early in  
 23 the summer methinks--  
 24 almost  
 25 The early Luzula is ^ in bloom--makes a show  
 26 //  
 27 with its budded head--& its purplish & downy  
 28 silky--leaves-- on the warm margin of clam-  
 29 //shell bank. 2 or 3<sup>82</sup> dandelions in bloom  
 30 spot the ground there.  
 31 Land at Lees Cliff-- The Cassandra (water-  
 32 we found it the 20th  
 33 //brush) is well out--how long? ^ & in one place  
 34 //we disturb great clouds of the little fuzzy gnats

---

<sup>82</sup>Stray mark.

1 that were resting in the bushes--as we push up  
2 the shallow ditch there-- The R. fascicularis is  
3 now in p. rather than before-- //

4 The columbine is hardly yet out //

5 I hear that the V. ovata was found the 17th & the 20th //

6 & the blood-root in E. Emerson's garden the 20th

7 J. B. Moore gave me some mineral which  
8 he found being thrown out of drain that was dug between  
9 Knight's factory & his house-- It appears to me to  
10 be red-lead & quartz--& the lead is quite pure  
11 & marks very well or freely--but is pretty dark.  
12  
13 Ap 24th

14 The river is only 1/2 inch above summer level //

15 The meadow {sweet} & hard hack have begun //  
16 to leaf- //  
17

18 Ap 25-- a cold day--so that--the //  
19 people you meet remark upon--it--yet the  
20 therm. is 47+ at 2 Pm. We should not have  
21 remarked upon it in March. It is cold for April--  
22 being windy withal.

23 I fix a stake on the W side the willows at  
24 my boats place--the top of which is at summer  
25 level--& is about 10 1/2 inches below the stone  
26 one &  
27 wharf there. The river is ^ 1/4 of an inch above  
28 summer level today //

29  
30 That Rock NW of the boats place is about  
31 15 inches (the top of it) below summer level

32 Heron rock top (just above the junction  
33 of the rivers) is 13 inches above summer level

1 I judge by my eye that the rock on the N. side,  
2 //where the first bridge crossed the river is about  
3 //4 inches lower than the last.

4 Mr Stewart tells me that he has found  
5 a gray squirrels nest up the Assabet in  
6 a maple tree-- I resolve that I too will  
7 find it. I do not know within less than  
8 a quarter of a mile where to look--nor  
9 whether it is in a hollow<sup>83</sup> tree, or in a  
10 nest of leaves-- I examine the shore first  
11 & find where he landed. I then examine  
12 the maples in that neighborhood to see  
13 what one has been climbed-- I soon find  
14 one the bark of which has been lately rubbed  
15 by the boots of a climber--& looking up see  
16 a nest-- It was a large nest made of  
17 maple twigs with a center of leaves lined with  
18 finer--about 20 feet from the ground against  
19 the leading stem of a large red maple.  
20 I noticed no particular entrance--when I put  
21 in my hand from above & felt the young they  
22 uttered a dull croak-like squeak--& one  
23 clung fast to my hand when I took it out through  
24 the leaves & twigs with which it was covered.  
25 It was yet blind--& could not have been many  
26 //  
27 days old--yet it instinctively clung to my hand  
28 with its little claws as if it knew that there  
29 was danger of its falling from a height to the  
30 ground which it never saw. The idea of

---

<sup>83</sup>The "l"s in "hollow" are crossed as "t"s.

1 clinging was strongly planted in it. There was  
2 quite a depth of loose sticks ^ piled on the top  
3 of the nest. No wonder that they became  
4 skilful climbers who are born high above  
5 the ground & began their lives in a tree--having  
6 first of all to descend to reach the earth. They  
7 are cradled in a tree top--in ^ a loose basket,  
8 in helpless infancy, & there slumber when their  
9 mother is away-- No wonder that they are never  
10 made dizzy by high climbing that were born  
11 in the top of a tree, & learn to cling fast to the  
12 tree before their eyes are open.

15 On my way to the great meadows--I  
16 see boys a-fishing--with perch & bream on their  
17 string--apparently having good luck the river is  
18 so low.

19 The river appears the lower, because now before  
20 the weeds & grass have grown we can see by the  
21 bare shore of mud or sand and the rocks how  
22 low it is. At midsummer we might imagine  
23 water at the base of the grass where there was  
24 none.

25 I hear the greatest concerts of black birds--  
26 red wings & crow. b-birds now a days--esp--  
27 of the former--(also the 22d & 29th)

28 The maples & willows along the river--& the  
29 button bushes are all alive with them-- They  
30 look like a black fruit on the trees--{distributed}  
31 over the top at pretty equal distances--

//

1 It is worth while to see how ~~slightly~~ shyly they  
2 hide at the base of the thick & shaggy  
3 button bushes at this stage of the water--  
4 They will suddenly cease their strains to flit  
5 away & secret themselves low amid these bushes  
6 till you are past--or you scare up an  
7 unexpectedly large flock from such a place where  
8 you had seen none.

9 I pass a large quire in full blast on the  
10 oaks &c on the island in the meadow NW of  
11 Peters. Suddenly they are hushed--& I hear  
12 the loud rippling rush made by their wings  
13 as they dash away--& looking up I see what  
14 I take to be a sharp-shinned hawk just alighting  
15 //  
16 on the trees where they were--having failed to catch  
17 one-- They retreat some 40 rods off to ~~off~~ another  
18 tree--& renew their concert there-- The hawk plumes  
19 himself & then flies off rising gradually--&  
20 beginning a circle & soon it joins its mate &  
21 soars with it high in the sky & out of sight--as  
22 if the thought of so terrestrial a thing as a  
23 black-bird had never entered its head.

24 It appeared to have a plain reddish-fawn breast  
25 The size more than any thing made me think it a  
26 sharp-shin.

27 When looking into holes in  
28 tree to find the squirrels nest I found a pout  
29 partly dried with its tail gone in one maple about  
30 a foot above the ground. This was probably left  
31 there by a mink. Minot says that being at

1 work in his garden once he saw a ~~pout~~ mink  
2 coming up from the brook with a pout  
3 in her<sup>84</sup> mouth--half way a cross his land--  
4 The mink observing him droppe her pout & stretched  
5 up her head looking warily around--then taking  
6 up the pout again went onward & went under  
7 a rock in the wall by the roadside. He looked  
8 there & found the young in their nest--so young  
9 that they were all "red" yet.

10 Ap 26

11 Hear the Ruby-crowned wren in the morning near //  
12 Geo. Heywood's.

13 We have had no snow for a long long while--  
14 and have about forgotten it. Dr Bartlett  
15 therefore surprises us by telling us that a man  
16 came from Lincoln after him last night  
17 on the wheels of whose carraiage was ~~ap~~ an inch  
18 a little  
19 of snow--for it snowed there^, but not here--  
20 This is connected with the cold weather of yesterday--  
21 the chilling wind came from a snow clad county--  
22 as the saying is the cold was in the air &  
23 had got to come down

24 To day it is 53+° at 2 pm yet cold Such  
25 a difference is there in our feelings-- What we  
26 should have called a warm day in March, is a  
27 cold one at this date in April. It is the  
28 N. W. wind makes it cold. Out of the wind it  
29 is warm. It is not, methinks, the same air at  
30 rest in one place & in motion in another,

---

<sup>84</sup>It looks like there is an "i" written over the "e" in her.

1 but the cold that is brought by the wind seems  
2 not to affect sheltered & sunny rocks.  
3 Pm to Cliffs Lowell Meadow--  
4 comptonia X There are now very few leaves  
5/ //  
6 indeed left on the young oaks below the Cliffs.  
7 Sweet-briar--Thimbleberry--& blackberry  
8 on warm rocks--leaf early--  
9 Red maples are past p. I have noticed their  
10 handsome crescents ~~esp~~ over distant swamps--com--  
11 monly for some 10 days-- At height then say  
12 //  
13 the 21st-- They are especially handsome when  
14 seen between you & the sun--lit trees.  
15 The sedge on the top of the Cliff--(beyond the stag hor  
16 sumac--) with a conspicuously dark chestnut  
17 scale--as ap. different from that close under  
18 Lee's<sup>85</sup> hill--which I {caled} varia-- Call this for--  
19 presen. C. Pennsylvanica-- It is not nearly so  
20 //early as the last-- I think--not long out here  
21 Bot.  
22 // The Amelanchier ^ is leafing will ap. bloom  
23 //  
24 //tomorrow or next day. Sweet-fern (that does  
25 not flower) leafing.  
26 The forward rank sedge of Well meadow  
27 which is so generally eaten (by rabbits or possibly  
28 wood chucks--) cropped close--is allied to  
29 that at Lees Cliff--which is also extensively  
30 {broused} now-- I have found it difficult to get  
31 whole specimens. Certain tender early  
32 greens are {thus} extensively broused now--in  
33 warm swamp edges--& under cliffs--

---

<sup>85</sup>This word may be stricken.

1           The bitter cress--the carex varia (?) at Lees--even skunk-  
2 cabbage--

3           The Hellebore now makes a great garden of  
4 green--under the alders & maples there--5 or  
5 6 rods long & a foot or more high-- It grows  
6 there before these trees have begun to leaf--while  
7 their numerous stems serve only to ~~keep~~ break the  
8 wind--but not to keep out the sun-- It is  
9 the greatest growth. ~~of~~ the most massive--of  
10 any plants'--now ahead of the cabbage.  
11 Before the earliest tree has begun to leaf it makes  
12 conspicuous green patches a foot high.

13           The river is exactly at summer level-- //

14                           Ap 27

15           River 5/8 inch below summer level //

16  
17           Pm row to Conantum

18           At the stone Bridge the lower side outer end of the  
19 stone is about 1/4 of an inch above summer level.

20           I saw yesterday--& see to-day--a small

21 hawk--which I take to be a pigeon hawk-- //

22 %Methinks I saw a smaller hawk--perhaps sparrow hawk fly or skim%

23 This one skims low along over Grindstone Meadow

24           %over the village about the 12th%

25 close to the edge of the water--& I see the black-

26 birds rise hurriedly frm the button bushes & willows

27 before him-- I am decided by his size (as well

28 as color) & his low level skimming.

29           river

30           The ^ meadows are now so dry--that E. Wood is

31 burning the Mantatuket one.

32           Fishes are rising to the shadflies--prob. because

33 the river is so low.



1 were this side the north river or not--but I saw  
2 but I expected our bells would ring presently.  
3 that Annursnack was this side of it-- ^ One who  
4 had just come down in the cars thought it must  
5 be in Groton--for he had left a fire there--  
6 And the passengers in the evening train from  
7 Boston--said that they began to see the smoke  
8 of it as soon as they left the city! So hard is  
9 some 700 acres burned-- v Ap. 30  
10 it to tell how far off a great fire is!  
11 I learn afterward -that it was just this side of Groton Junction in Groton  
12 XX One S pedicellaris by RR--X--for it is not //  
13 all fertile.

14 Ap 28--60

15 Pm to Ed. Hoar's Lincoln-- Warm 65+ //  
16 common  
17 The ^ S. rostrata on E side RR. Yesterday at //  
18 least, X S. torreyana a day or 2 longer. These willows //  
19 are full of bees & resound with their hum. I see  
20 honeybees laden with large pellets of the peculiar  
21 yellow pollen of the S rostrata-- Methinks I could tell  
22 when that was in bloom by etching the bees on their  
23 return to the hive-- Here are also much smaller  
24 bees & flies &c &c all attracted by these flowers.  
25 As you stand by such a willow in bloom & resounding  
26 with the hum of bees in a warm afternoon like  
27 this you seem nearer to summer--than elsewhere.

28 Again I am advertised of the approach of a  
29 new season, as yesterday-- The air is not only warmer  
30 & stiller--but has more of meaning or smothered  
31 voice to it--now that the hum of insects begins to  
32 be heard. You seem to have a great compan-  
33 ion with you-- Are reassured, as the scarcely audible

1 hum, as if it were the noise of your own  
2 thinking. It is a voice-ful & significant still-  
3 ness--such as precedes a thunder storm or a hurri-  
4 cane-- The boisterous spring winds cease to blow  
5 --the waves to dash--the migrating ducks to vex  
6 the air so much-- You are sensible of a certain  
7 repose in nature.

8 Sitting on Mt Misery I see a very large bird of the  
9 hawk family--blackish--with a partly white head  
10 //--but no white tail--prob. a fish-hawk--sailed  
11 quite near--looking very large--  
12 // Large ants at work--how long?

13 Ap 29th 60

14 River 2 7/8 inches below summer level at 6 Am  
15 //  
16 // 3+ inches below at night

17 // Peet weet-- I see this above Dodd's & in the  
18 Pm another up Assabet-- As if they had come together  
19 from the south--those {bound} to this river valley--  
20 for they are not a numerous bird-- I have in other  
21 instances noticed that birds which are not seen  
22 flying in flocks--will yet arrive in a town  
23 generally--in all parts of it the same day.

24 We have had but little fire for 2  
25 //or 3 weeks past--a few bits of old board  
26 which make a quick blaze--suffice to take  
27 of the chill of your chamber in the morning.

28 You now<sup>88</sup> look on heaps of fuel with indifference  
29 well husbanded--  
30 One old plank ^ is, sufficient shield against  
31 the cold that is to come.

---

<sup>88</sup>It looks like Thoreau has scratched (or blotted) out a "k" at the beginning of "now."

1           The frost melting at 6 am wets my feet--

//

2           It is almost a dew then

3           The only change in the distant forest is the red  
4           crescents {to} the red maples of late.

5           I see the Downy tall anemone heads yet--

6           & in some cases--the cotton which remains  
7           is entirely free of seed as is very prettily  
8           recurved--to the form of a fools cap or sharp  
9           cone {drawing} You could not do it with your fingers.

10          Pm up Assabet.

11          The earliest aspen is just bursting into  
12          bloom but none is quite flatted out.

//

13          I listen to a concert of red wings--their rich  
14          sprayey notes--amid which a few more liquid &  
15          deep in a lower tone or under tone, as if bubbled  
16          up from the very water beneath the button-bushes  
17          --as if those singers set lower. Some old & skil-  
18          ful performer touches these deep & liquid notes  
19          & the rest seem to get up a concert just to encourage  
20          him. Yet it is ever a prelude or essay with him--  
21          as are all good things--and the melody he is  
22          capable of & which we did not hear this time is  
23          what we remember-- The future will draw him out.  
24          The dif. individuals sit singing & pluming them-  
25          selves & not appearing to have any conversation  
26          with one another. They are only tuning--all at  
27          once--they never seriously perform--the hour has not  
28          arrived. Then all go off with a hurried &

1 perhaps alarmed tchuck tchuck.  
2  
3 // A clam lies up--  
4 I stepped ashore behind Pritchards to examine  
5 a dead sand turtle--& when I had done  
6 & turned round toward my boat again--behold  
7 it was half way across the river, blown by the  
8 S. W wind. The wind had risen after I landed--& per-  
9 haps I have given it a slight impluse with my  
10 foot when I landed. It lodged against a  
11 clump of willows on the other side--, & I was  
12 compelled to return upstream to borrow  
13 a nother boat to get it with. When I had  
14 borrowed a boat I came near making  
15 the mistake of simply crossing the stream  
16 at once & running down the opposite shore-  
17 as if I could release my own boat & return  
18 on the same side to the borrowed one-  
19 return that-& so have got over my diffi-  
20 I had to pause a moment & cypher it out in my mind--  
21 culties--  
22 large snapping  
23 It was remarkable how rapidly this ^ turtle  
24 which was killed last fall had decayed--  
25 There very little indeed of offensive odor about  
26 it-- The shells contained only skin & bone  
27 now--& the prevailing odor was a peculiarly  
28 salt one--like strong dry salt fish--  
29 small  
30 But a ^ dead dog of ap. the same  
31 age near by was much more offensive--  
32 I have noticed before that turtles & snakes  
33 are decomposed rapidly--perhaps it is so with

1 all reptiles.

2 It was remarkable what a bar the river had become  
3 to me being between me and my boat--how compara-  
4 tively helpless I was. I have rarely looked at it in that  
5 light. There was no way but to row quite down to my  
6 boat--bring it over to this side--row back with  
7 the borrowed boat--& return on the bank to my  
8 own. It reminded me of the man crossing the  
9 bridge with a fox a goose & a peck of corn.  
10 By the time I got under weigh again the after-  
11 noon was too far spent for a long excursion.

12 The turtles scales were more than half  
13 of them off--& its bony frame work loosened--&  
14 the very bones of its head seemed somewhat decayed.

15 The river being very low I notice up the  
16 Assabet--where the muddy shore has been  
17 probed either by a peet weet (do they feed  
18 thus) or a woodcock or snipe--! am inclined  
19 to think the peet{weet} for I see them along the  
20 river just arrived-- Ac to this, this bird is so con-  
21 fined in its range that perhaps I could tell if  
22 it had come by finding its track on the mud  
23 or sand.

24 When I examine a flat sandy shore on which  
25 the ripples now break--I find the tracks of  
26 many little animals that have lately passed  
27 along it--close to the waters edge--some  
28 indeed have come out of the water--& gone  
29 into it again. Minks squirrels--& birds

1 They it is that walk these inland strands--  
2 The moist sand & mud which the water has but  
3 just ceased to dash over--~~bears~~ retains the  
4 most delicate impressions-- It is the same with all  
5 our rivers-- I have noticed it on the sandy shore  
6 of the broad Merrimack--many little inhabitants  
7 of the wood & of the water have walked there, though  
8 probably you will not see one-- They make  
9 tracks for the geologists.

10 I now actually see one small-looking--rusty  
11 or brown-black mink scramble along the  
12 // muddy shore--& enter a hole in the bank  
13

14 I see swarms of water bugs at rest  
15 in still bays under the willows & button-  
16 bushes--but when I approach near they begin  
17 to gyrate rapidly--& this evidently is their  
18 resource to avoid capture.

19 On the W. side, just at the bend of the river  
20 by Dove Rock, where the ripples have caused  
21 the sandy strand to wave--& made a  
22 perpendicular cliff an inch high--I notice  
23 rising above the sand & waving in the water  
24 what look at first like stubble of rye--  
25 or pipes-- With my finger I dig some up  
26 2 or 3 inches long & half in the sand-- They  
27 look even like earth worms coated with sand  
28 --are hollow cylinders of sand--& have  
29 a certain toughness, breaking when drawn  
30 apart just as if there was a skin to

1 them-- They are both simple--more or less  
2 upright--flexible & waving--& also are  
3 branched sometimes {drawing} I bring some home  
4 which dried & half flattened look just  
5 like dead fish-worms that have fallen in  
6 the sand. When I place a piece in the palm  
7 of my hand & rub it with my finger--it is  
8 reduced at once to pure sand--& there is no  
9 vestige of a skin. The man of the  
10 aquarium tells me after this that he  
11 finds exactly similar things by the salt water--  
12 with worms in them.

13 I detect a new water plant-- //  
14 which I must have often seen before--& confounded  
15 ranunculuses  
16 with the ^ utricularias & potomogetons-- It appears  
17 to be the Najas flexilis--said to blossom  
18 in July & August--much of it is covered  
19 with a whitish mealy looking substance.  
20 It forms dense beds on the bottom in muddy  
21 places--eg--W side just above sawed maple.  
22 I see its buds plainly now--

23 Ap 30-- Cattle begin to go up //  
24 country--& every week day esp. Mondays--to this  
25 %& 14 thereafter few%  
26 time May 7 ^ at least--the greatest droves  
27 today-- Methinks they will find slender picking  
28 up there for a while-- Now many a farmer's  
29 boy makes his first journey--& sees something  
30 to tell of--makes acquaintance with those  
31 hills which are mere blue warts in his horizon

1 finds them solid & terra firma after all--&  
2 inhabited by herdsmen--partially befenced  
3 & measurable by the acre--with cool  
4 springs where you may quench your thirst  
5 after a dusty day's walk.

6         Surveying Emerson's wood-lot to  
7 see how much was burned near the  
8 end of March--I find that what I  
9 anticipated is exactly true--that the  
10 fire did not burn hard on the northern  
11                                 being there  
12 slopes-- ~~where~~ there ~~was~~ frost in the ground--  
13                                 say at angle of 45°  
14 & where the bank was very steep-^which  
15 was the case with more than 1/4 of an  
16 acre it did not run down at all--though  
17 no man hindered it.

18         That fire in the woods in Groton on the 27th  
19         --which was seen so far--so very dun & extensive  
20 the smoke--so that you looked to see the flames too-  
21 proves what slight burnings it is comparatively  
22 that we commonly see making those cloud like  
23 or bluish smokes in the horizon--& also  
24 how very far off they may often be-- Those  
25 whitish columns of smoke which we see from  
26 the hills--& count so many of at once are  
27 probably often 50 or 60 miles off or more--  
28 I can now believe what I have read of  
29 a traveller making such a signal on the slope  
30 of the Rocky Mts a hundred miles off--to  
31 save coming back to his party.  
32



1           I observed on the 29th--that the clams  
2 had not only been moving much, furrowing  
3 the sandy bottom near the shore--but generally  
4 --or almost invariably had moved toward  
5 the middle of the river. Perhaps it had  
6 some thing to do with the low stage of the  
7 water-- I saw one making his way--or perhaps  
8 it had rested since morning--over that  
9 sawdust bar just below Turtle Bar--toward  
10 the river--the surface of the bar being an inch  
11 or 2 higher than the water-- Prob. the water  
12 falling left it thus on dry (moist) land.

13           I notice this forenoon (11 1/2 Am)  
14   white  
15 remarkably round-tipped ^ clouds--just  
16 like round topped hills {drawing}  
17 on all sides of the sky--often a range  
18 of such {drawing}  
19 such as I do not remember to have seen  
20 before-- There was considerable wind  
21 on the surface from the NE--& the above  
22 clouds were moving W & SW--a  
23 generally-distributed cumulus.

24           What added to the remarkable ness of the  
25 sight--was a very fine fleecy scirrhus--  
26   like smoke  
27 --narrow but of indefinite length driving  
28 swiftly Eastward beneath the former--  
29 proving that there were 3 currents of air  
30 one above the other--

31           (The same form of cloud prevailed to some extent  
32   the next day)

1 salix alba ap. yesterday X  
2 //  
3 The early potentillas are now quite abundant //  
4 Pm to Stone heaps & Stone Bridge.  
5 Since (perhaps) the middle of Ap. we have //  
6 had much easterly (NE chiefly) wind & yet no  
7 rain--though this wind surely fails to bring rain  
8 in March. (The same is true till 9th of May at  
9 least--, ie inspite of E winds--there is no rain--)  
10 I find no stone heaps made yet--  
11 the water being very--low-- (& but since--May  
12 8th--I notice them & perhaps I overlooked them before)  
13 I notice on the E bank by the stone heaps  
14 amid the bushes what I supposed to be <sup>2</sup> ^ wood-  
15 chucks holes--with a well worn path from  
16 one to the other--& the young trees <sup>close</sup> ^ about them  
17 aspen & black cherry had been gnawed for  
18 a foot or more upward for a year or 2  
19 -- There were some fresh wounds--& also old  
20 of last year  
21 & extensive scars ^ partially healed.  
22  
23 The naked vib. is leafing //  
24 The sedge--ap C. Pensylvanica has now //  
25 been out on low ground and beyond  
26  
27 A crowd of men seems to generate vermin  
28 even of the human kind-- In great towns there  
29 is degradation undreamed of elsewhere--gamblers  
30 dog-killers--rag-pickers-- Some live by robbery  
31 or by luck. There was the Concord Muster (of last  
32 well dressed  
33 Sep.) I see still a ^ man carefully & methodically  
34 searching for money on the Muster field far off  
35

1 across the river-- I turn my glass upon him  
2 & notice how he proceeds--(I saw them searching  
3 there in the fall till the snow came) He  
4 walks regularly & slowly back & forth over the  
5 ground where the soldiers had their tents^--with  
6 his head prone--& poking in the straw with  
7 a stick--now & then turning back or aside to ex-  
8 amine something more closely-- He is dressed  
9 methinks better than an average man whom  
10 you meet in the streets. How can he  
11 pay for his board thus? He dreams of finding  
12 a few coppers or perchance a half dime which  
13 have fallen from the soldiers pockets--&  
14 no doubt he will find something of the kind, having  
15 dreamed of it. having knocked, this door will  
16 be opened to him.

17  
18 Walking over the russet interval I see the  
19 //first red-winged grass-hoppers-- They rise  
20 from the still brown sod before me & I  
21 see the redness of their wings as they fly.  
22 They are quite shy--& hardly let me come  
23 within 10 feet before they rise again--often  
24 before I have seen them fairly on the ground.

25 It was 63+° at 2 Pm & yet a good  
26 //  
27 deal of coolness in the wind--so that I can  
28 scarcely find a comfortable seat-- (Yet a  
29 week later--with therm at 60+ & but little  
30 wind--it seems much warmer.)

31 // We have had cool nights of late

1                    May 3d to Cambridge

2                    & Boston

3                    I see at the Aquarium many of my little  
4 striped or barred breams--now labelled  
5 Bryttus Obesus-- Compared with the common--they  
6 have rounded tails {drawing} larger dorsal &  
7 anal fins & are fuller or heavier forward--  
8 I observe that they incline to stand on their heads  
9 more--

10                   The proprietor said that some little fishes  
11                   with a very distinct black hair along the sides  
12 1 1/2 to 2 inches long^--which I should have  
13 called brook minnows--~~wer~~ Agassiz was  
14 confident were young suckers--but Mr  
15 Putnam thought that they were the--i.e. my brook minnow--

16                   I observe that a leuciscus (prob. pulchellus  
17 if not argenteus) 5 inches long also has  
18 a broad wing along the side but not nearly  
19 so dark.  
20

21                   He shows me the Eudora (water plant)  
22 which he has not seen E of the Connecticut.

23                   May 4th

24                   River 3 1/4 in below S L Scales of turtles                   //  
25                   are coming off (Paint. turtle) Quite a warm day                   //  
26                   70+ at 6 Pm. Currant out a day or 2 at least                   //  
27                   & our 1st gooseberry a day later                   //

31                   Pm to Great Meadows by boat

32                   I see Haynes with a large string of pickerel  
33 & he says that he caught a larger yesterday--  
34

1 There were none of the brook pickerel in this  
2 string-- He goes every day--& has good luck--  
3 It must be because the river is so low  
4 Fishing then has fairly commenced--It is never  
5 //  
6 any better pickerel fishing than now-- He  
7 has caught three good sized trout in  
8 the river within a day{--}one would  
9 weigh 1 1/2 lbs. One above the RR bridge  
10 --1 off Abner Buttrick's Saw Mill Brook.  
11 He<sup>89</sup> has caught them in the river before  
12 but very rarely-- He caught them as he  
13 was fishing for pickerel-- This too may be  
14 because the river is low & it is early in the  
15 season-- He says that he uses the  
16 rana halecina for bait--that a pickerel  
17 will spit out the yellow legged one.

18 Walking over the river meadows--to examine  
19 the pools & see how much dried up they  
20 are-- I notice, as usual--the track  
21 of the musquash, some 5 inches wide  
22 always--always exactly in the lowest part  
23 of the muddy hollows connecting one pool  
24 with another--winding as they wind, as if loath  
25 to raise itself above the lowest mud--  
26 At first he swam there--& now as the water  
27 goes down ~~till~~ he ~~is left~~ follows it steadily &  
28 at length travels on the bare mud but as  
29 low & close to the water as he can get.

30 Thus he first traces the channel of the  
31 future brook & river & deepens it

---

<sup>89</sup>"He" looks as though it may be stricken.

1 by dragging his belly along it. He lays out & engineers  
2 its road-- As our roads are said to follow the  
3 trail of the cow--so rivers in another period  
4 follow the trail of the musquash.

5 They are perfect rats to look at and swim fast  
6 against the stream. When I am talking on a high  
7 bank I often see one swimming along within half  
8 a dozen rods--& land openly--as if regardless of  
9 us. Prob. being under water at first he did not  
10 hear us.

11 When the locomotive was first introduced into  
12 Concord--the cows & horses ran in terror to  
13 other sides of the pastures as it passed along--  
14 and I suppose that the fishes in the river  
15 manifested equal alarm at first, but  
16 I notice (today--the 11th May) that a pickerel  
17 by Derby's bridge--poised in a smooth bay--  
18 did not stir perceptibly--when the train  
19 passed over the neighboring ~~broug~~ bridge & the  
20 locomotive screamed remarkably loud. The  
21 fishes have no doubt got used to the sound.

22 I see a bull-frog under water. //  
23 Land at the first angle of the {Holt}--  
24 Looking across the Peninsula--toward Balls  
25 Hill--I am struck by the bright blue of the  
26 river (a deeper blue than the sky) contrasting  
27 with the fresh yellow-green of the meadow  
28 (ie of coarse sedges just starting) & between them  
29 a darker or greener green next the edge

1 of the river--esp. where that small sand bar island  
2 is--the green of that early rank river grass  
3 This is the first painting or coloring in the  
4 meadows. These several colors are as it were  
5 daubed on--as on china ware--or as dis-  
6 tinct & simple as a child's painted. I am  
7 struck by the amount & variety of color--after  
8 so much brown.

9 As I stood there I heard a ~~steady~~ thump-  
10 ing sound--which I referred to Peter's  
11 3/4 of a mile off over the meadow-- But  
12 it was a pigeon woodpecker excavating its  
13 nest within a maple within a rod of me  
14 //  
15 Though I had just landed & made a noise  
16 with my boat he was too busy to hear me--  
17 but now he hears my tread & I see him  
18 put out his head & then withdraw it warily  
19 & keep still--while I stay there.

20 Pipes (Eq. limosum) are now generally  
21 3 to 7 inches high--but so brown as yet  
22 that I mistook them at a little distance for  
23 a dead brown stubble amid the green of  
24 springing sede--& not a fresh growth at all.  
25 They are at last a very dark green still--if  
26 I remember.

27 The river is very low but I find that the  
28 meadows though bare are not very dry  
29 pretty  
30 except for the season--& I am ^ sure that  
31 within 2 or 3 years ~~wh~~ & at this season--

1 I have seen the pools on the meadows drier--  
2 when there was more water in the river--  
3 The Great Meadows are wet to walk over  
4 after all--& the great pools on them are  
5 rather unapproachable--even in india rubber  
6 boots-- Apparently it is impossible for the meadows  
7 to be so dry at this season--however low the  
8 river may be--as they may be at midsummer & later--  
9 Their own springs are fuller now.

10 A nuphar advena in one of these pools what  
11 you may call out--for it is rather stale-- //  
12 though no pollen is shed.

14 What little water there is amid the pipes & sedge  
15 is fitted & swarming with ap--the larva of //  
16 some insect perhaps ephemerae-- They keep up  
17 an undulating motion & have many feathery fringes on the  
18 sides.

20 I observe fishes close in shore--active & rippling the  
21 water when not scared as if breeding--often their //  
22 back fins out.

23 The sun sets red--shorn of its beams //

24 Those little silvery beetles in Ed. Emerson's  
25 aquarium that dash about--are evidently  
26 the notonecta or water boatmen-- I believe  
27 there is a larger & somewhat similar beetle  
28 which does not swim on its back called dytiscus  
29  
30 Missouri currant out how long? //

1                                    May 5th  
2                                    half green half brown  
3                    Cobwebs on the grass ^ this Am certainly  
4 //  
5                    not long--perhaps this the first time  
  
6 //& dews                    My single thick coat too much  
7                                    wind SE  
8                    2 Pm 76+° warm & hazy (&  
9 //                    warm  
10                    yesterday ^ also) A fresher & cooler breeze  
11                    is agreeable now-- The wind becomes a  
12                    breeze at this season.  
  
13 //                    The yellowish (or common) winged grass hoppers  
14                    are quite common now--hopping & flying before  
15 //me. Viola blanda how long?  
16 //                    Clams lie up abundantly  
17                    Bluets have spotted the fields for 2 or 3  
18 //  
19                    days--mingled with the reddish luzula--  
20                    as in Conants field N of Holden Wood--toward  
21                    the brook-- They fill the air with a sweet &  
22                    innocent fragrance--at a few rods distance  
23                    (I have not worn my outside coat  
24                                    nor I think had any fire in my chamber  
25 //since the ~~outside~~ 19th of April--& now it is the  
26                    Latterly have sat with the window open--even at evening<sup>90</sup>  
27                    13th of May)  
  
28                    Anemone & Thalictrum anemonoides--are of imp.  
29                    about the 10th of May-- The former abounds in  
30                    the thin young wood behind Lees Cliff.  
31 //                    Tent caterpillar nest 1 1/2 inches over  
32 //                    Dicksonia fern up 6 inches in a warm place  
33 //                    Yellow butterflies. Veronica serpylli-  
34  
35 //folia say yesterday X  
36                    There are some dense beds of houstonia  
37                    in the yard of the Old Conantum house.

---

<sup>90</sup>There is a line from "is" curving down to "13th of May."

1           Some parts of them show of a distinctly  
2 bluer shade 2 rods off-- They are most  
3 interesting now before many other flowers  
4 are out--the grass high--& they have  
5 lost their freshness-- I sit down by one  
6 dense bed of them to examine it. It is about  
7 3 feet long & 2 or more wide-- The flowers  
8 not only crowd one another--but are in  
9 several tiers one above another--& completely  
10 hide the ground--a mass of white-- Counting  
11 those in a small place--I find that there are  
12 about 3000 flowers in a square foot.  
13 They are all turned a little toward the sun  
14 & emit a refreshing odor. Here is a  
15 lumbering bumble bee--probing these  
16 tiny flowers. It is a rather ludicrous sight.  
17 Of course they will not support him--except  
18 a little where they are densest--so he bends  
19 them down rapidly (hauling them in with in ~~arms~~  
20 arms as it were) one after another--thrust-  
21 ing his beak into the tube of each. It takes  
22 him but a moment to despatch one. It is  
23 a singular sight a bumble-bee clamber-  
24 ing over a bed of these delicate flowers  
25 There are various other bees about them.

//

26           See at Lees a Pewee (phoebe) building  
27 she has just woven in or laid on the edge  
28 a fresh sprig of saxifrage in flower. I {notice}  
29 that Phoebes will build in the same recess

//

1 in a cliff year after year-- It is a constant  
2 thing here--though they are often disturbed.  
3 Think how many pewees must have built  
4 under the eaves of this cliff--since  
5 pewees were created & this cliff itself built!!  
6 You can possibly find the crumbling relics  
7 of how many! If you should look carefully  
8 enough. It takes us — many years to find  
9 out that nature repeats herself annually--  
10 But how perfectly regular & calculable all  
11 her phenomena must appear to a mind  
12 that has observed her for a thousand years!  
13  
14 Vernal grass X at this cliff. (common at  
15 //  
16 Damon's Spring the 12th)  
  
17 // The marginal shield fern is one foot high here.  
18 // Amelanchier Bot. flower in p.  
19 // Have seen no ducks for a week or more  
20 //Gnawel some time. Vac.<sup>91</sup> Pennsylvanica  
21 //flowers against rocks--not long.  
  
22 Sun goes down red. Hear of Bear-berry well  
23 ////  
24 out the 29th of April at Cliffs & then prob. some days.  
  
25 // The peepers & toads are in full blast  
26 at night.  
  
27 May 6th '60  
  
28 River 3 1/4 inches below summer level. Why is  
29 //  
30 it only 3/18 of an inch lower than last Sunday?  
31 (Ap. 29) for we are in the midst of a remarkable  
32 drought & I think that if there had been  
33 any rain within a week near the sources of the  
34 river I should have heard of it. Is it that

---

<sup>91</sup>The "V" looks as though it may be written over a "C."

1 these innumerable sources of the river which  
2 the springs in the meadows are--are able  
3 to keep up the supply--? The river had been  
4 falling steadily a good while before--why then  
5  
6 has it not fallen more the past week?

7 The dog's tooth violet was sent from Cambridge  
8 in flower-- May 1st--

9 //  
10 2 Pm to 2d Division

11 74°+ wind SE & Hazy //

12 A gold-finch sp. not quite in summer dress-- //

13 with a dark brown--not black front

14 See a song-spar's nest with 4 eggs--in the //

15 side of a bank or rather ditch-- I commonly find the  
16 earliest ones in such sheltered & concealed places-- What  
17 did they do before the white man came here with  
18 his ditches & stone-walls? (Methinks by the 13th I  
19 hear the bay-wing sing the oftenest)

20 As I go down the warm sandy path in the gully be-  
21 hind J. P. Browns I see quite a number of viola pe- //

22 datas-- Indigo weed shoots 6 inches high--a prenanthes  
23 leaf 8 inches high--& 2 leaved sol. seal pushing  
24 up--all signs of warm weather. As the leaves are  
25 putting forth on the trees so now a great  
26 many herbaceous plants are springing up  
27 in the woods & fields.

28  
29 There is a peculiar stillness associated with  
30 the warmth--which the cackling of a hen  
31 only serves to deepen--increasing the sabbath feeling.

32 In the Major Heywood Path see many

1 //rather small (or mid-sized) blackish butter-  
2 //flies-- The luzula campestris is ap. in p.  
3 well  
4 //Oryzopsis grass ^ out how long?  
5 Now at last we seek the shade these days--  
6 //  
7 as the most grateful-- Sit under the pines near  
8 the Stone guide post on the Marlboro Road,  
9 The note of the pine warbler which sounded so  
10 warm in March--sounds equally cool now.  
11 The 2d Division rush is not yet out-- It  
12 //  
13 is the greatest growth of what you may call the  
14 grass kind as yet-- The reddish tops (above the now  
15 say 16 inches high  
16 green)--trembling in the wind, very agreeably--  
17 The dark beds of the white ranunculus  
18 in the 2d Division brook--are very interesting--the  
19 old  
20 whitish stems seen amid & behind the dark brown ^ leaves  
21 The white throated sparrow & prob. the 28th of Ap.  
22 //  
23 //the large osmunda ferns say 1 foot high--some of  
24 them-- Also a little brake 1 foot high  
25 //Hear prob. a yellow-throated vireo in the woods  
26 //a creeper (black & white) yesterday.  
27 Sit on the steep N bank of White pond.  
28 The Am. Botryapium in flower--now spots the  
29 on the SE side  
30 brown sproutland hill side ^ across the pond--very in-  
31 terestingly though it makes but a faint impression  
32 of color-- I see its pink distinctly a quarter of a mile  
33 off-- It is seen now in sproutlands half a dozen  
34 years old--when the oak leaves have just about  
35 all fallen except a few white o. (It is in  
36 //p. about the 8th) Others are seen directly  
37 under the bank on which we sit--on this side, very  
38 white against the blue water.

1 Many at this distance would not notice those  
2 shadbush flowers on the hill side--or mistake them  
3 for whitish rocks-- They are the more interesting for  
4 coming thus between the fall of the oak leaves--  
5 & the expanding of other shrubs & trees-- Some of the  
6 larger near at hand are very light & elegant  
7 The white fingered flower of the sproutlands  
8 masses of white bloom^--^ In sproutlands--having  
9 probably the start--or preeminence over the other  
10 or all  
11 sprouts--from not being commonly ^ cut down with  
12 the other trees & shrubs--they are as high or higher  
13 than any of them for 5 or 6 years--& they are so  
14 early that they feel ~~the~~ almost the full in-  
15 fluence of the sun even amid full grown deciduous  
16 trees which have not leafed while they are con-  
17 siderably sheltered from the wind by them  
18 There is so fine a ripple on White pond--that  
19 it amounts to a mere imbrication--very regular--  
20 The song of the robin  
21 {drawing} heard at 4 1/2 pm--  
22 this still & hazy day--sounds //  
23 already vespertinal. maple keys 1 1/2 inch long //  
24 Mists these mornings-- //  
25 Our 2d shadbush out--how long? It is generally //  
26 just beginning in the woods. //  
27 My chamber is {oppressively} warm in the evening. //  
28 May 7th 60  
29 River 1/8 inch lower than yesterday //  
30 chimney swallow-- Cat bird sings //  
31 Hear the white-throat sparrows--peabody note in gardens //  
32  
33  
34

1 // Our pear X Canada plum in full bloom or  
2 // say in p.  
3 Also common plum in full bloom?  
4  
5 // It is very hazy as yesterday--& I smell smoke  
6 ~~++~~ Pm to Assabet Stone bridge--  
7 Find in the road beyond the Wheeler  
8 Cottages--a little round evidently last years  
9 painted turtle--has no yellow spots--but already  
10 little red spots on the edges of the sides. The  
11 or pinkish  
12 sternum a sort of orange ^ --red--  
13 This warm weather I see many new beetles & other  
14 //  
15 insects Ribes florida by bridge(flower) X  
16 //  
17 Cultivated cherry flowered yesterday at least,  
18 //  
19 //not yet ours. myrtle-bird  
20 old  
21 Met ^ Mr Conant with his eye & half the  
22 side of his face black & blue--looking very badly--  
23 He said he had been jerked down on to the Barn  
24 floor by a calf some 3 weeks old which he  
25 was trying to lead. The strength of calves is re-  
26 markable-- I saw one who had some difficulty  
27 in pulling along a calf not a week old.  
28 With their 4 feet they have a good hold on  
29 the earth. The last one was sucking a cow that  
30 had sore teats & every time ~~the co~~ it bunted  
31 the cow kicked energetically raking the  
32 calfs head & legs--but he stood close against  
33 the cows belly--& never budged in spite of  
34 all her kicks--though a man would have  
35 jumped out of the way. Who taught the calf  
36 to bunt?  
37 I saw bluets whitening the field yesterday a  
38 quarter of a mile off-- They are to the sere brown

1 grass what the shad bush is now to the brown &  
2 bare sproutlands or young woods.  
3 When planting potatoes the other day  
4 I found small ones that had been left in the  
5 ground--perfectly sound!  
6 May 8th A cloudy day--  
7 //  
8 The small--pewee how long-- The night warblers //  
9 note-- River 4 7/8 inch below S. L. //  
10 Stone-heaps how long? //

11 I see a woodchuck in the middle of the field at Assa-  
12 bet bath. He is a {brash} heavy fellow with a black  
13 tip to his tail poking about almost on his belly--where  
14 there is but little greenness yet--with a great heavy  
15 head. He is very wary--every minute pausing &  
16 raising his head--& sometimes sitting erect & looking around.  
17 --He is evidently nibbling some green thing--may be  
18 clover. He runs at last with an undulating motion  
19 jerking his lumbering body along--& then stops when  
20 near a hole. But on the whole he runs & stops &  
21 looks round very much like a cat in the fields.

22 The cinque-foil is closed in a cloudy day--  
23 & when the sun shines it is turned toward it--

24 The simple peep peep of the peetweet  
25 as it flies away from the shore before me sounds  
26 hollow & rather mournful reminding me  
27 of the sea-shore & its wrecks. & when I smell  
28 the fresh odor of our marshes--the resemblance  
29 is increased.

30 How the marsh hawk circles or skims low

1 round & round over a particular place in a meadow  
2 where perhaps it has seen a frog--~~& then~~ screaming  
3 once or twice--& then alight on a fence post!  
4 How it crosses the causeway between the  
5 willows--at a gap in them--with which it is  
6 familiar--as a hen knows a hole in a fence.  
7 I lately saw one flying over the road near  
8 our house.

9 I see a grey squirrel ascend the dead aspen  
10 at the rock--& enter a hole some 18 ft up it--  
11 Just below this a crack is stuffed with with leaves  
12 which project--prob. it has a nest within &  
13 has filled up this crack.

14 Now that the river is so low--the bared bank--  
15 often within the button bushes--is seen to be covered  
16 with that fine short always green eleocharis acicularis?

17 // C. has seen a brown thrasher & a republican swallow  
18 //today  
19 inch  
20 May 9th-- River 5 3/4 below SL.  
21 //  
22 I think I heard a bobolink? this am  
23 //  
24 A Swan boy brought me what I take to be a very  
25 red--Rana sylvatica caught on the leaves the 6th--  
26 Have had no fire for more than a fortnight  
27 //  
28 & no great coat since Ap. 19th

29 // Fir balsam bloom X  
30  
31 Sugar maple-blossoms are now a tender yellow  
32 //  
33 in p. say 11th

34 Thousands of Dandelions along the meadow by the  
35 by the 18th are much concealed by grass  
36 //mill brook behind R. W. E. in p. say 10th

37 Pm to Flints pond  
38 //  
39 // Oven-bird prob. how long? In Ebby Hubbards wood

1 I climb to a hole in a dead white pine a dozen  
2 feet up--& see by the gray fur about the edge  
3 of the hole that it {prob.} has been used by the gray  
4 squirrel. Maryland yel-throat. //

5 We sit by the shore of goose pond. The tapping of  
6 a woodpecker sounds distinct & hollow this still cloudy  
7 day--as not before for a long time--& so do the notes  
8 of birds--as if heard against a back ground for  
9 a relief--eg. the cackle of the pig. woodpecker--  
10 the note of the jay  
11 ^ the scratching in the dry leaves of 3 or 4 chewinks  
12 near us (for they are not shy) about the pond under  
13 the blueberry bushes-- The water is smooth

14 After sitting there a little while I count the noses of  
15 within a couple of rods  
16 20 frogs ^ which have ventured to come to the surface  
17 again--so quietly that I did not see one come  
18 up. At the foxhole by Britton's hollow  
19 there are some 3 cart buck loads of sand  
20 cast out.

21 That large pine-tree moss that makes  
22 beds on the ground now fruiting when I brush  
23 my hand over its fruit is surprisingly stiff & elastic  
24 like wires.

25 Yel. lily pads--began to spread out on some pools--  
26 but hardly yet on the river--say 10" on river-- //

27 Golden robin. //

28 The wall by the road at the bars N of Cyrus Smith's  
29 chestnut grove is very firmly {boug} together by the  
30 rhus toxicodendron which has over run it--for 20 feet  
31 in length. Would it not be worth the while to  
32 en-courage its growth for this purpose, if you are not

1 afraid of being poisoned? It runs up by ~~rather~~ small  
2 root like stems which cling close & flat to  
3 the wall--& which intertwine & seem to take  
4 as from the ground  
5 a new start from the top of the wall ^ where  
6 the stems are generally longer than below--so  
7 that it is in fact a row of this rhus growing on  
8 the top of the wall to some 3 or 4 feet above it--  
9 & by its roots stems binding the stones very firmly  
10 together. How much better this than sods on  
11 a wall.

12 C. stricta  
13 Of that early sedge in Everets meadow--the  
14 //topmost spikes are already effete--say a week then.  
15 I see a 2d amelanchier with a distinct  
16 pink or rosaceous tinge like an apple blossom.  
17 // elm seed has begun to fall  
18 // Cattle going up country for 10 days past--(yes &  
19 the 14th)  
20 You must keep your gate shut

21 May 10th 60

22 River 6 1/8 inches below summer Level--  
23 // Therm at 2 Pm 71+  
24 // The winds died away with April  
25 // In the midst of a remarkable drought--  
26 great  
27 // Hear of ^ fires in the woods up country the past  
28 week. It is so dry. Some farmers plowed around  
29 their houses to save them.  
30 Pm to Bateman's Pond.  
31 // S. Alba flower in p. & resounding with the hum of  
32 bees on it. Ther{e} sweet fragrance fills the air  
33 for a long distance-- How much the planting  
34 of this willow--adds to the greenness & cheer-

1 fulness of our landscape at this season!

2 As I stand on the Hunt's Bridge-- I notice  
3 the now comparatively dark green of the Canary  
4 grass Phalaris the coarse grass vigorously  
5 spring up on the muddy islands & edges--  
6 --the glaucous green of Carex stricta tufts--  
7 & the light yellowish green of the very coarse sedges  
8 of the meadow.

9 Going over the hill behind S. Brown's when we  
10 cross the triangular space between the road beyond  
11 the pump-makers--I see countless little heaps of  
12 the sand like small ant-hills--but looking more closely  
13 saw by the size of the holes (a little less than 1/4 of an  
14 inch) & the comparative irregularity of the heaps--as  
15 if the sand had been brought forth & dropt in greater  
16 quantity at once--attracted my attention--& I found  
17 they were the work of bees. The bees were hovering  
18 low over the surface--& were continually entering &  
19 rising from the holes. They were about the size of  
20 a honey bee--black bodied--with<sup>92</sup> I thought yellow  
21 thighs--if it was not pollen. Many of the holes ap-  
22 peared to have been freshly stopped up with granules  
23 of moist sand. These holes were made close together  
24 with very little grass on it  
25 in the dry & sandy soil there ^ sloping toward the  
26 triangular  
27 west--between the roads--& covered a ^ space some 7 rds  
28 by 3 I counted 24 in a square foot-- There must  
29 have been some 25000 of these nests in all. The surface  
30 was yellowed with them. Evidently a kind of mining bee //  
31  
32 I see in roadside hard sward by the brook beyond

---

<sup>92</sup>There is a flourish at the end of "with."

1 a sedge darker than the stricta--& not in tufts--  
2 //quite short--is it the S C. vulgaris-- Its leading  
3 spikes are effete.  
4 // Evergreen forest note  
5 very  
6 // Some ^ young oaks, white o &c in woods begin to leap  
7 // Hear the first cricket.  
8 The red-maples fruiting now, are in the  
9 //  
10 brick-red state  
11 heard  
12 I ~~saw~~ yesterday--one or 2 warblers--one's note was  
13 in rhythm like a very feeble field sparrow--was it  
14 was it not the Particolored warbler--with bluish head & yellow beneath--but  
15 not the screeper note  
16 ?//the red-start? Prob. 1 or 2 strange warblers now.  
17 but note ending with jingle slightly like the field sparrow  
18 // meadow fox-tail grass out several days.  
19 May 11th  
20 The river no lower than yesterday's  
21 // Warbling vireo  
22  
23 2 Pm 77+° very warm  
24 to Factory village  
25 // Red start.  
26 // Red wings do not fly in flocks for 10 days past  
27 I think  
28 I see at Damon's spring some Dandelion seeds  
29 all blown away & other perfectly ripe spheres--  
30 (much more at Clam Shell the 13th) It is ripe then  
31 //several days--or say just before elm seed--but the  
32 mouse ear not ~~yet~~ on the 13th any where.  
33 // The senecio shows its yellow.  
34 // The warmth--makes us notice the shade of  
35 houses & trees--(even before the last have leafed)  
36 as Harrington's elm & house  
37 falling on the greened banks. June like.  
38 See some large black birch stump  
39 all covered with pink ~~the~~ scum from the sap.



1 the earth is so dry it drinks like a sponge  
2 May 13--60  
3 I observe this morning the dew on the  
4 //grass in our yard--literally sparkling drops which  
5 thickly stud it. Each dew-drop is a beautiful  
6 crystalline sphere just below (within an 8th of  
7 an inch more or less) the tip of the blade  
8 --sometimes there are 2 or 3-one beneath the  
9 other--the lowest the largest. Each  
10 dew-drop takes the form of the planet itself.  
11 What an advance is this from the sere  
12 withered & flattened grass--at most whitened  
13 with frost--which we have lately known--  
14 to this delicate crystalline drop trembling  
15 at the lip of a fresh green grass-blade.  
16 The surface of the globe is thus tremblingly  
17 alive.  
18 A great<sup>93</sup> many apple trees out X &  
19 //  
20 prob. some for 2 days.  
21 2 pm 82+° warmest day yet  
22 //  
23 This & the last 2 days remarkably warm  
24 need a half thick coat--sit--(& sleep with open  
25 window the 13th)--  
26 Row to Bittern Cliff--  
27 // The celtis is not yet in bloom  
28 // The river is now 6 15/16 inches below SL.  
29 // At clam shell one--cerastium flower quite  
30 done & dry-- R. bulbosus abundant--spotting the  
31 //bank--may be a week Tall buttercup XXX  
32 //  
33 //Horsemint seen springing up for a week--  
34 a refreshing scent.

---

<sup>93</sup>"A great" poss. written over text





1 white birches are now distinguished simply by being  
2 clothed with a tender & yellow green while the trees generally  
3 are bare & brown--upright columns of green dashing  
4 the brown hill sides.  
5  
6                   May 14th  
7           The heat continues-- //  
8           It is remarkably hazy--wind still NE //  
9 You can hardly see the horizon at all  
10 a mile off-- The mornings for some time past  
11 have been misty rather than foggy--& now  
12 it lasts through the day--& becomes a haze  
13           The sun light is yellow through it-- //  
14           In the Pm it is cooler--much cooler  
15 at about 60+ & windier. //  
16           Some S discolor down shows itself before //  
17 mouse ear. The order is then Dandelion--elm-- //  
18 seed--willow--& next prob. mouse ear down--  
19 i.e. of the more noticeable seeds.  
20           At Stows meadow by RR. I see carex stipata //  
21 may be 5 days out-- C. vulgaris 5 to 8 inches high //  
22           still out near English cress May 16  
23 & done ^ (the short scattered dark scaled one)  
24 At Smiths shore the C. buxbaumii is nearly done //  
25 Put them in the order (the meadow carices observed)  
26 till I know better                   still out near Eng. cress May 16  
27 C. vulgaris May 1st--C. Stricta--May 3d^--Bux-  
28 baumii May 6th--C stipata say 9th or perhaps  
29 the first 2 together. Flowering fern is a foot high //  
30           C. sees the chestnut sided warbler & the tanager //  
31 today & heard a whipporwill last night. //  
32           The early sedges even in the meadows

1     have blossomed before you are aware of it--  
2     while their tufts & leaves are still mainly brown--  
3             May be another sedge by Smith's shore some what  
4     ?             but much taller now  
5     vulgaris like ^ with shorter fertile spikes than stricta--though  
6     possibly {on} the last.  
7                     May 15  
8             Pm to sedge paths & {Clifs}--  
9             Yesterday afternoon & today--the east wind  
10    //has been quite cool if not cold--but the  
11    //haze thicker than ever-- Too cool evidently &  
12    windy for warblers except in sheltered places  
13    too cool in tops of high exposed trees.  
14             The carex stricta & C. vulgaris both  
15    are common just beyond the English bank cress  
16    //& many of both are still in bloom.  
17             I noticed on the 13 my mid sized orange  
18    butterfly with blackish spots.  
19             Noticed on the 6th ult. the largest shrub  
20    oak that I know in the road by White Pond  
21    just before getting to the lane--  
22             The Salix humilis is going to seed as early  
23    //  
24    as the discolor for aught I see--(now downy  
25             Oaks are just coming into the gray.  
26    //  
27    //Deciduous woods now swarm with migrating  
28    warblers--esp. about swamps  
29    ?             Did I not hear part of a gross-beaks  
30    strain?  
31    //             Lousewort flower some time & frost-bitten

1 I find by the path side at punk-oak wood  
2  
3 as I have but little doubt--Carex siccata //  
4 an earlier locality near Holbrooks hut  
5 (ap. the same I called festiocacea-like) but the  
6 St. fis. flowers are variously situated. It has been  
7 out some days at least--say 6 or the 10th //  
8 Also a taller C. with a neat as yet unopened  
9 spike 1 or 2 sterile (the uppermost long) & 2  
10 fertile quite small) ap not for some days-- //  
11 Is it not my C. vestita in same parts--& in  
12 the dry hollow more NW  
13  
14 There is a small sedge common along the  
15 path--(c. pensylvanica like--but the fertile  
16 flowers are very slender if not abortive--unlike  
17 the latter & well developed on top of Cliffs. The  
18 one a S. humilis not in flower yet.  
19 Under the Cliffs by edge of Gerardia Quercifolia  
20 path--the C. varia gone to seed--v press //  
21 & on top of Cliff near Staghorn Sumac. C. penn-  
22 sylvanica--gone to seed & 10 or more inches high-- //  
23 ap.  
24 alto still ^ in bloom. v press.  
25 Looking from the Cliffs through the haze  
26 the deciduous trees are a mist of leafets  
27 //  
28 against which the pines are already darkened  
29 Thus  
30 At this season there is ^ a mist in the air & a  
31 mist on the earth  
32  
33 Rye is a foot or more high--%& some 2 feet the early% //  
34 The springing sorrel--the expanding leafets--the  
35 already waving rye--tell of June

1           Sun goes down red--& did last night--  
2 //  
3    a hot day does not succeed but the very dry  
4    weather continues-- It is shorn of its beams in  
5    the mist-like haze Ranunculus bulbosus begins  
6 //in churchyard today.

7                            May 16--60

8           Pm to Copan--& Beck Stows'--  
9           2 pm 56+° with a cold E. wind

10 //           many people have fires again

11           Near Peters I see a small-creeper hopping  
12    along the branches of the oaks & pines--ever turning  
13    this way & that as it hops--making various angles  
14    with the bough--{drawing} Then flies  
15    across to another bough, or to the base of another  
16    tree, & traces that up--zigzag & prying  
17    in to the crevices. Think how thoroughly the  
18    trees are thus explored by various birds. You  
19    can hardly sit near one for 5 minutes now  
20    but either a woodpecker or creeper comes &  
21    examines its bark rapidly--or a warbler  
22    a summer yellow bird eg--makes a pretty  
23    thorough exploration about all its expanding  
24    leafets--even to the top most twig-- The whole  
25    of A forest is being thus explored for insect  
26    food now by several hundred (?) species of  
27    birds--each is visited by many kinds. & thus  
28    the equilibrium of the insect & vegetable kingdom  
29    is preserved.-- Perhaps I may say that each  
30    opening bud is thus visited before it has fully



1 with some spikes in bloom only 2 or 3 inches  
2 high & others effete 7 or 8 inches high--not  
3 dark scaled--{&} with exceedingly short pointed fruit  
4 ?~~& small or slender~~ a var. of C. Pennsylvannica?

5 //Nemopanthes may be a day or 2 out--

6 The swamps are exceedingly dry--on the 13th  
7 //  
8 I walked wherever I wanted to in thin shoes in Kalmia  
9 swamp--& today I walk through the middle of  
10 Beck stow's. The river meadows are more  
11 wet comparatively.

12 I pass a young red maple--whose keys  
13 hang down 3 inches or more--& appear to  
14 be nearly ripe. This being in a favorable light  
15 (on one side from the sun) & being of a high color--  
16 a pink-scarlet--is a very beautiful object  
17 --more so than when in flower. Masses of  
18 <sup>unequally</sup>  
19 double samarae--~~irregularly~~ disposed along the  
20 branches trembling in the wind--like<sup>94</sup> the  
21 flame of the shad bush so this handsome fruit--  
22 <sup>now</sup>  
23 is seen {—} for the most part ^ against bare twigs--  
24 it is so much in advance of its own & of other leaves.

25 The peduncles gracefully rise a little before they  
26 curved downward {drawing} They are only a little darker  
27 shade than the samarae --There are sometimes  
28 3 samarae together--

29 // Sun goes down red

30 May 17th--60

31 // Quite a fog till 8 Am--& plowed ground blackened  
32 with the moisture absorbed.

33 I. Farmer sends me to-day--what is

---

<sup>94</sup>possibly "alike"

1 plainly Cooper's Hawk //

2 It is from 18 to 19 inch long & frm flexure of wing 11 inches

3 (alar extent 34) The tail extends 4 or 5 inches be-

4 yond the wings. Tarsus about 3 inches long. & with

5 feet yellow. The bird above is nearly a uniform

6 dark brown--, or dark chocolate brown, with bluish

7 reflections, head darker-- Tail with 4 blackish

8 bands, & narrowly tipped with whitish--cere greenish

9 ~~each feather with brown longitudinal spots~~

10 Breast transversely barred with pale rusty ^--centered

11 retain

12 ~~longitudinally~~ with darker brown lines-- Under wing coverts

13 like breast without the transverse bars. Vent white.

14 Wings beneath (2d aries & primaries) thickly barred with black,

15 with brown & light--white, iris yellow-- There is attached

16 to the breast fragments of a bluish-white egg-- No ruff

17 %white pine%

18 about eye as in the harrier--(V. the large F. Fuscus

19 It was shot on its nest (a female then) in an oak N of Pakaw-

20 of Aug 29--58) tasset on the 16 & had 4 eggs which may have been sat on 1 week

21 %v May 29%

22 It agrees very well with Nuttalls account (q.v. in

23 my scrap in Geraud) except that the 2d primary

24 is not equal to the 6th & the tail is full 9 inches

25 long-- Also sufficiently with Geraud's ac--ex-

26 cept that the tarsus is about 3 inches long.

27 but rather slender

28 It is a large bird ^ with a very long tail

29 This makes the 10th species of the hawk kind that I

30 The egg which Farmer saved

31 have seen in Concord. is 1 10/12 inches x 1 5 1/2 /12 of a regular oval form

32 a few large

33 bluish white with ^ rough dirty spots

34 Pm to J. Farmer's

35 Is not that little fern which I have seen un-

36 rolling 4 or 5 day & scattered along the low meadow edge

37 //

38 next the river--the Aspid. Thelypteris? now 5 or 6 inch high

39 A night hawk with its distinct white spots

40 //

1 //Early aspen down has just begun (before mouse ear)  
2 //Carex crinita just out--or say a day--X on  
3 the grassy island-- The C. stricta is common yet  
4 //  
5 there, & interesting in large thick tufts with its  
6 brown spikes-- That island is thickly covered  
7 with white violets-- Common cress out  
8 //how long ✕? May flowers pollen showing minute pods--  
9 The river is 7 1/8 inches below SL.  
10 //  
11 See the sium pushing up near the water side--  
12 It smells when broken off--like a parsnip.  
13 Standing in the meadow near the early  
14 aspen at the island-- I hear the first  
15 fluttering of leaves-- A peculiar sound, at  
16 first unaccountable to me. The breeze causes  
17 there  
18 //the now fully expanded aspen leaves ^ to rustle  
19 with a pattering sound, striking on one another.  
20 --It is much like a gentle surge breaking on  
21 a shore--or the rippling of waves. This is  
22 the first softer music which the wind draws  
23 from the forest. The woods generally being com-  
24 paratively bare--& just bursting into leaf. It  
25 was delicious to behold that dark mass & hear  
26 that soft rippling sound.  
27 Tupelo buds just expanding--but inconspic. as yet  
28 //  
29 //Round-leafed cornel leaflets 1 inch wide-- S. sericea 1/2  
30 //  
31 //inch wide. Lambkill leaf a day or 2  
32 // Sarsaparilla flower ap. yesterday-- Polygala  
33 //paucifolia common how long?-- Rhodora--generally  
34 //  
35 //out. Eleocharis tenins--prob 2 or 3 days (some of it)



1 into bloom (not in full bloom) look like whitish  
2 //rocks on the hill-sides--somewhat even as  
3 the shad-bush did--

4 The sand cherry flower is about in p. It grows  
5 //  
6 on all sides of short steins which are either upright  
7 or spreading--forming often regular solid cylinders  
8 12 to 18 inches long--& only 1 1/2 inches in diameter  
9 the flowers facing out every way-- Of uniform  
10 diameter--determined by the length of the peduncles.  
11 --Pretty wands of white flowers--with leaflets intermingled

12 The remarkably dry weather--has been  
13 both very favorable & agreeable weather to walkers.  
14 We have had almost constant east winds--  
15 yet generally accompanied with warmth--  
16 none of the rawness of the E. wind commonly--  
17 We have, as it were, the bracing air of the sea  
18 shore with the warmth & dryness of ~~the~~ June  
19 in the country.

20 The night-warbler is a very powerful singer for  
21 so small a bird-- It launches into the air  
22 above the forest--or over some hollow or open  
23 space in the woods--& challenges the attention  
24 of the woods by its rapid & impetuous warble  
25 & then drops down swiftly--into the tree tops  
26 like a performer ~~sud~~ withdrawing behind the  
27 scenes--& he is very lucky who detects where  
28 it alights.

29 That large fern (is it Aspid Spinulosum?--) of  
30 //  
31 Brister spring swamp is a foot or more high-- It is  
32 partly ever green.

33 hole  
34 A hairy wood pecker betrays its ~~nest~~ in an  
35 apple tree by its anxiety. . . The ground

1 is strewn with the chips it has made over a large  
2 space-- The hole so far as I can see, is exactly  
3 like that of the downy woodpecker--the entrance  
4 ~~& the~~ (though not so round) & the conical form within  
5 above) only larger.

6 The bird scolds at me from a dozen rods off

7 Carex scoparia ?? in midst of Hubbards close in shallow  
8 Is it not stellulata (note being brown spiked-- //  
9 water--say 3 or 4 days Prob. it is C. canescens--also by Stow's ditch //  
10 the 28th //  
11 Now for very young & tender oak leaves & their colors

12 May 19th--60

13 Am River 7 inches below S. L.

14 Wind S. & a gentle intermittent warm rain //  
15 at last begins. This has been the longest drought //  
16 that I remember-- The last rain was April 16th--  
17 except that some detected a few drops falling on  
18 the 9th ult--was literally the last drop we had.

19 If this had occurred a month later after the crops  
20 were fairly growing it would have been a great calamity.  
21 As it is there has been very little growth. My potatoes  
22 planted May 1st are but just beginning to peep here &  
23 there-- My corn planted the 2d has not a quarter  
24 part showed itself--& grass seed sown 10 days ago  
25 has not germinated-- But weeds have not grown  
26 as much as usual-- It must have been a  
27 severe trial for young fruit & other trees.

28 Plowing & planting have been uncommonly dirty  
29 work it has been so dusty.

30 2 Pm to 2d division Therm. 72°+

1           It cleared up at noon to our disappoint  
2 //  
3    men & very little rain had fallen--

4           There is a strong S. W. wind after the  
5 //  
6    rain--rather novel & agreeable--blowing off  
7    some apple blossoms-- The grass especially  
8    the meadow grasses ~~have~~ are seen to wave  
9 //  
10   distinctly--& the shadows of the bright  
11   fair weather cumuli are sweeping over them  
12   like the shades of a watered or changeable  
13   stuff-- June like-- The grass & the tender  
14   leaves refreshed & expanded by the rain are peculiarly  
15   bright & yellowish green--when seen in a favorable  
16   light.

17           This occurrence of pretty strong--S. W. winds near  
18   the end of May--3 weeks after the colder & stronger  
19   winds of March & April have died away--after  
20   the first heats & perhaps warm rain--when  
21                            upland  
22   the apple trees & ^ buttercups are in bloom--is an  
23   annual phenomenon-- Not being too cold they are  
24   an agreeable novelty & excitement now--& give  
25   life to the landscape.

26 //        Sorrel just begins to redden some fields

27 //        I have seen for a week a smaller & redder  
28   butterfly than the early red or reddish one--  
29   Its hind wings are chiefly dark or blackish-- It is  
30   quite small. The forward wings a pretty bright scarlet  
31   red with black spots--

32 //        See a green snake a very vivid yellow  
33   green of the same color with the tender  
34   foliage at present--& as if his colors had been  
35   heightened by the rain.



1 homes. They are but poor runners & depend  
2 on their watchfulness & not being caught far  
3 from their burrows.

4 // The reddish brown loosestrife is seen springing up  
5 in dry woods 6 or 8 inches high.

6 Now sitting on the bank at White Pond I do  
7 //not see a single shad bush in bloom across the  
8 pond--where they had just fairly begun on the  
9 small ~~little~~  
10 6th The x P. grandidentas--with their silvery  
11 generally  
12 leaflets not yet ^ flattened out--represent it  
13 there now--are the most like it.

14 I see some tall shadbush without the reddish  
15 leaves--what I think I have thought a var of  
16 ?  
17 the botrychium still well in bloom ap. with the  
18 oblongifolium-- Is it the last?

19 The largest shrub oak that I have noticed  
20 N.  
21 grows by the side of the white pond road--not  
22 far from the end of the Lane-- It measures 16  
23 inches in circumference at 2 feet from the  
24 ground--& looks like a Cape Cod red-oak--in  
25 size & form. a scraggly small tree--(maybe  
26 a dozen feet high.)

27 Pyrus arbutifolia out say X Beach plum  
28 //  
29 //by Hubbard's wall perhaps a day.

30 // Lilac the 17th The fresh shoots of the  
31 white pine are now perpendicular whitish marks  
32 about 2 inches long--about 6 inches apart on  
33 a glaucous green ground.

34 I measure a bear's foot which F. Munroe  
35 brought from Vermont where it was killed in a  
36 trap within a few years-- It was formed  
37 very much like a boys foot with its 5 toes--  
38 and the solid part measured 7 1/2 inches

1 in length x 3 3/4. {drawing} The claws extended 1 inch  
2 further--& with the fur (not allowing anything  
3 for shrinkage all this while) it must have made  
4 a track 9 x 4 1/2 inches at least-- The fur came  
5 down thick all around to the ground-- The was a  
6 scar or joint across the middle of the sole

7 River raised 1 1/2 inches at night by rain of Am (i.e to 5 1/2 inch below SL.)//

8 May 20--60

9 A strong cold W. wind 60°+ at 2 pm //  
10 to Walden

11 The carex vulgaris is more glaucous than the stricta.

12 mouse ear down at last XX //

13 Scirpus planifolius how long? ap in p. in woods about //

14 the bottom of the long S bay of Walden--say 2 rds SW--

15 Judging from Hind's Report of his  
16 survey of the region between the Assiniboine  
17 & Saskatchewan Rivers the prevailing trees--and  
18 they are small are aspens & willows--which  
19 if let alone--ie if the prairie were not  
20 burned by the Indians--might at last  
21 make a soil for nobler forests--

22 No wonder that these small trees are so  
23 widely dispersed--their abundant fine &  
24 light seed being buoyed up & wafted far  
25 through the atmosphere--speedily clothe  
26 the burnt tracts of British America--  
27 Heavy seeded trees are slow to spread them-  
28 selves--but both air & water combine to transport  
29 the seeds of these trees--



1 & inspecting its leafets for insects--in all positions  
2 often head downward--the sylvia striata--black- //  
3  
4 poll warbler-- Black crown or all top of head, a  
5 broad white space along side head & reaching less distinctly  
6 over the neck--in a ring--beneath this from base of mandi-  
7 bles a streak of black--becoming a stream or streams of  
8 black spots along the sides--beneath white--legs  
9 yellow-- Back above slaty-brown streaked with  
10 black--primaries yellowish dusky--with 2 white  
11 bars or marks--inner tail feathers more or less white--  
12 Not particularly lively  
13 tail forked--bill black-- The female is said  
14 to be considerably different-- This at first glance  
15 was a chicadee like bird-- It was rather tame  
16 I distinguish well the Red-eye & the //  
17 yel. throat vireo--at the Island. It would not  
18 be easy to distinguish them always by the note &<sup>96</sup> NB  
19 I may have been mistaken sometimes--& before  
20 this year--in speaking of the Yel. throat vireo.  
21 The red sings as slightly & feebly here now as  
22 the other--  
23 You can see these here to advantage now  
24 on the sunny side of the woods--the sun  
25 just bursting forth in the morning after the  
26 rain--for they busily preening themselves  
27 & though incessantly moving their heads & bodies  
28 remain in the same spot.  
29 Myrtle bird here still-- //  
30 Notice the first lint from new leafets evidently //  
31 washed off by the rain & covering the water like  
32 dust

---

<sup>96</sup>"NB" is written over a set of Thoreau's parallel lines in the margin.

1           Pm 69+ By boat to Ball's Hill.  
2 //  
3       Say the sweet scented vernal grass is in its p.  
4 //  
5 //Interrupted fern fruit probably a day or 2 & ~~may~~  
6 //Cinnamon say the same or just after.  
7           I see on the white maples and after-  
8       ward running along the shore close to the  
9       water--at different times 3 or 4 water  
10      thrushes--water wag tails-- T. Noveboracensis  
11 //  
12      By its lurking along the water side it might be  
13      mistaken by some at first for the song sparrow.  
14      It is considerably like the g. c. thrush--but  
15      it has a distinct huffish-white line over the  
16      eye--& the breast & sides distinctly striped with dark  
17      All above uniform olive brown-- It may be  
18      distinguished at a distance from a sparrow--by  
19      its wagging motion tattering on its perch--  
20      It persistently runs along the shore peetweet  
21      & song sparrow like--running like a rail around the  
22      tussocks & other obstacles & appearing again at  
23      the water's edge-- It was not very shy. We very  
24      easily kept along 2 rods off it, while it was  
25      amid the button bushes-  
26  
27           Started up 2 prob--Totanus Solitarius? (possibly  
28 //  
29      small yellow legs ???) They utter a fainter  
30      yellow-leg note rather than peet weet note  
31      --viz--phe, phe,/ pheet pheet pheet  
32      Are not shy! stand still or beside a tussock  
33      to be looked at-- Have peculiarly long slender  
34      curving wings-- Fly like a peet weet--but

1 are considerably larger & ap. uniformly dark  
2 brown above--the belly & vent very bright white--  
3 breas (upper part) grayish brown-- When they flew  
4 frm me say consid white ap on tail coverts or sides,  
5 of tail. Watched one still within 3 rods with  
6 glass. There was a little speckling of whitish perhaps  
7 amid the brown above. I think they were to small  
8 for the lesser yellow legs.

9  
10 Eleocharis palustris say 3 or 4 days X //

11  
12 Critchicrotches some 2 or 3 days--(now tender to eat) //

13 How agreeable & surprising the peculiar fra-  
14 grance of the sweet flag when bruised! That  
15 alone  
16 this plant ^ should have extracted this odor  
17 surely for so many ages each summer from the  
18 moist earth!

19 The pipes in the great meadows now //

20 show a darker green amid the yellowish of the  
21 sedges--like the shadow of a passing cloud.  
22 From a hill-top half a mile off you can easily  
23 distinguish the limits of the pipes by their dark green.  
24 They do not terminate abruptly--but are gradually  
25 lost in the sedge.

26 There is very little white maple seed this  
27 year--so that I cannot say surely how far  
28 advanced it is-- What I notice appears to be  
29 fully grown, but is on the trees yet--always  
30 surprisingly large, like the wings of some  
31 lusty moth. Possibly it ripens with mouse-ear.

32 I get sight for a moment of a larger  
33 warbler on a young oak--only the under side--



1 not long, say 3 or 4 days-- I should have thought  
2 it--C. stellulata--but it is plainly staminate  
3 also seen at Calamint wall annursnack June 10th  
4 above--fertile below-- ^ Also C. gracillima //

5 same place, ap 4 or 5 days.

6 C. bullata (?) 1 fertile 3 staminate edge of river say 3 or 4 //

7 days. C. monile (?) by Heron Rock--with 2 sterile (!) 3 or 4 //

8 days. Rain at 6 pm about 1 2/3 inch below SL.  
9 risen //

10 ~~fallen~~ some 2 1/2 inches since 6 Am--

11 Notice the flags eaten off--prob. by musquash--

12 May 24--60

13 6 am water fallen about 1 inch //

14 Pm to Cliffs

15 I see in a ditch a painted turtle nibbling  
16 the edge of a frostbitten yel lily pad  
17 (in the water) which has turned white-- Other  
18 pads have evidently been nibbled by him--  
19 having many scallops or notches in their  
20 edges just the form of his jaws {drawing}

21 That earliest little slender leaved panic  
22 grass will bloom say in a day (if not now) //

23

24 About a rod from the W. spring on  
25 F. H. Hill--by the wall stands an English  
26 Cherry tree 3 feet high. I think that this  
27 was planted there by a bird which came to  
28 the spring for water--after feeding on  
29 cherries in the town (?) for I frequently find  
30 the stones dropt in the springs.

31 Those red cedars now 10 feet high or  
32 more on F. H. hill--have all the regular  
33 form of the leaf--except a small branch or

1 2 in their midst--yet I remember that  
2 when 4 or 5 feet high they had only the  
3 acetate<sup>97</sup> form-- It seems then that you  
4 will see small trees which have only leaves  
5 of the acetate form--but when they get  
6 larger they have leaves of the usual form--  
7 Looking into the N. W. horizon I see that  
8 Wackiest is partially concealed by a haze.  
9 //  
10 It is suddenly quite a cool SE wind--  
11 also  
12 (When I started at 2 it was SE--& Therm 3 69+)  
13 This is one of the values of mts in the horizon  
14 that they indicate the state of the atmosphere--  
15 I should not have noticed this haze--if I  
16 had not looked toward the mts.  
17 How perfectly new & fresh the world is seen to  
18 be when we behold a myriad sparkles of  
19 brilliant white sunlight on a rippled stream!!  
20 more bright than the flash  
21 --So remote from dust & decay, of an eye--  
22 // I notice the first shadows of hickories--not  
23 dense & dark shade--but open latticed--  
24 a network of sun & shadow-- Just begun  
25 to describe their semicircles on the N sides of the  
26 trees. The first demonstrations that it will shade  
27 the ground--unobserved as yet by the cows in  
28 the pasture  
29 I saw yesterday a herd of cows standing in the water  
30 //  
31 of the river--though it was rather cold water.  
32 They begin their bathing about the  
33 same time that we do. They splash about  
34 till they get into a convenient place, about

---

<sup>97</sup>Thoreau may mean "acicular."

1 up to their bellies & chew the cud there.  
2 As I sit just above the NW end of the Cliff  
3 I see a tanager perched on one of the topmost  
4 twigs of a hickory--holding by the tender leafets  
5 now 5 inches long--& evidently come to spy after  
6 me--peeping behind a leafet-- He is be-  
7 tween me & the sun--& his plumage is incredibly  
8 all aglow  
9 brilliant.^ It is our highest colored bird--a deep  
10 scarlet--(with a yellower reflection where the sun  
11 strikes him) in the midst of which his pure black  
12 wings look high colored also. You can hardly be-  
13 lieve that (~~there is~~) a living creature can wear  
14 such colors-- A hickory too is the fittest perch  
15 for him.  
16 Hear a wood-pewee //  
17 A pin cushion gull on a black shrub o. (not //  
18 yet crimson spotted) yesterday saw oak apples-- //  
19 (now yellow) on a black shrub o. 2/3 grown.  
20 At the entrance of C. flava meadow at  
21 Hubs' Grove many little ap. of 2 spiked //  
22 (sometimes 3) C. stellulata-like (also trisperma-  
23 like but clover (the spikes) & less long bracted)--  
24 Is that C. stellulata (so glaucous in the peat ditches here? v 18th prob. C. ca-?  
25 nescens  
26 C. scoparia (brown spiked) yesterday--say 2 or 3 //  
27 days  
28 May 25--60  
29 Frost last night in low ground-- //  
30 The yards are now full of little spires of //  
31 quite  
32 June grass with a brownish tinge--but not ^ in flower  
33 trembling in the breeze-- You see a myriad of fine

1 perpendicular  
2 parallel ^ stems about a foot high--against the  
3 lighter green ground. It has shot up erect  
4 suddenly & gives a new aspect to our yards  
5 The earth wears a new & greener vest.

6 The trees I notice which look late now-  
7 & Holbrook hollow aspens Tupelos  
8 are not only locusts ^ --but ^ white ash--swamp  
9 white oaks--button woods--& some elms & even  
10 some red maples--  
11  
12 Pm to Gowings Swamp & Copan--  
13 Quite warm & I see in the east the first  
14 //summer shower cloud--a distinct cloud  
15 to the horizon  
16 above and all beneath ^ the general slate color  
17 of falling rain though distant--deepest in the  
18 middle--  
19  
20 // The scheuchzeria out some days ap. (but only in  
21 the open pool in the midst of the swamp.  
22  
23 I see half a dozen heads of tortoises above the  
24 sphagnum there in the pool--& They have ver-  
25 milion spots on the neck or hind head. some  
26 sort of orange vermillion. Are they the yel spot,?  
27 or wood tortoise?

28 to bloom  
29 // The European cranberry budded ^ & grown 1 inch.  
30 // Comandra out not long.  
31 //Red & white o leafets handsome now.  
32 //Pe-pe heard. & prob consid. earlier--  
33  
34 It is remarkable that the aspen on Holbrook's  
35 road--though in most places it is the  
36 earliest indigenous tree to leaf--is the very latest  
37 ?  
38 & the buds are hardly yet {swolen} at all. Can  
39 it be a distinct var.?  
40 // See the effect of frost on the sweet fern (either this am  
41 or the 21st)

1           It evidently rains around us--& a little  
2 falls here--& the air is accordingly cooled  
3 by it--& at 5 Pm the toads sing loud //  
4 & numerously--as if invigorated by this little  
5 moisture & coolness. //  
6           Euphorbia cyparissias ap X Cherry birds //  
7           7 pm river 1 inch below S. L. //  
8 Carex granularis (??) well out say a day or 2 //  
9 Smith's shore.  
10  
11                               26th--60  
12           Overcast--rain threatening--wind NE--& cool //  
13 9 am to Easterbrooks' Country. //  
14           C. lanuginosa Smiths shore--say 3 or 4 days--C. Pallescens (?) //  
15 long stalked staminate--Channing's shore high up X //  
16           C. Pallescens {var.} undulata X rather spreading common-- //  
17 Clark's  
18 as in ^ field from ~~of~~ my old house. C. Polytrichoides well //  
19 out say a few days Botrichium Swamp.  
20  
21           C. grisea-like? same place, same time C. Muhlen- //  
22                               %v June 13th% //  
23 bergii (??) not long %^% Glyceria nervata not quite //  
24  
25           Melons have peeped out 2 or 3 days  
26 Our pink azalea X  
27           5 pm River 5/8 inch below S. L.  
28                               27th 60  
29           Fire in house again. //  
30           The Sylvia striatas are the commonest bird  
31                               for several days past  
32 in the street as I go to the P. O. ^ I see 6 (4 males  
33 2 females) on one of our little fir trees--one ap as  
34 many more on another close by--the white  
35 bars on the wings of both sexes are almost  
36 horizontal. I see them early & late

1 on the trees about our houses & other houses  
2 the 27th & 28th & 29th also. Peach trees &--but  
3 esp on the firs. They are quite tame. I stand  
4 within 7 or 8 feet while they are busily pecking at  
5 the freshly bursting or extending glaucous fir twigs  
6 deliberately examining them on all sides--& from  
7 time to time one utters a very fine & sharp  
8 but faint tse tse, tse tse, tse tse,  
9 with more or less of these notes-- I hear the  
10 same in the woods-- Examining the freshly starting  
11 fir twigs I find that there are a great many  
12 lice or aphides amid the still appressed leaflets  
13 or leaves of the buds. & no doubt they are after  
14 these. Occaissonally a summer yellow bird is  
15 in company with them about the same business.  
16 the black polls  
17 They ^ are very numerous all over the town this spring.  
18 The female has not a black, but rather, methinks,  
19 a slate-colored crown--& is a very different--bird  
20 more of a yellowish-brown.  
21 Eleocharis acicularis not long--on the low exposed  
22 //  
23 bank of the river-- for it is that that greens the very  
24 low muddy banks.  
25 J Farmer found a marsh-hawk's nest on the 16th ult  
26 //  
27 (near the Cooper's hawk nest) with 3 fresh eggs.  
28 May 28--60  
29 Pm to Deep Cut--  
30 // Carex Debilis not long.  
31 Along the edge of Warren's wood E of the Cut see not  
32 only the chestnut sided warbler--but the splendid  
33 //S. Pardalina It is a bright yellow beneath with  
34 a broad black stripe along each side of the throat  
35 becoming longish black mark crescent wise in the  
36 prob. Saw it the 23d

1 fore part of the breast {drawing}--leaving a distinct  
2 clear bright yellow throat--& all the rest beneath  
3 bright  
4 bright yellow. A distinct ^ yellow ring around eye--  
5 a dark bluish brown ap. all above-- Yellowish  
6 legs. Not shy--on the birches.  
7 I see ap. a vireo--much like the red-eye--?  
8 (no yel throat) with the white or whitish line above  
9 eye-- --but a head differently formed--i.e a crest  
10 erectile at will--& always prominent {drawing}  
11 Carex 59-60-or 61 Collier meadow  
12 call it C. livida //  
13 7 or 8 rods from Stow ditch fence--several days at least  
14 What is that light scaled glaucous very slender  
15 culmed C. Pennsylvanica class sedge--culms  
16 very  
17 almost prostrate long & ^ slender. common--as at checker-  
18 berry patch by Trillium wood--ie in low ground ? not //  
19 long ago & done.  
20 Solid White fog over meadow ~~at~~ in evening. //  
21 I notice tonight that the potamogetons  
22 have just reached the surface of the river & begin to //  
23 spread out there-- The surface of the water in shallow  
24 places begins to be interrupted or dimpled with small  
25 brown leaves-- First from the 9th to 13th the first  
26 pads began spread & the pontederia &c showed  
27 themselves-- Now the appearance of the potamo-  
28 getons marks a new era in the vegetation of  
29 the river--the commencement of the summer  
30 stage-- Its spring ends now--its time of freshet (generally)  
31 is over.  
32 The river is now some 3 inches below SL. //



1 wide & 16 high-- The lower & main portion  
2 solid  
3 was a mass of fine bark fiber such as a  
4 red squirrel uses-- This was surrounded & sur-  
5 mounted by a quantity of dead twigs of pine  
6 & oak &c generally the size of a pipe stem or  
7 less-- The concavity was very slight--not more  
8 than 1 1/2 inches & there was nothing soft for  
9 a lining--the bark fibers being several inches beneath  
10 the twigs but the bottom was floored for a  
11 diameter of 6 inches or more with flakes  
12 of white oak & p. pine bark 1 to 2 inches  
13 long each--a good handful of them.

14 & on this the eggs had laid. We saw nothing  
15 <sup>S</sup>  
16 This was a dozen rods ~~N~~ of the oak  
17 of the hawk-- meadow walk.

18 Saw in a shaded swamp beyond the Stellaria  
19 borealis still out. large broadish leaves //

20 Some 18 feet high in a white pine in  
21 a swamp in the oak--meadow lot--I climbed

22 to a red-squirrels nest. The young were

23 2/3 grown yet feeble & not so red as they //

24 will be--one ran out & along a limb &

25 finally mad off into another tree. This was a

26 mass of rubbish covered with sticks--such as

27 I commonly see (against the main stem) but not

28 so large as a grey-squirrels.

29 We next proceeded to the marsh hawks

30 <sup>%v June 11%</sup>  
31 nest--from which the eggs were taken a

32 fortnight ago--& the female shot. It was in

33 a long & narrow cassandra swamp

1 NW of the lime kiln & some 30 rds  
2 from the road-- On the side of a small  
3 & more open area some 2 rods across where  
4 were few if any bushes & more sedge--with  
5 the cassandra-- The nest was on a low tussuck  
6 & about 18 inches across made of dead birch  
7 & a p. pine plume or 2  
8 twigs around--& sedge grass at bottom  
9 ~~with~~ with a small cavity in the middle.  
10 The female was shot & eggs taken on the  
11 16th -- Yet here was the male hovering  
12 anxiously over the spot & neighborhood &  
13 scolding at us. Betraying himself from time  
14 to time by that peculiar clacking note--  
15 reminding you of a pig. woodpecker-- We  
16 thought it likely that he had already  
17 got another mate & a new nest near  
18 by. He would not quite withdraw though  
19 fired at--but still would return & circle  
20 They are said to find a new mate very soon  
21 near us.

22 In a tall Pine wood on a hill, say ~~s~~ SW of  
23 this or NW of Boaz's Lower meadow--I  
24 climbed to a nest--~~at~~ high in a whit pine--  
25 a crows  
26 ap. ^ just completed--as it were on ~~the~~ a squirrels  
27 nest for a foundation--but finished above  
28 in a deep concave form of twigs which  
29 had been gnawed off by the squirrel.

30 In another white pine near by--some  
31 30 feet up it I found a Grey squirrel's  
32 about  
33 nest--with young ^ as big as the red--

1 squirrels were--but yet blind. This was was a  
2 large mass of twigs--leaves--bark fiber &c  
3 loose  
4 with a mass ^ of twigs on the top of it which was  
5 conical-- Perhaps the twigs are piled on the  
6 warmer part of the next to prevent a hawk from  
7 pulling it to pieces.

8 I have thus found 3 squirrels nests this year--  
9 2 gray & one red--in these masses of  
10 twigs & leaves & bark--exposed in the tree tops--  
11 & not in a hollow-tree--& methinks this  
12 is the rule & not the exception.

13 Farmer says that he finds these nests or  
14 holes or forms of the gray rabbit.-- in  
15 holes about 1 foot--1 1/2 feet deep made  
16 sideways into or under a tussuck esp. amid  
17 the sweet fern--in rather low but rather open  
18 ground-- Has found 7 young in one--

19 Has found 24 eggs in a quail's nest

20 In many places in the woods where  
21 now  
22 we walk today--we notice the ^ tender branches  
23 of the brakes eaten off--almost in every  
24 case--though they may be 18 or more inches  
25 from the ground. This was evidently done by a  
26 rabbit or a woodchuck.

27 The wild asparagus beyond Hunt's bridge  
28 front of Whittings shop  
29 will ap. open in 2 days the ~~29~~ 30 X //

30 C. has seen today an orange breasted bird  
31 which may be the female (?) Blackburnian warbler. //

1 The leaves now conceal the warblers &c  
2 considerably--you can see them best in white  
3 oaks &c not maples & birches

4 I hear that there was some frost last night  
5 //on Hildreth's plain (not here

6 On the 28 the latest trees &  
7 //  
8 shrubs stood thus in order of leafing

9	1 Locust		June 3d <sup>98</sup>
10			The decid. trees which look late
11	2 Dangle berry	21st	are <del>p</del> in <u>order of lateness</u>
12			latest
13	3 <u>Mt</u> Rhus	22	bay berry--button bush--
14			Poison dogwood--Black ash
15	4 Poison Dogwood	23	Buttonwood-- ( <u>Mt</u> rhus
16			vac. dumosium & Holbrook aspen
17	5 Black Spruce	23	not being seen.) The
18			locust is pretty green.
19	6 Black ash	24	
20	7 Button bush	26	The first 3 look dead at a
21			little distance. but the bay--
22	8 Hemlock	27	berry showed growth (including
23			flower buds) before button bush.
24	9 Bayberry	28	
25			%v. June 4th%
26	10 Vac. Dumosum--June 13	grown 1/2 too 1 inch	
27	11 Holbrook aspens		

28 I hear from vireos --(prob. red eyes--) in woods  
29 a fine harsh note--perhaps when angry  
30 with each other--

31 May 30th--60

32 Pm to 2d Division

33 A washing S. W. wind. Geo. Melvin said  
34 //  
35 yesterday that he was still grafting--& that  
36 there had been a great blow on the apple  
37 trees this year--& that the blossoms had

---

<sup>98</sup>There is a semicircular line extending from the top right corner to the left bottom corner of this text which separates it from the table.

1 held on unusually long. I suggested that it  
2 might be because we had not had so  
3 much wind as usual.

4 On the wall at the brook behind Cyrus Hosmers  
5 barn I start a night hawk within a rod or 2

6 It alights again on his barn yard board  
7 fence--sitting diagonally {drawing} I see  
8 the white spot on the edge of its wings as it  
9 sits-- It flies thence & alights on the  
10 ground in his corn field sitting flat--but  
11 there was no nest under it-- This was  
12 unusual. Had it not a nest near by?

13 I observed that some of the June grass  
14 was white & withered being eaten off by a worm  
15 several days ago--or considerably before it  
16 blossoms. That which I take to be June  
17 grass fills the field S of Ed. Hosmers ledge  
18 by the road--& gives it now a very conspicu-  
19 ous & agreeable brown or ruddy<sup>99</sup> / brown  
20 color-- About as ruddy as chocolate perhaps.  
21 This decided color stretching afar with a  
22 slightly undulating surface--like a mantle  
23 --is a very agreeable phenomenon of the  
24 season-- The brown panicles of the June grass  
25 <sup>color</sup>  
26 now paint some fields with the ~~tint~~ of early  
27 summer--

28 Front yard grass is mowed by some //  
29  
30 The stems of meadow saxifrage are //  
31 white now

---

<sup>99</sup> Here there are two semicircles on top of each other - one curving downward, and the one below it curving upward.

1           The Salix tristis generally shows its down now--  
2 //  
3    along dry wood paths.

4           The Juncus filiformis not out yet, though some  
5 //  
6    {panicles} are grown nearly 1/2 inch-- Much of it  
7    seems to be merely chaffy or effete--but much  
8    also plumper--with green sepals & minute stamens  
9    to be detected {withinin}-- It arises, as described,  
10   from matted running root stocks-- Perhaps-  
11   ? will bloom in a week--?

12           A succession of moderate Thunder & lightning  
13 //  
14    storms frm the west--2 or 3 an hour apart

15           Saw some devil's needles (the first) about  
16 //  
17    the 25th

18           I took refuge from the thunder shower  
19    this pm by running for a high pile of  
20    wood near 2d Division--& while it was  
21    raining I stuck 3 stout cut sticks into the  
22    pile higher than my head each a little  
23    lower than the other & piled large {flattish}  
24    wood on them--& tossed on dead pine tops  
25    making a little shed under which I stood dry--  
26    {drawing}

27                            May 31--60

28 //           Rained hard during the night

29    at 6 pm the river has risen to 1/2 inch  
30 //  
31    below S. L. Having {ben} 3 to 4 inches below SL

1 yesterday morning. I hear the sprayey note of //  
2 toads now more than ever after the rain.

3 June 1st 1860

4 2 Pm River 1 3/8 above SL. //

5  
6 6 pm 1 6/8 " "

7 Farmer has heard the quail a fortnight //

8 Ch. yesterday. The barberry flower is now  
9 in p. & it is very handsome with its {wreathes} of //

10 flowers

11 Many low blackberry flowers at Lees Cliff. //

12 June grass there well out. {Krigia} how long? //

13 Breams nests begun at Hub's grove shore-- //

14 They have {carefully} cleaned the bottom removing the  
15 conferva small weeds &c leaving the naked  
16 stems of some coarse ones, as the bayonet rush  
17 --bare & red.

18  
19 Young Stewart tells me that when he  
20 visited again that Gray Squirrel's nest which  
21 I described about 1 month ago up the Assabet--  
22 the squirrels were gone & he thought that  
23 the old ones had moved them--for {he} saw  
24 the old about another nest.

25 He found another similar nest with 3  
26 dead {blind} gray squirrels in it--the old  
27 one probably having been killed.

28 This makes 3 gray squirrels' nests that  
29 I have seen & heard of (seen 2 of them) this  
30 year--made thus of leaves & sticks {open} in

1 the trees, & I hear of some more similar  
2 ones found in former years--so that I think  
3 this {mode} of nesting their young may  
4 be the rule with them here. Add to this  
5 one red-squirrel's nest of the same kind.

6 June 2d Saturday--

7 The past has been Anniversary week in Boston  
8 & {there} have been several rainy or cloudy days--  
9 as {—} the 30th pm & esp. night & 31st &  
10 night of June 1st cleared up at noon today--

11 This anniversary week is said to be commonly  
12 //  
13 rainy.

14 Pm to River behind Hubbards Grove--

15 Red clover 1st seen-- A boy brought me  
16 //  
17 yesterday a nest with 2 maryland yel throat's  
18 //eggs & 2 cowbirds eggs in it & said that they  
19 were all found together. Saw a pigeon yesterday--  
20 //  
21 //a turtle dove today.

22 You see now in suitable shallow & warm  
23 places where there is a sandy bottom the nests  
24 of the bream begun--circular hollows {recently}  
25 confervae  
26 excavated--weeds and other rubbish neatly  
27 removed--& many {whitish} root fibers {of weeds}  
28 left bare & exposed--

29 There is a lively & washing NW wind after  
30 //  
31 the rain--it having cleared up at noon-- The  
32 waves are breaking on this shore with  
33 such a swash that sometimes I cannot  
34 distinguish the bream poised over her

1 nest within 10 feet of me-- The air is cleansed  
2 & clear--and therefore the waves as I look  
3 toward the sun sparkle {with} so bright &  
4 white a light--so peculiarly fresh & bright.  
5 The impurities have all come down out of the  
6 air.  
7  
8 The yellow {Bethlehem} star is pretty common //  
9 now The {poison} dog wood is so late--&  
10 has such a proportion of thick gray stem--that  
11 at a little distance they look like dead trees amid  
12 the green birches & alders.  
13 8 Pm Up Assabet  
14 The river is 4 inches above sum. Level-- //  
15 A cool evening--a cold white twilight sky--  
16 after the air has been cleared by rain--& now  
17 the trees are seen very distinctly against it--  
18 as yet heavy masses of verdure--but a  
19 light {open} work the leaves being few & small  
20 yet--as regularly open as a sieve--  
21  
22 Cool as it is--the air is full of the singing of  
23 toads--peeping of hylodes--& purring of  
24 prob. R. palustris. The last is esp. like //  
25 the {snoring} of the river. In the morning  
26 when the light is similar you {will} not hear  
27 a peeper I think, & scarcely a toad.  
28  
29 Bats go over--& a king bird very late-- //  
30 Mosquitoes are pretty common-- Ever & anon we //  
31 hear the stake-driver from a distance-- {There}  
32 is more distinct sound {from} animals than by day.

1 & an occasional bull frog's trump is heard.  
 2 Turning the island I hear--a very faint &  
 3 slight screaming or {barking} sound--once--& suspect  
 4 a screech owl--which I often see on an oak.  
 5 //  
 6 I soon hear its mournful scream prob to its  
 7 mate--not loud now--but though within  
 8 20<sup>100</sup> or 30 rds--sounding a mile off ~~off~~--  
 9 I hear it louder from my bed in the night.  
 10 Water bugs dimple the surface now quite  
 11 //  
 12 across the river--in the moonlight, for  
 13 it is a full moon.  
 14 The evergreens are very dark & heavy--  
 15 Hear<sup>101</sup> the sound of Barret's saw mill--at  
 16 first like a drum--{then} like a train of cars.  
 17 The water has been raised a little by the  
 18 rain after the long drought--& so he  
 19 obliged to saw by night in order to finish his  
 20 jobs--before the sun steals it from him again.  
 21 June 3d  
 22 6 Am-- River 3 3/16 inch above S. L.  
 23 //  
 24 --i.e the river has begun to fall within 24 hours  
 25 & less after the rain ceased.  
 26 2 Pm to Bay-berry  
 27 These are the clear breezy days of {early} June--when  
 28 //  
 29 the leaves are young & {few}--& the sorrel not yet  
 30 //in its p. Perceive the meadow fragrance  
 31 // Am surprised to some 20 or more crows in  
 32 a flock still--cawing about us.  
 33 The roads now stream with red maple  
 34 //  
 35 seed-- The pines shoots have grown generally  
 36

---

<sup>100</sup>"20" written over "30"

<sup>101</sup>Blotch could be a dash

1 from 3 to 6 inches & begin to make a distinct  
2 impression even at some distance of white & brown  
3 above their dark green. The foliage of decid-  
4 uous trees is still rather yellow ~~than~~ green  
5 than green--

6 There are in the Boulder field several of  
7 the creeping Juniper which grow quite flat  
8 on the ground--somewhat like the empetrum--  
9 most elevated in the middle.

10 Not only brakes many of them tall & branching 2  
11 feet at least {frm} the ground have their branches nibbled  
12 off--but the carrion flower has very commonly  
13 lost its leaves--either by rabbits or woodchucks

14 Tree toads heard-- //

15 See a common toad 3/4 inch long. //

16 There are various sweet scents in the air now-- //

17 Esp. as I go along {on} arbor vitae hedge  
18 I perceive a very distinct fragrance like strawberries  
19 from it.

20 June 4--60

21 Leave off flannel //

22 Yesterday & today uncomfortably warm when walking //

23 The foliage of the {elms} {over} the street im-  
24 presses me {as} dense & heavy already--(comparatively)<sup>102</sup> //

25 The Black poll warblers (S stricta) appear //

26 to have left & some other warblers, if not  
27 generally-- With this first clear & bright &  
28 warm peculiarly June weather--immediately  
29 after the May rain. About a month ago

---

<sup>102</sup>"(comparatively)" possibly added

1 after the strong & cold winds of March & April--  
2 & the (in common years) rain & high water  
3 the ducks &c left us for the north--  
4 Now there is a similar departure of the  
5 warblers--on the expansion of the leaves &  
6 advent of yet warmer weather-- Their season  
7 with us--ie those that go further is  
8 when the buds are bursting--till the leaves  
9 are about expanded--& prob. they follow these  
10 phenomena northward till they get to  
11 their breeding places--flying frm tree to tree  
12 to the next tree N. which contains its in  
13 sect prey.                    2 Pm to F. H. Hill  
14 They began to carry round ice about the 1st ult.  
15 //  
16 What I called carex conoidea in 59 was seen  
17 in fruit  
18 //June 2d this year ^ & may have flowered with c.  
19 1st  
20 pallescens C. Hubbards ^ meadow S side of Swamp-brook  
21 willows.  
22 // Glyceria fluitans say 2 or 3 days Depot brook  
23 blue  
24 I see the great ^ devils needles {coasting} along  
25 //  
26 the river now--(& coupled)  
27 Carex retrorsa (much of it going to seed) Hub Bath  
28 //  
29 shore--say 10 days. Has the general aspect of pallescens  
30 At Staples meadow I observe that a  
31 great {deal} of the pitcher plant--is quite  
32 dry lead<sup>103</sup> & slate-colored--with some green  
33 flower buds pushing up perhaps-- I think it  
34 was thus half killed by the drought of April  
35 & May.

---

<sup>103</sup>1906 has "dead"



1 I find ap the same or what I will call  
2 //  
3 the bean-swamp-sedge (only smaller than  
4 that) i.e--the slender--drooping {culmed}  
5 {drawing} among the checkerberries this side  
6 all done long since  
7 of Trillium Wood--also better in Hubb's  
8 meadow by ditch N of Corner Road Causeway  
9 --V if this is like the C. Varia of Lees.  
10 I hear that the nest of that marsh hawk  
11 ({Apr})  
12 which we saw on the 29th ^ has since been  
13 found with 5 eggs in it-- So that bird  
14 (male) whose mate was killed on the 16th  
15 of May--has since got a new mate & 5 eggs  
16 laid  
17 One asks me today--when it is that the  
18 leaves are fully expanded--so that the  
19 trees & woods look dark & heavy with leaves  
20 --I answered that there {were} leaves on many  
21 if not on most trees already fully expanded--  
22 but that there were not many on a tree--the  
23 shoots having grown only {some} 3 inches--but  
24 by & by {they} will have grown a foot or 2--& there  
25 will be 10 times as many leaves. Each  
26 tree (or most trees) now hold out many little  
27 some  
28 twigs ~~2~~ or 3 inches long with 2 or 3 fully ex-  
29 panded leaves on it--between us & the sun--  
30 making already a grateful but thin  
31 shade--like a coarse sieve--so open that  
32 we see the fluttering of each leaf in



1                                 June 6--60  
2                                 clears up before night  
3 //             Rain still--(the 2d day)^& so cool that many  
4 //have fires  
5 //             The grass began to look fairly green--summer like  
6             generally--about the 1st inst.  
7             6 1/2 Pm on river up Assabet.  
8     After the rain-- The water has risen to 8 3/4  
9 //  
10    in. above SL. & is rising fast-- But little rain  
11    has fallen this Pm.  
12             The hem-locks generally have not grown  
13    quite enough to be handsomest--but the younger  
14    & lower growths are seen now in the dark &  
15    cavernous recesses-- Very fair with so many bright  
16    eyes on their green--  
17             // Saw<sup>104</sup> Those swarms of black moths fluttering low  
18    over the water--on the 2d & tonight--  
19             The S. nigra is now getting stale-- It is a  
20 //  
21    very densely flowered willow, perhaps the most so of  
22    {any}-- the sterile ones seen afar (even by moon-  
23    light on the 2d) are dense masses of yellow  
24    {~~aga~~} (now more pale) against the green {trees} in  
25    the rear-- {The} {have} but little leafiness themselves--  
26    as yet--  
27             Not only the foliage begins to look dark & dense  
28    but many ferns are fully grown as the  
29    cinnamon & interrupted--perfectly scoured over  
30    the bank & shore--adding to the leafy impression  
31    of the season-- The osmunda regalis looks  
32    later & more tender--reddish brown still-- It  
33    preserves its habit of growing in circles--  
34    though it may be on a steep bank--& one  
35    half the circle in the water.  
36             The new leaves are now very fair.

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<sup>104</sup>added in margin

1 pure unspotted green--commonly more or less  
2 yellowish-- The swamp white oak leaf looks  
3 red  
4 particularly tender & delicate-- The ^ maple  
5 is much harder & more matured.

6 Yet the trees commonly are not yet so densely  
7 leaved but that I can see through them-- E.g.  
8 I see through the Red--O--& the bass (below Dove  
9 rock) looking toward the sky-- They are a mere cut  
10 work of light & shade after all. The oak may be  
11 considerably  
12 a little the thickest. The White ash is ^ thinner than  
13 either.

14 The grass & foliage are particularly fresh  
15 & green after the 2 days of rain & we {mark}--how  
16 the darkening elms stand along the highways  
17 --Like wands or wreaths seen against the horizon  
18 They streak the sky with green.

19 How full the air of sound at sunset & just  
20 after--! esp. at the end of a rain storm. Every bird  
21 seems to be singing in the wood across the stream--  
22 & there are the hylodes--& the sounds of the village.  
23 Beside, {sounds} are more distinctly heard.

24 Ever & anon we hear a few sucks or strokes frm  
25 the bittern--the stake driver--wherever we lie to  
26 --as if he had {taken} the job of extending all the  
27 fences into the river to keep cows from straying round.  
28 We hear but 5 or 4 toads in all tonight--but  
29 as many hylodes--as ever-- It is too cool--both water  
30 & air (esp. the first) after the rain for the  
31 toads--at 9 am it is 58+ This temperature  
32 now after a rain storm has cooled the water

1 will silence the toads generally--but make  
2 the hylodes more musical than ever--  
3 As the light is observed after sunset--the  
4 birds rapidly cease their songs--& the swallows  
5 cease to {hover} flit over the river-- And soon  
6 the bats are seen taking the places of the swallows  
7 & commonly a late king bird will be heard twittering still in the air  
8 & flying back & forth like them.^ After {the}  
9 bats--or 1/2 hour after sunset, the water-  
10 bugs begin to spread themselves over the stream  
11 though 15 minutes earlier not one was seen  
12 without the pads--now when it is {difficult}  
13 to see them or the dimples they make--except  
14 {yo} {look} toward the reflected western sky.  
15 It is evident that they dare not come out  
16 thus by day--for fear of fishes--& prob. the  
17 nocturnal or vespertinal fishes as eels & pouts--  
18 do not touch them. I think I see them all  
19 over Walden by day--& if so--it may be because  
20 there is not much danger from fishes in that very  
21 deep water. I wonder if they spread thus over  
22 the whole breadth of Flints P.  
23 It would be a measure of the sizes of a lake--to  
24 know that it was so large that these insects did  
25 not cross it.  
26 See tonight 3 dead (fresh) suckers on the assabet  
27 What has killed them?  
28 June 7th--60  
29 // 6 Am River 9 15/16 above S. L. has risen 1 3/16  
30 inches since last evening at 6 1/2-- Thus it having  
31 {raind} 2 days most of the time--though not much the last  
32 Pm the river had risen some 6 inches at the end of  
33 the last pm by the time it cleared up--& only some 1 1/4  
34 inches in the next 12 hours of night



1 amid the verdure that surrounds the hollow  
2 only those that rise above 10 feet are  
3 unfolded at the top-- The amount of de-  
4 velopment is a matter of elevation here--  
5 Generally speaking all poplar buds above  
6 a certain level have burst--& and all below  
7 are inert-- The line of separation is  
8 very distinct now--because the tops  
9 of the tallest are already leafed out & {our}  
10 green. This level line extends to the hill  
11 sides all around--& above it all trees  
12 are leafed out-- This is true of the  
13 shrub oaks also--except that  
14 a great many of them which stand much  
15 higher have already leafed & been frost bitten  
16 which makes them look about as late  
17 as those which ap. have not leafed.  
18 This hollow seems to be peculiar--(and my de-  
19 pression bel. Beck Stows & the Great Meadows)  
20 to be steadily cold & late & not warm  
21 by day--so that the buds burst & are then  
22 killed by frost as usual. Perhaps it is  
23 not so much a frosty hollow as a cold  
24 one-- It is most open N & S  
25         Standing at Holbrooks Barrel spring a female  
26 //chestnut-sided warbler--hops within 4 feet of  
27 me--inquisitively holding its head down &  
28 one side {to} me & peeping at me--  
29         Seeing house leek on several rocks

1 in the fields & by roadside in the neigh-  
2 borhood of Brook's Clarks-- Farmer told  
3 me that it was the work of Joe Dudley  
4 a simple fellow who lives at one of the  
5 Clarks--that though half witted he knew  
6 more medicinal plants than almost anybody  
7 in the neighborhood. Is it necessary that  
8 the simpler should be a simpleton?  
9 I noticed Rye (winter rye) just fairly begun to  
10 bloom May 29th //  
11 A Painted-turtle beginning her hole for eggs at 4 Pm. //  
12 Is tha {e——} <sup>105</sup> Carex Arctata? a day or 2 out //  
13 %or Debilis%  
14 on edge of Holbrook barrel ditch?  
15 Yellow bugs have come by thousands this //  
16 clear & rather warm day after the rain--also  
17 when in a warm day after rain the plants are tender & succulent //  
18 squash bugs have come. ^ this is the time they work worst--  
19 River at 6 Pm 12 5/8 inch above SL. //  
20 Tonight the toads sing loudly & generally  
21 as do hylodes also--the {Thermome} being at 62+  
22 at 9 Pm 4° more of warmth--the earth  
23 being drier & the water warmer--makes this difference.  
24 It appears {then}that the eve just after  
25 (as the last)  
26 a rain storm ^ therm 58+ the toads will be  
27 nearly silent--but the hylodes wide awake--  
28 but the next eve with therm. at 62+ both  
29 will be wide awake  
30 Daw-bugs come humming by my head tonight. //  
31 The peculiarities of the new  
32 leaves, or young ones, are to be observed,

---

<sup>105</sup>scratched out word

1 As I now remember  
2 ^There is the whitish shoot of the Wht pine--  
3 the reddish brown of the p. pine giving a new tinge  
4 to its tops--the bead work of the hemlock--the  
5 now just conspic bursting {light} glaucous green buds  
6 of the black spruce in cold swamps--the  
7 frizzly looking glaucous green shoots & leafets of the  
8 & fragrant now or soon  
9 pine--^ the thin & delicate foliage of the  
10 larch-- The inconspic. & fragrant arbor vitae--  
11 The bead work of the Juniper repens-- Red cedar  
12 {June 8} grown 1 inch or more, but not very distinct in color  
13 inconspic.-- Prob. the bead-work of the yew<sup>106</sup>  
14 white  
15 The tented leaves of the ^ oak--the crimson  
16 & brush-shrub & now in hollows  
17 black & white o^--lately^--the downy grayish  
18 at first--of black & white--&c--the now tender  
19 delicate green of swamp white & chincapin--  
20 The large & yellowish rapidly expanding at first of  
21 gamboge  
22 the nut trees-- The ^ yellow of the birches  
23 (now as dark as most--for ~~trees~~ leaves are  
24 acquiring one shade at present) The thick darker  
25 green of alders. The downyish of button-wood  
26 still small The {soon} developed & darkened &  
27 & Gileads  
28 fluttering {±} early aspens. The still silvery P. Grandid--  
29 The small leafeted & yellowish locust  
30 --The early yellow of S alba-- The fine leaved S.  
31 Nigra-- The wreath & column leaved elm  
32 The suddenly expanding--but few leaved ash trees--showing  
33 much stalk or stem--& branch-- The button bush  
34 with shoots before leaves. The reddish leafed young  
35 checkerberry-- The suddenly developed & conspic--  
36 viburnums (sweet & {naked})--the unequal-leafing  
37 panicled andromeda.--  
38 The purplish brown stipules of the Amelanchier Bot.  
39 " downy " " " Oblong.

---

<sup>106</sup>curved line from caret to inserted text



1 or dragon fly-- A strong & cold wind would  
2 blacken & tear them now-- They remind me  
3 of the frailest stuffs hung around a dry goods  
4 shop--they have not been hardened by exposure yet.  
5 These raw & tender {lungs} of the tree  
6 The white o leaves are esp. downy & {lint} your clothes  
7 This is truly June when you begin to see  
8 //  
9 brakes--(dark green) fully expanded in  
10 the wood paths.  
11 That sedge which grows in the fox path  
12 hollow (by the andromeda ponds--) The  
13 coarser one--rather around the sides or slopes  
14 than at the very bottom--is a slender  
15 C. siccata--almost all out of bloom--  
16 all except that which is at the bottom  
17 of the hollow. For I see here on a smaller  
18 scale the same phenomena as at Holbrook  
19 (v yesterday)  
20 poplar hollow--^ The pan. cornel looks generally  
21 dead--just beginning to leaf-- Young white & black  
22 o's are in the red--& the 2d amelanchier is in  
23 the flower still here-- Indeed shrub oaks--  
24 & young O's generally & conspicuously are  
25 quite late just in the {red} now in hollows  
26 & other cold parts of the woods--& generally  
27 shrubs--including hazel even  
28 these have not been frost bitten--but have not  
29 put forth till now.  
30 At\_well meadow  
31 // C. Bromoides may have been out a fortnight  
32 //& C. Scabrata say 10 days.  
33 C. tenella (near the earliest cowslip) all in seed  
34 //& much seed fallen & no sterile flower--say 3 weeks

1 E.g.  
 2 C. intumescens say 5 or 6 days (^just S. of Earliest //  
 3 cowslip--)  
 4 Hoed potatoes 1st time 2 or 3 days ago  
 5 My corn--to-day //  
 6 All stagnant water is covered with the lint from  
 7 the new leaves--(harmless to drink--) esp after  
 8 rain. If you a scarlet oak leaf & rub the  
 9 under side on {your} coat sleeve it will not whiten  
 10 it--but a white {o} leaf--will color it as  
 11 with meal.  
 12 C. Polytrichoides grows at Well Meadow-- //  
 13 I see a small mist of cob web globular  
 14 on a dead twig {—}<sup>107</sup> 8 inches above the  
 15 ground in the wood path. It is frm 1 1/2 to  
 16 2 inches in diameter & when I disturb it {and}  
 17 see it swarming with a mass of a thousand  
 18 minute spiders. A spider nest lately hatched //  
 19 In early June methinks--as now--we  
 20 have clearer days--less haze--more or less  
 21 breeze--esp after rain--& more sparkling  
 22 (I look from F. H. Hill) //  
 23 water than before--^ As there is more shade  
 24 in the woods--so there is more shade in the  
 25 sky--i.e dark {or} heavy clouds contrasted with  
 26 the bright sky-- Not the gray clouds of spring.  
 27 The leaves generally are almost fully //  
 28 expanded. i.e. some of each tree--  
 29 You seek the early strawberries {in} {any}<sup>108</sup>  
 30 the most favorable exposure--on the sides  
 31 hills--knolls or swells--or in the little sandy  
 32

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<sup>107</sup>scratched out word

<sup>108</sup>may be one word

1 {hows}<sup>109</sup> where cows {—} have pawed settling  
2 the question of superiority & which shall lead  
3 the herd when first turned out to pasture.

4 As I look at the mts in the horizon  
5 --I am struck by the fact that they are all  
6 pyramidal--pyramids more or less low--  
7 & have a peak--{drawing} Why have  
8 the mts usually a peak? This is not  
9 the common form of hills. They do not  
10 so impress as at least.

11 River at 7 pm 14 1/2 above S. L.

12 June 9th 7 am River 14 1/8 above S. L.  
13 only--though after consid. rain in the night.  
14 To recapitulate--at eve of the 6th after  
15 the rain of the 5th & 6th the river had risen some  
16 6 inches or to 8 3/4 inches above S. L.

17 At 6 am the 7th it was only 9 15/16 above SL.

18 6 Pm " 12 5/8 " "

19 6 Am 8th 12 7/8 " "

20 7 Pm " 14 1/2 " "

21 7 Am 9th 14 1/8 " "

22 6 Pm "(showers during day) 14 3/4 " "

23  
24 i.e having ceased raining the eve of the 6th the  
25 river reached its highest the eve of the 7th  
26 but it had done more than 1/2 its rising before the  
27 rain was over--& it by no means rose steadily  
28 afterward--for in the 1st 12 hours (of night)  
29 {after} the rain ceased it rose only 1 3/16 inches  
30 in the next 12 hours (of day) 2 11/16

---

<sup>109</sup>maybe an abbreviation for hollows

1 in the next 12 hrs (of night) it rose 1/4 inch  
2 " " " (of day) " 1 5/8  
3 " " " (of night) it fell 3/8  
4 ie in the {first} 2 12 hours of night it rose  
5 only 1 7/16 {inch} in the 1st 2 12 hours of day it rose  
6 4 5/16 inches. This is the case where the whole  
7 rise is 11 or 12 inches at this season--& it--  
8 is evidently the effect of the dams above--  
9 on one or both streams.  
10 {WE} have had half a dozen showers //  
11 today--distinct summer showers frm black clouds  
12 suddenly wafted up--from the W & NE-- -- also  
13 some thunder--& hail large white stones //  
14 Standing in the Mill dam this Pm after  
15 one of these showers-- I noticed the air full  
16 of some kind of down--which at first I mistook  
17 for feathers or lint frm some chamber--then  
18 for light-winged insects--for it rose & fell  
19 just {like} the flight{s} {of} may-flies-- At length I  
20 traced it to the white willow behind the black-  
21 smiths' shop--which ap. the rain has released--  
22 -- The wind was driving it up between & over the ~~buildi~~  
23 buildings & it was flying all along the mill dam  
24 in a stream filling the air--like a flight of  
25 bright-colored gauze winged insects as high as the  
26 roofs {It} was the willow down with a minute  
27 blackish seed in the midst or beneath-- In the  
28 moist air--seen against {The} still dark clouds  
29 --like large white dancing motes--from time to  
30 time falling to earth.

1 The rain had ap. lessened then & the slight breeze  
2 succeeding setting agoing.

3 As I stood talking with one on the sidewalk I  
4 saw 2 yellow dor bugs fall {successively} to the  
5 earth frm the elm above-- They were sluggish  
6 as usual by day--& appeared to have just lost  
7 their hold-- perhaps {on} {ac.} of the rain or  
8 the slight wind arising-- I also see them floating  
9 in the river into which they have fallen--or perhaps  
10 they have been carried off by its rising. They might  
11 be called blunderers.

12 6 Pm padle to Flint's hedge--

13 River 14 3/4 above SL.

14 vib. lentago nearly in p.

15 //

16 An abundance of C. {scopparia}<sup>110</sup> now conspicuously

17 //

18 browns the shores--esp. below Flints Willows

19 The C. lagopodioides is ap. in pr. (out say 1 week)

20 // or less

21 at Flints hedge-- That is ap the C. rosea there

22 under the hickory--observed the 23 of May--

23 The C. monile is now quite conspic. along the

24 //

25 river--as well as the-C. bullata.

26 A king bird's nest & 1 egg--

27 //

28 C. says that a fox stood near watching him in

29

30 // Brittons Hollow today (No doubt she had young)

31 The water bugs begin to venture out onto

32 the stream frm the shadow of a dark wood as

33 at the Island. So soon as the dusk begins to

34 settle on the river--they begin to steal out--

35 or to extend their circling frm amid the bushes

---

<sup>110</sup>proper spelling is scoparia

1 & weeds over the channel{s} of the river-- They do  
2 not simply then if ever venture forth--but then  
3 invariably & out over the whole length of the  
4 stream they one & all sally out & begin to dimple  
5 its {broad} surface-- as if it were a necessity {so}  
6 to do

7 June 10--60

8 Another showery day--or rather shower threatening

9 2 Pm to Annursnack

10 A very strong NW wind--& cold--(at 6 pm //

11 it was 58°+) This with wind makes a very

12 cold day at this season. Yet I do not

13 need fire in the house--.

14 This violent & cool wind must seriously

15 injure the just developed tender leaves-- I never

16 observed so much {harm} of this kind done-- Leaves

17 of all kinds are blown {or} off & torn by it--

18 As Oak--maple--birch &c {As} I sit under

19 white oak--I see the pieces fragments

20 torn off--1/4 or 1/2 the leaf--filling the

21 air & showering down at each ruder blast--

22 & the ground is spotted green with them.

23 There are not many whole leaves of the white

24 oak blown off but these torn fragments

25 rather. At the assabet Stone bridge

26 the water along the shore is lined with a

27 broad green mass of them which have been

28 blown into it--3 or 4 feet wide--washed

29 against the shore. Such a wind makes tearing

1 work with them now that they are so tender.  
2 I find very common on the sides of  
3 annurnsnack Hill the perhaps Carex  
4 //Cephalophora (which I called Muhlenbergii  
5 %V June 13%  
6 in May) for I see no ~~ribs~~ now--%^%  
7 {nerves}  
8 ~~The~~ There is much handsome {interupted}  
9 fern in the Painted cup meadow--& near the  
10 top of one of the clumps we noticed something  
11 like a large cocoon--the color of the  
12 rusty cinnamon fern wool-- It was a  
13 red bat--the New York bat, so called.  
14 //  
15 It hung suspended head directly downward with  
16 its little sharp claws or hooks caught through  
17 one of the {divisions} at the base of one of the  
18 pinnae--above the fructification. It was a  
19 delicate rusty brown--in color very like the  
20 wool of the cinnamon fern {with} the whiter bare  
21 spaces seen through it early in the season.  
22 I thought at first glance it was a {broad}  
23 {brown} coccoon--then that it was the  
24 plump body of a monstrous emperor moth--  
25 or reddish  
26 It was rusty brown--white or hoary within  
27 ap. triangular  
28 or beneath the tips with a white ^ spot beneath  
29 about the insertion of the wings. Its wings  
30 were very compactly folded up--the principal  
31 bones (darker reddish) lying flat along the under  
32 side of its body--& a hook on each meeting its  
33 opposite under the chin of the creature.

1           It did not look like fur but mor{e} like  
2 the plush of the ripe cat tail head though  
3 ~~longer~~ & more loose--all trembling ~~up~~ in the  
4 wind & with the pulsations of the animal. I  
5 broke off the top of the fern & let the bat lie  
6 on its back in my hand-- I held it ~~upright~~ &  
7 turned it about for 10 or 15 minutes but it did  
8 not awake. Once or twice it opened its eyes  
9           & even it raised its head opened its mouth  
10 a little--, but soon drowsily dropped its head &  
11 fell asleep again. Its ears wer{e} rounded  
12 & nearly bare-- It was more attentive to sounds  
13 than to motions. Finally by shaking it & esp.  
14 by hissing or whistling I thoroughly awakened it--  
15 & it fluttered off 20 or 30 rods to the  
16 woods. I cannot but think that its instinct  
17 taught it to cling to the Interrupted fern--  
18 since it might readily be mistaken for a  
19 mass of its fruit. Raised its old haggish  
20 head-- Unless it showed its head wide awake--  
21 it looked like a tender infant.

22           June 11--6 am River 12 inch above SL.  
23 at 10 1/2 am sail to Talls I.--  
24 Wind NW. pretty strong & not a warm day

25           I notice the patches of bullrushes--  
26 S. lacustris--now generally 18 inches high  
27 --& very dark green--but recently showing  
28 themselves

29           The evergreens are now completely invested  
30 by the deciduous trees--& you get the full

//

1 effect of their dark green contrasting with  
2 the yellowish green of the decid. trees--  
3       The wind does not blow thro' our river valley  
4 just as the vanes indicate at home--but  
5 conformably to the form of the valley--some-  
6 what-- It depend on whether you have a high  
7 & hilly shore to guide it--or a flat one which  
8 it may blow across. With a NW wind--  
9 it is difficult to sail from the willow row  
10 to Hub's bath-- Yet I can sail more westerly  
11       point  
12 frm the island in F. H. Bay to the bath place above.  
13 And though I could not do the first to day--  
14 I did sail all the way from Rice's bar to 1/2  
15 mile above Shermans bridge by all the windings  
16 of the river-- If the bend is due east & the  
17 wind N. W. I can sail round it.  
18       Again as I was approaching Bittern Cliff--I  
19 had but little wind--but I said to myself--as  
20 soon as I reach the cliff--I shall find  
21 myself in a current of wind blowing into the  
22 opening of the pond valley--& I did. Indeed  
23 the wind flows through that part of the river  
24 valley above the water line--somewhat as  
25 the water does below it.  
26       I see frm time to time a fish, scared by our  
27       4 to  
28 sail, leap^ 6 feet through the air above  
29 the waves--  
30 //       See many small blue devils needles to day

1 but--no mates with them--{&} is it not they that  
2 the king bird stoops to snap up--striking the water  
3 each time?

4 I find the Sudbury meadows unexpectedly wet--  
5 Ther is at least one foot of water on the meadows  
6 generally-- I cut off the principal bends--pushing  
7 amid the thin sedge & pipes--& land on Tall's  
8 Island-- I had carried India rubber boots to look  
9 for wren's nests--but the water was very much  
10 too deep--& I could not have used them except--  
11 on the very edge {on} some places-- Yet the river in  
12 Concord this morning was but just one foot  
13 about  
14 above summer level--& 18 ^ inches above which  
15 it was just before the middle of May--when  
16 every body remarked on its extreme lowness--& {Ebbby}  
17 Conant--observed to me "It is lower than ever it  
18 was {known} to be, is n't it?" I told him that  
19 I had seen it as low, in the summer, about every  
20 other year. If you should lower it 18 inches  
21 {now} here there would still be much water on  
22 the Sudbury Meadows.

23 The amount {of} it is, The Sudbury meadows are {so} low  
24 {referred} to the river--that when the river is 19 1/8 inches  
25 above extreme low water (the lowest we have had  
26 this year--) you can push over the greater  
27 part of the Sudbury meadows in a boat.

28 Ac. {on} the {far} the greater part of these  
29 meadows there is now very little grass i.e sedge--  
30 --but thin pipes & sedge--the c stricta &  
31 monile commonly--too wet for scoparia & stellulata



1     alive, its hind legs up--dead--its {innards}  
2     gone-- Ap. its spine perfect. The flies had  
3     entered it in numbers. What creature could  
4     have done this which it would be difficult for  
5     a man to do. I thought of a skunk--weasel--mink--  
6     --but I do not believe that they could have  
7     got their snouts into so small a space as  
8     that in front of the hind legs between the  
9     shells. The hind legs themselves had not been in-  
10    jured nor the shell scratched-- I thought it  
11    most likely that it was done by some bird of the  
12    heron kind, which has a long & powerful bill.  
13    And prob. this {accouts} for the many dead  
14    turtles which I have found & thought died from  
15    disease. Such is nature--who gave one  
16    creature a taste {&} yearning for another's  
17    entrails--as its favorite tid-bit!!

18           I {thought} the more of a bird--for just as we  
19    were shoving away from this isle-- I heard a  
20    sound just like a small dog barking hoarsely--&  
21    looking up saw it was made by a bittern (A. minor)  
22    a few of which were flapping over the  
23    meadows & probably had a nest in some  
24    tussock thereabouts. No wonder the turtle is  
25    wary--for notwithstanding its horny shell--when  
26    it comes forth to lay its eggs--it runs the risk  
27    of having its entrails plucked out. That is the  
28    reason that the box turtle which lives on the  
29    land--is made to shut itself up entirely within  
30           the shell--& I suspect that the mud tortoise only {comes}

1     forth by night. What need the turtle has  
 2     of some horny shield over those tender parts  
 3     & avenues to its entrails. I saw several of these  
 4     painted turtles dead on the bottom. %V June 10--58%  
 5             Already I see those handsome  
 6                     red  
 7 //fungi spots on the ^ maple leaves  
 8                                     a  
 9     yellow within, with a green center, Then ^ light  
 10    red ring deepening to crimson. The largest a quarter of  
 11    an inch in diameter--  
 12             Heard many red-starts on the I. saw creepers  
 13 //  
 14    & one wood-pewee nest on a swamp wht o. not  
 15    quite done  
 16             On our way up we ate our dinner at Rice's shore  
 17    & looked {over} the meadows--covered there with  
 18    waving sedge--light glaucous as it is bent  
 19 //  
 20    by the wind--reflecting a greyish--or light  
 21    glaucous light frm its under side-- That  
 22    meadow {op.} Rices bath--is comparatively well-  
 23    covered with sedge--as the Great Sudbury  
 24    meadow is not--  
 25                     begin to  
 26             I now first^ notice the silvery under sides of the  
 27 //  
 28    red maple & swamp white o. leaves--{—} {—}<sup>112</sup> turned  
 29    up by the wind.  
 30             Looking at a hill side of young trees what  
 31    various shades of green-- The oaks generally are  
 32    a light & tender & yellowish green--the white  
 33    birches dark green now-- The maples dark & silvery  
 34             Notice Pads & pontederias are now pretty  
 35 //  
 36    thick-- The white lily pads--reddish--& showing  
 37    their crimson under sides frm time to time when  
 38    the wind blows hardest--

---

<sup>112</sup>two scratched out letters/words



1 at 7 1/2 pm I hear many toads--it  
2 // %17th have heard no more hylodes%  
3 //being a warm night--but scarcely any hylodes

4 // River 10 1/3 above SL.

5 June 13--60

6 2 Pm to M. Miles via Clam Shell--

7 Hear of a snapping turtle which had begun to  
8 //lay her eggs last night in Cyrus Hosmers  
9 He found it by its scaring his horse as he was plowing bet. his corn--  
10 {cornfield}--this side Clam Shell--I saw its  
11 The horse started & stopped at it--  
12 track. I see how I can find them. Select  
13 a cultivated field esp a sandy one near  
14 the river or a brook--& walk along its edge  
15 parallel with the stream--at this season  
16 & you will see by the track if a turtle has  
17 recently ~~gone~~ been out that way way--can--  
18 follow it & find the eggs.

19 I first heard that tchuck sound as of a fish  
20 striking {a} {pad} on the 2d of June--when there  
21 //  
22 were very few weeds in the river--& have since heard  
23 it repeatedly.

24 I noticed as I sat in my boat by the river side  
25 last evening 1/2 hour after sunset--a very  
26 //low & local yet dense fog close to the shore  
27 under the edge of the sedge on one side, a foot  
28 high x 3 or 4 wide for several rods-- It  
29 occupied such a space as a shadow does under  
30 a hedge-- It occurred to me that perhaps the  
31 water was cooler there than elsewhere.

32 I find on the face of Clam Shell hill

1 carex Muhlenbergii--about ripe--the perigynia  
2 //  
3 nerved distinctly on both sides--I think that this  
4 is the same with that of May 26 & June 10 &c all  
5 that I may have thought {cephalophora}<sup>115</sup> this year--  
6 --though I did not find them distinctly nerved on  
7 both sides. They were younger--the achenium  
8 of this is orbicular. It grows then here & prob.  
9 at Lees S. slope--Annursnack Hill (very {common})  
10 & is generally long done.

11 I see {at} Martial Miles--2 young woodchucks  
12 taken 16 days ago-- When they were perhaps  
13 //  
14 a fortnight old. There were 4 in all  
15 & they were dug out by the aid of a dog. The  
16 mother successively pushed out her little  
17 ones to the dog--to save herself--& one  
18 was at once killed by the dog. These 2  
19 are now nearly 1/3 grown-- They have {found}  
20 a hole within the house into which they run--  
21 & whither they have carried shavings &c & made  
22 a nest-- Thence they run out doors & feed close  
23 along about the house--lurking behind {barrels}  
24 &c They eat yarrow--clove--catnep &c  
25 &c--are fed with milk & bread. They do  
26 not drink the milk like a dog or like a cat  
27 --but simply suck it taking the sharp edge  
28 of the shallow tin dish in their mouths--  
29 They are said to {spit} like a cat-- They eat  
30 {bread} sitting up right on their haunches  
31 & holding {in} it in their fore paws just like

---

<sup>115</sup>possibly "cefalophora", proper spelling is cephalophora

1 a squirrel-- That is their common & natural  
2 mode of eating. They are as grey or  
3 greyer (or hoary) as the old.  
4 {Mrs.} Miles says they sleep on their heads  
5 curling  
6 --ie putting their heads right under them;  
7 --also that they can back as straight  
8 into their hole as if they went head fore  
9 most.  
10 I saw a full grown one this Pm which  
11 stood so erect--& still--its paws hanging  
12 down & inobvious as its {ears}, so that  
13 it might be mistaken for a short & very stout  
14 stake.  
15 At Ledum swamp--the woodwardia is  
16 recent--generally not yet expanded. one  
17 //  
18 of the latest ferns.  
19 The Eriophorum vaginatum is generally  
20 //gone to seed.  
21  
22 The carex canescens is (the glaucous  
23 scoparia like) is the prevailing c. there  
24 hanging over the ditches & the {pool}--  
25 I find in J. Hosmers spring--a seedling skunk-  
26 cabbage with the nut attached-- It had  
27 fallen into the spring--perhaps from {a} {mouses}  
28 store--& a single green leaf 2 or 3 inches  
29 long had grown from it while a {root} had  
30 penetrated the mud  
31 The {strawberry} about Hosmers {tract} spring  
32 has its seeds in pits & is therefore F. virginiana  
33 The Eriophorum polystachyon is {well} cottoned  
34 out

1 I see that rather tall & slender--also  
2 {hairy} (clandestine {like}?) panic grass  
3 prob now in flower--(1st noticed the 10th--the  
4 panicles of it) which I will call--P //  
5 dichotomous the leaves not {hairy}-- a few distinct  
6 nerves

7 I found {seven} weeks ago a little fern with a  
8 smooth shining dark or blackish stem as long  
9 as its {frond}--just behind the slip elm under  
10 the rocks--which has an {indusium} like that  
11 of the woodsia obtusa--& I will so call it //  
12 it-- {may} {have} fruit {shovel} from it about the 1st  
13 It is not, however, glandular hairy.

14 Now perceive the smell of red-clover blossoms

15 This pm the streets are strewn with the leaves  
16 of the Buttonwood--which are still falling. {Looking}  
17 up I see many more hanging wilted or withered half  
18 formed leaves. I think that the leaves of these  
19 trees were especially injured by the cold wind of the  
20 as the other trees  
21 10th ^ & are just now falling in consequence-- I can  
22 tell when I am under a button wood by the  
23 number of leaves on the ground. With the other  
24 trees it was {mainly} a mechanical injury--done rather  
25 by the wind than the cold--but the tender shoots of  
26 this tree were killed.

27 Yesterday I could still see through the  
28 bass & the red oak up the Assabet--& //  
29 the last was a little the densest--

30 On the 11th I saw swimming near me on

1 the Sudbury meadows ap. the Bryttus<sup>116</sup> obesus  
2 //  
3 judging frm its stripes & form-- It was quite tame  
4 & ap. rather sluggish.  
5 June 14--60  
6 I see near at hand 2 of {those} large  
7 //yellow (& black) butterflies which I  
8 have prob. seen nearly a month. They rest on  
9 the mud near a brook.-- 2 3/4 to 3 inch in alar  
10 extent-- Yellow with a broad black border-  
11 outside of which a row of small yellow spots  
12 --3 or 4 black marks transversely to the fore  
13 wings--& 2 fine lines parallel with the  
14 body on the {hinder} (?) wings-- A small & slender  
15 reddish  
16 swallow tail with ^ brown & blue at the tail.  
17 Body black above & yellow along the sides.  
18 C. says it is the papilio Turnus of Say.  
19 Pm to 2d Division  
20 fresh  
21 At Dugan {Dessert} many ^ turtle tracks.  
22 They generally {steer for} some more elevated &  
23 perhaps bushy place-- The tail makes a serpentine  
24 track {drawing} the tracks of the flipper &  
25 claws quite distinct--& you see where the turtle  
26 rested on its shell {flatting} on the {sand} from time  
27 to time. You can easily trace one to where  
28 the sand has been disturbed & dig up its eggs  
29 as I did-- 6 eggs about 2 1/2 to 3 inches deep  
30 //E. insculpta.  
31 The juncus of 2d Division ~~has just~~ is just  
32 % { } %  
33 //beginning XXX %^% at the W or N Westerly edge next  
34 the higher ground-- It may be that most of it  
35 does not bloom-- The stigmas {as} prominent  
36 {a} few plants--the anther scarcely perceptible yet

---

<sup>116</sup>"B" written over "b"

1 The sepals are rather a {green} purple with a green  
2 center--than green-

3 The slender grass mixed with the {above}--ap. Trisetum  
4 palustre--is now very commonly in bloom--ap several //  
5 days-- Also the smaller (15 inch) festuca  
6 2 or 3 days--in dry ground-- //

7 The white water ranunculus is abundant in  
8 the brook--out say a week--& well open //  
9 in the sun shine It is pretty white flower (with  
10 yellow center) seen above the dark brown green leaves-  
11 in the rapid water--its peduncle recurved so as  
12 to present the flower erect 1/2 to 1 inch above the  
13 surface--{while} the buds--are submerged.

14 See a pigeon. A {brood} of little //  
15 partridges in the wood paths-- The old bird utters //  
16 a-loud {wiry} mewing sound of alarm--the young a  
17 very fine sharp sound like cherry birds--  
18 For a week at least have seen cow birds about  
19 cows. //

20 The common cress gone to seed only a little lingers //  
21 I felt that the season of storms--  
22 ie of 2 days rain, was past about June 1st //  
23 saw a rainbow in pm of 7th //

24 June 15--60  
25 2 pm River 4 1/2 above SL. //  
26 % {but rarely} %  
27 For some time I have not heard toads by day--%^%

28 & not for a long time in numbers-- Yet they still //  
29 sing at night-- Perhaps it is entirely a matter  
30 of temperature--that in June & maybe the {latter} half of

1 May (?) they require the coolness of the evening to  
2 arouse them. The Hylodes appear to have  
3 //  
4 done--  
5 I paddle to Clam Shell--  
6 Notice the down of the White {&} Willow  
7 near the bridge--20 rds off--whitening  
8 sassafras shore for 2 or 3 rds--like a dense  
9 white foam. It is all full of little seeds  
10 not sprouted-- It is dense as fur--& has  
11 {first blown} 15 rds over land-- This is a late  
12 willow to ripen--but the black willow shows  
13 // %As I notice%  
14 {no} down yet-- It is very conspicuously white along the  
15 shore {a foot or 2} wide--a dense downy coat or  
16 fleece on the water-- Has blown NE--  
17 See Froth about the base of some grass  
18 //  
19 in a meadow The large early wool grass of  
20 //  
21 the meadows will shed pollen in a day or 2--(can see  
22 stamens) on Hosmers Flat shore-- This it is grows  
23 in circles--  
24 As I stood there I heard that peculiar  
25 hawk like (for rhythm) but more resonant or  
26 clanging kind of scream-- which I may have  
27 heard before this year--plover like--indefinitely  
28 far--over the Clam Shell plain-- After  
29 proceeding half a dozen rods toward the hill  
30 I heard the familiar {willet} note of the  
31 //upland Plover--& looking up saw one standing  
32 erect (like a large tell tale--or chicken with  
33 its head stretched up) on the rail fence-- After  
34 a while it flew off SW & low then wheeled

1 & went a little higher down the river--of pigeon  
2 size--but quick quivering wings--finally rose  
3 higher & flew more or less zig-zag as if uncertain  
4 where it would {alight}--& at last when almost  
5 out of sight it pitched down into a field near  
6 Cyrus Hubbard's. It was the same note I heard  
7 so well on Cape Cod in July 55--& prob.  
8 the same I heard in the Shawsheen valley May 15--  
9 58 I suspect then that it breeds here.

10         The button bush is now fairly green //  
11         The C. stricta tufts are now as large as ever--& //  
12 the culms falling over-- They are like great long haired  
13 heads--now drooping around the great tussocks--  
14 {drawing}<sup>117</sup> I know of no other sedge that  
15 make so massive & conspicuous a tussock  
16                 This the one that reflects the  
17                         peculiar glaucous sheen from  
18 --yet with a slender leaf. its {bent} surfaces--

19         The turtles are ap. now in the midst of their lay- //  
20 ing-- I go looking for them--to see where they  
21 have left the water for this purpose-- See a snap- //  
22 ping turtle whose shell is about 10 inches {long}<sup>118</sup>-- Making  
23 her hole on {the} top of the sand bank at the stream  
24 mill site within 4 rods of the road. She pauses  
25 warily at sound of {my} boat--but I should have  
26 mistaken her for a dark stone--if she had  
27 lifted {he} snout above her shell. I went to her  
28 as she lay & hissed by the hole at 4 pm  
29 It was about 3 1/2 inch across & not perpendicular  
30 but chiefly on one side say 5 inches deep (as yet)  
31 {&} 4{+} inches wide beneath--but only about one inch

---

<sup>117</sup>extends three lines

<sup>118</sup>big?

1 of the bottom exposed when you looked straight  
2 {&} { } like the common E. pictas hole--saw 2 or 3 similar holes made by her afterward  
3 down-- ^There {was} her broad track (some 10  
4 inches wide) up the sandy or gravelly bank--  
5 the {picta} does  
6 & I saw where she had before dug or began to  
7 dig with in a rod of this--but had retreated  
8 to the river-- I withdrew to the bridge to observe  
9 her (not having touched her) but she  
10 took the occasion to hasten to the river--  
11 A thunder shower in the N goes down the Merrimack  
12 I see a carex (at mouth of swamp bridge  
13 ?  
14 brook) & elsewhere) say {bel} monile & {bullata}  
15 --but {com.} with 2 fertile spikes--smooth stalks  
16 but very dense flowered & thick spikes--the  
17 perygynia<sup>119</sup> {flatten} for want of room--ap. 2  
18 sterile spikes-- Seen also last year. I think.  
19 We have had warmer weather for  
20 // say since 12th  
21 several days--^a new season begun--daily  
22 Heat probably about 85°+ at 2 pm  
23 baths--thin coat--&c--V top of NP  
24 The bull frogs now commonly trump at  
25 //  
26 night & the mosquitoes are now really trouble-  
27 //  
28 some.  
29

30 June 16--60

31 I notice this am {about} my melons {~~the~~}  
32 excrement 5 to 6/8 inch long {±} narrowed--  
33 & with a sort of stem at one end--full of  
34 {wing} {cases} of beetles &c--& black-looking at  
35 first like the coccon of some insect--  
36 but moist & fresh-- Also saw 4 or 5  
37 on the side walk as I went to the P. O. (after  
38 a warm night) It is prob. the excrement<sup>120</sup>  
39 of the toad--of which I have seen an account.

---

<sup>119</sup>usually sp. perigynia

<sup>120</sup>There is something scratched out over the word "excrement"

1 I saw great {puffs} on the Andromeda the 14th //  
2 {& about} same for several days past  
3 At 2 Pm 85°+ ^ I have heard no //  
4 hylodes since the 12th--& no purring frogs (R palus-  
5 tris--) think they ceased about the same time--or  
6 with the 85°- heat--i.e with ribbon for neck &  
7 thinnest sack  
8 Thunder showers show themselves about 2 pm  
9 in the W--but split at sight of Concord &  
10 go E on each side--begetting only a slight //  
11 shower--  
12 At Eve paddle to Clam Shell.  
13 The meadows full of lightning bugs tonight--  
14 1st {seen} the 14th (There had then been a thunder //  
15 shower in the north.)  
16 Rose bugs 2 or 3 days at least.  
17 It appears to me I that these phenomena  
18 say June 12th  
19 occur simultaneously--<sup>^</sup>{v12}  
20 Heat about 85+° at 2 pm-- True Summer-- //  
21 Hylodes cease to peep--  
22 Purring frogs (R. Palustris:<sup>121</sup>) cease--  
23  
24 Lightning bugs 1st seen--  
25 Bullfrogs trump generally--  
26 ~~Bull-frogs~~ mosquitos beg. to be really troublesome  
27 15--16--17th  
28 Afternoon Thunder showers almost regular^  
29 10th  
30 Sleep with open window--& wear thin coat & ribbon  
31 on neck--  
32 Turtles fairly & generally begun to lay.  
33  
34 As I stand at Clam Shell, it occurs to  
35 me that I never see the stink-pot laying its eggs  
36 on on land by day--that therefore it must lay its eggs

---

<sup>121</sup>colon might only be a blotch

1           %no {v} {look} in journal { } when {Riobertus} have { }%<sup>122</sup>  
2    by night-- %^%Where then shall I look for them  
3    now by night--with a lantern? Why not  
4    here as well as any where--& I turn my eyes in  
5    the twilight to the shore there--when I see  
6    a turtle just entering the water-- Running to it  
7    with haste I see it (after it has entered the  
8    river) to be a stink pot--which prob. was frightened  
9    by us--had come forth to lay--or possibly was return-  
10   ing. I think I never see the picta & insculpta  
11   & yel spot ashore by night.  
12 //        The pickerel weed appears to have suddenly  
13    shot up to about its final height--but  
14    it is mainly owing to the river having rapidly fallen  
15    a foot--within a few days-- As far as the height  
16    of this plant is concerned the river now reaches  
17    its summer {regime.} Not yet the potamo-  
18    getons.  
19        Ch. found a marsh hawks nest on the  
20 //great Meadow this pm with 3 eggs  
21    consid. developed. This is the 3d I have heard  
22    of this year. %v July 3d%  
23                                  June 17--60  
24 //        Quite a fog this morn.  
25        About 12 pm {notice} thunder clouds in W--  
26 //& hear the muttering-- As yesterday it  
27    {splits} at right of C. & goes S & N--  
28    Never the less about 3 pm begins a steady  
29 //  
30    gentle rain here for several hours & in the  
31    night again.-- the thunder as yesterday  
32    This the 3d day of thunder shower in pm, through the 14th it did not rain here--

---

<sup>122</sup>too faint to read on copy

1 mostly forerunning or superficial to the shower.  
2 //  
3 Carex flava out possibly a week  
4 June 18--60  
5 The tumultuous singing of birds--a burst //  
6 of melody--wakes me up (the window being open)  
7 these mornings--at dawn-- What a matinade  
8 to have {poured} into your chamber!  
9 2 pm to Walden & Cliffs--  
10 Rabbit clover is now 2 or 3 inches high //  
11 I see in the southerly bays of Walden--the  
12 pine pollen now washed up thickly--only at  
13 the bottom of the bays--esp. the deep long bay--  
14 where it is a couple of rods long x 6 to 24 inches  
15 wide & {1} inch deep--more sulphur yellow--&  
16 now has no smell. It has come quite across the  
17 pond from where the pines stand full--half a  
18 mile--probably washed across most of the way.  
19 Is that Bromus secalinus on RR at  
20 Walden? not yet in bloom-- //  
21 I have scarcely seen a warbler for a fortnight--  
22 or since the leaves have been developed--though  
23 I hear plenty of them in the tree tops.  
24 Standing on Emersons cliff--I see very  
25 distinctly the redness of a luxuriant field of  
26 clover on the top of F. H. Hill some 2/3 of a mile  
27 off--the day being cloudy. & misty. The sun  
28 just ready to break out-- You might have  
29 mistaken the redness for that of of withered

1 pine boughs where wood was cut last winter.

2 On this Emerson hill-- --I notice among  
3 2 years ago  
4 other {growths} after the cutting^--the huckle-  
5 berry & blue berry--that the sedge P.  
6 Pennsylvanica--has shot up {into} large & luxuriant  
7 & densely set tufts--giving to the spaces between  
8 the little oak {sprouts} & clumps--quite a  
9 grassy appearance--

10 Notice those remarkable galls in a shrub oak  
11 //  
12 {drawing}<sup>123</sup> 2 or 3 together--or hardly  
13 so broad as this. each with a grub in it

14 June 19--60

15 Dewy clouds in the air today & yesterday--  
16 //  
17 yet not threatening rain--somewhat dog-day  
18 like.

19 Let an oak be heaved & put into the frame  
20 of a house where it is sheltered & it will last  
21 several centuries--even as a sill it may last 150  
22 years--but simply cut it down & let  
23 it lie though in an open pasture & it  
24 will probably be thoroughly rotten in 25 years  
25 There is the oak cut down at Clam Shell  
26 some 20 years ago-- The {but} left on the  
27 ground. It has about 2/3 wasted away--& is hardly  
28 fit for fuel.

29 The leading shoot of one of my young White pines

---

<sup>123</sup>extends 3 lines

1 (not the rankest--but easily reached)  
2 ^has grown 16 1/4 inches--let me measure it //  
3 %V 27th & July 4th%  
4 again in a few days.  
5 {Py- }  
6 2 Pm to Flints Pond  
7 where the wood was cut some 22 years ago  
8 Going thro' the cold hollows at Ripple Lake--^  
9 I observe that they are still almost entirely sedge  
10 ~~white~~ bare grassy hollows--while at a certain  
11 height all around the wood rises abruptly & densely  
12 to the height of 15 or 20 feet-- These portions are  
13 kept bare & are likely to be an indefinite time  
14 longer. The sedge of these hollows is the  
15 Pennsylvanicus--Slender {siccata}--& {some} {vestita}--  
16 as well as grass. There are numberless choco-  
17 late colored & other devils needles {coasting}<sup>124</sup> up  
18 & down these hollows now--  
19 4  
20 Observe a nest crowded full with ^ young-- //  
21 brown thrashers half fledged. You would think  
22 they would die of heat so densely packed--&  
23 over-flowing 3 head one way & the other lies  
24 across-- How quickly a fox would gobble them  
25 up!  
26 Ripple lake NE shore is lined with a  
27 pine  
28 pale yellowish ^ pollen--though there are  
29 wht ps  
30 no pines within--a dozen rods--& those ^ on  
31 as with meal  
32 the E--1/2 of the pool is gray with the dust--  
33 Is not this paler yellow that of the  
34 white pine? {W} of Goose pond. Thus these  
35 ponds & pools in the woods--catch the  
36 pine pollen that may be floating in the

---

<sup>124</sup>1906 has "coursing"

1 atmosphere--& it is washed up to one  
2 at Flints also  
3 side (the NE side)--^ They are pollen-ometers  
4 I see at Flints--a great many winged insects  
5 collected on it.

6 The Devils needles now abound in wood--  
7 //  
8 path,--& {about} the ripple lakes. Even  
9 if your eyes were shut you would know  
10 they were there--hearing the rustling of their  
11 wings as they flit by or wheel in pursuit  
12 of one another. {Very} Various colors & sizes.

13 I observe that the water bugs confined  
14 them selves to the shore even of Ripple lake  
15 {now} {by} {day}--though I doubt if there are  
16 fishes that would disturb them in the middle  
17 here.

18 The eriocaulon shows white heads 2 to 5 inches  
19 //  
20 high--

21 I follow a distinct fox path amid the  
22 grass & bushes for some 40 rods--beyond  
23 Brittons' Hollow leading from the great  
24 fox hole-- It branches on reaching the  
25 peach orchard. No doubt by these routes  
26 they oftenest go & return to their hole.  
27 As broad as a cartwheel--and at last  
28 best seen when you do not look {to} hard for  
29 it.

30 Some tall rough golden rod is 3 feet high  
31 //  
32 & generally in rich ground it is 2 or more--  
33 also some fragrant golden rod is 2 feet high--



1 It comes down perpendicularly--nearly 1 1/4 inches  
2 falls into a large tin pail with upright  
3 //  
4 sides (which I had placed in the garden--for  
5 the purpose) between 8 am & 12--& by the  
6 next morning there is 2 1/8 inches--(which is the  
7 more rain falls ~~yester~~ today--than any day since march, if not this year  
8 whole of it--)^ It is a warm rain & I sit  
9 all the day & evening with my window open  
10 grass--  
11 It beats down the potatoes ^ &c--& so {weighs}  
12 down the luxuriant shoots of the current  
13 that they either break off or require to be broken  
14 off at a great sacrifice of growth (18 to 24 inches  
15 long.  
16 June 21--60

17 6 am the River has risen to 6 7 1/2 inches above SL.  
18 //  
19 (prob from about 2 or 3 above in the morning of yesterday)

20 // A 7 Pm it is 11 1/2 inches above S. L.

21 The wind is still NE. & the air is now so  
22 cold (cooled by the rain) that most have  
23 fires--& it is uncomfortably cool out of  
24 the sun--which does not shine much this Am

25 Phalaris Americana X (some prob 2 or 3 days)

26 //  
27 It is the rankest & for its size most conspicuous  
28 common grass. You see great dark green islets  
29 of it by the side of or even in the river where  
30 it is muddy--with the large whitish pannicles (?)  
31 lifted above the {broad} rank leaves. These  
32 are 4 or 5 feet high--very luxuriant

33 I first noticed elms full of dark shade

34 //at a distance some 3 or 4 days ago. As soon as

35 they are well leafed it is seen how gracefully they  
36 droop.



1 about it. I oftenest find them in {haf} open  
2 dry fields where {there} are scattered birches pines &  
3 shrub oaks.

4 The earliest cinquefoil grows abundantly in  
5 Browns dry pastures--but I scarcely see one  
6 //  
7 //in bloom now The silvery cinquefoil is abundant.

8 Having noticed the pine pollen washed  
9 in the woods  
10 up on the shore of 3 or 4 ponds ^ lately--&  
11 at Ripple<sup>131</sup> Lake a dozen rods from the  
12 nearest pine--also having seen the pollen ~~blow~~  
13 carried off visibly half a dozen rods {from} a p.  
14 pine which I had jarred--& rising all the while  
15 when there was very little wind-- It suggested  
16 to me that the air must be full of this fine  
17 dust at this season. That it must be carried  
18 to great distances--when dry & falling at night  
19 perhaps or with a change in the atmosphere  
20 its presence might be detected remote from  
21 pines--by examining the edges of pretty {large}  
22 {bodies} of water where it would be {culled} to  
23 one side by the wind & waves from a large area.

24 So I thought over all the small ponds  
25 in the township in order to select one or more  
26 most remote from the woods or pines--whose  
27 shores I might examine & so test my theory.  
28 I could think of none more favorable than  
29 this little pond only 4 rods in diameter  
30 a watering place in John Browns pasture--  
31 wwhich has {but} {ten} pads in it.

---

<sup>131</sup>"R" written over text

1 It is a small round pond at the bottom of  
2 a hollow in the midst of a perfectly bare dry  
3 pasture. The nearest wood of any kind is just  
4 39 rds distant northward & across a road  
5 from the edge of the pond. Any other wood  
6 --in {other} directions--is 5 or <sup>6</sup> times as far--  
7  
8 I knew it was a bad time to try my experiment--  
9 just after such heavy rains--& when the pines are  
10 a little  
11 effete--^too late-- The wind was now blowing quite  
12 the pollen  
13 strong from the NE. (whereas all that I had  
14 seen hitherto had been {culled} on the NE sides of ponds  
15 by a SW. wind) I {approached} the pond {from} the  
16 N. E. & looking over it carefully along the shore  
17 there could detect no pollen-- I then proceeded to  
18 walk round it, but still could detect none.  
19 I then said to myself--if there was any here before  
20 the rain & NE wind, it must have been on the  
21 NE side--& {then} have been washed over & {now} up high  
22 quite at or on the shore-- I looked {then} carefully  
23 stooping down & was gratified to find after  
24 all a distinct yellow line of pollen dust  
25 about 1/2 inch in ~~te~~ width--(or washing all to  
26 2 or 3 times that width) quite on the edge & some  
27 dead twigs which I took up {from} the { } shore  
28 were completely crusted with it--as with sulphur.  
29 This yellow line reach half a rod along the SW  
30 side--& I then detected a little of this dust slightly  
31 {graying}<sup>132</sup> the surface for 2 or 3 feet out there.  
32 (Many little {snow} (?) fleas on it)

//

---

<sup>132</sup>grazing?

1           When I thought I had failed {--}I was much  
2 pleased to detect after all this distinct yellow  
3 line--revealing unmistakably the presence of  
4 pines in the neighborhood & thus confirming  
5 my theory-- As chemists detect the presence  
6 of ozone in the atmosphere--{by} exposing to it  
7 a delicately prepared paper-- So the lakes detect  
8 for us {then} the presence of the pine pollen  
9 in the atmosphere. They are our polinometers.  
10 How much of this invisible dust must be floating  
11 ~~on the surface of the lakes &~~ in the atmosphere  
12 & be inhaled & drunk by us at this season!!  
13 {Who} knows but the pollen of some plants may  
14 be unwholesome to inhale & produce the diseases  
15 of the season. %V June 20 & 22d 58%

16           Of course a large pond will collect the  
17 most & you will find most at the bottom  
18 of {long} deep bays in to which the wind blows

19           --I do not believe that there is any part of this  
20 town on which the pollen of the pine may not  
21 fall. The time to examine the ponds this year  
22 was I should say, from the 15th to the 20th of this  
23 month. Looking at the trees today--I find that  
24 the pines are now effete--esp. the p. pine ~~turned~~  
25/the sterile flowers now turned reddish-- The white pine  
26/is lighter colored--& all but a very little indeed--  
27 is effete In the white pine--it is a dense cluster  
28 of 20 or 30 little flowers about the base of this  
29 years shoot.

30           I did not expect to find any pollen--the pond was  
31 so small--& distant from any wood--but I

1 thought that I {want to} examine. Who knows but the  
2 pollen of various kinds floating thro' the air at  
3 this season may be the source of some of the  
4 peculiar perfumes--which are not traceable to their  
5 source!

6 Noticed a dead *E. picta* on its back--dead  
7 a month or two-- The head was gone--& of course  
8 all the insides--& there was a hole in front of  
9 its hind legs on each-side-- The legs left--  
10 Was not this killed just as the one at Talls I?

11 That meadow grass which casts the  
12 peculiar glaucous sheen from its bent & waving  
13 surface is the *C. stricta*--either in tufts  
14 or growing thinly. (V 15th)

15 *Carex*<sup>133</sup> *lupulina* (say 4 or 5 days, or may be a week) //  
16 This is plenty just at the Hill Landing  
17 at Little Truro Pond hole. old. Bridge side

18 Saw the pigeon egg puff ball formed on the 19th //  
19 Started up a night hawk in the dry field near  
20 the Pond hole. Prob. they affect these dry & gravelly  
21 fields--as at Truro. Where the small fescue  
22 grass grows--& some tufts of *C. scoparia* (?)

23 Tall fescue grass X //  
24 *Eleocharis* the 2 small still in bloom esp. the  
25 smallest. //

26 June 22

27 River at 6 am 11 15/16 above SL. having risen //  
28  
29 only 7/16 in the night. at 7 pm it 15 1/8 above SL.

30 I see minnows by the shore 1/2 inch long.

31 Rice tells me that he saw in a mud hole

---

<sup>133</sup>blotch or pd. after C

1 near the river in Sudbury about a fort-  
2 night ago. A pout protecting her ova  
3 //  
4 --which were in a ball about as big as an  
5 all exposed  
6 apple--^not at all hatched (I think he  
7 said on a stick) under which she {~~swamp~~}  
8 swam. There were also pouts of various sizes  
9 about there--some only 2 inches long! says  
10 his son William  
11 Hear the peculiar peep. of young golden robins on  
12 //  
13 the elms this morning.  
14 What is that great toothless thin-shelled green  
15 ? anodon fluviatilis  
16 clam--^which Rice brought from the same  
17 mud hole mentioned above--just 6 inches long  
18 broad  
19 3 inches high--& 2 3/4 thick--very green with rays--  
20 A handsome shell.  
21 There is a strong NE wind this Pm The thermometer  
22 60°+ only at 12 1/2 Pm & 65+ at 5 Pm-- But  
23 //it is remarkably cold in the wind & you require  
24 a thick coat-- 65°+ now with wind is uncomfortably  
25 cold. I hear that it has killed some birds--Martins  
26 &c found dead in neighbors' yards  
27 The heavy rain of the 20th with the cold of  
28 the 21st has killed some birds-- A martin  
29 & another bird were found dead in Wheildon's garden.  
30 The leaves are now rapidly becoming hard & glazed  
31 --acquiring {firmness} as well as a darker color--  
32 2Pm to Great Meadows  
33 // At Moore's Swamp the Carex Comosa (?) X  
34  
35/ A paint turtle digging to lay in wood path  
36

1 at 3 1/2 Pm The throat of the hole in this  
2 hard ground is only 7 to 8/8 inches wide--& the hole  
3 is now about 2 inches deep & about the same in width  
4 beneath--expanding in all directions beneath but  
5 chiefly toward the head of the turtle. {drawing}

6 On the NE side of the Great Fields  
7 there are 2 or 3 little patches of sand {one} to  
8 {2 rods} across--with a few slivers of arrowhead  
9 stone sprinkled over them-- It is easy to find an  
10 arrow head if it is exposed-- These spots are plowed  
11 only by the wind & rain--& yet I rarely cross  
12 them but I find a new arrow head exposed.

13 The latest aspens at Holbrook Hollow  
14 prob. did not leaf till about a week ago--  
15 or the middle of June--(Saw them on the 7th as well //  
16 as today--) They have now grown an inch.

17 Observe the tops of the flowering fern killed  
18 by frost along the S' edge of the Great Mead- //  
19 ows last night. These ferns are very tender  
20 & betray it.

21 I walk straight across the meadow from W. of  
22 Holbrooks to the river--& the prevailing grasses  
23 were Scirpus eriophorum (out several days) //  
24 Carex stellulata--C. bullata with at least 2 fertile spikes  
25 methinks--{this} the order of their prevalence.  
26 %(V June 16-59)%  
27 Alopecurus geniculatus in the Great Meadow path  
28 quite fresh--say several (3 or 4) days. //  
29 The pretty new moon in the west is quite red this evening.  
30 June 23--60

31 River at 7 am 15 inch above S. L. having fallen //

1           A sparrows nest with 3 fresh eggs in a hollow  
2 //  
3   of a willow 2 1/2 feet from ground at my boat's  
4   place-- The bird has the usual marks ~~expec~~ ex-  
5   cept perhaps the spot on the breast is more obvious  
6   & the lines {over} the eyes more white & distinct.  
7   The eggs have a much bluer-white ground than  
8   those I have & beside are but slightly spotted  
9   with {brown} except toward the larger end. The  
10   chip of the bird is metallic--not the hoarse chip  
11   of the spring-song spar.. V. eggs in {coll.}  
12    %v June 25--56%  
13           2 Pm to Bare Hill road--  
14    & the 24th also  
15           This is a decidedly dog-dayish day^--foretold  
16 //  
17   by the red-moon of last evening.

18           The sun light, even this forenoon, was ~~yello~~  
19   peculiarly yellow--passing thro' misty clouds--  
20   & this afternoon the atmosphere is decidedly  
21   blue. I see it in the street within 30 rods--  
22   & perceive a distinct--musty odor.--

23 //       First bluish misty dog-day--& sultry. Therm.  
24   at 2 only 85°+ however--& wind comes Easterly  
25   now & rather cool (as it does the 24th)  
26   The foliage is now thick--& for the most  
27   part dark--& this kind of weather is prob.  
28   the result of this amount of shadow-  
29 //but {it} grows cooler with Easterly {wind} before night  
30   --I suspect that it may be true as said, that  
31   ?  
32   the first half of June is cooler than the last  
33   half of May.-- On this account--

34 //       Smilacina racemosa, how long?

1           Agrostis ~~scabra~~ X Pond path at E end of Walden           //  
2                    %prob vulgaris%  
3           Poa compressa many fairly begun on           //  
4 the RR at Walden--also piper grass X           //  
5 just begun.  
6           I see a young rana sylvatica--in the  
7 woods only 5/8 inch long. or is it a hylodes           ?  
8           --for I see a faint cross like mark on the           ?  
9 back--& yet the black dash on the sides of  
10 the face.  
11                           at height for this river  
12           A 7 pm the river is 15 3/4 inch above SL.<sup>134</sup>           //  
13           It rained hard on the 20th & part of  
14                    2 1/8 inch of rain in all--there being no drought  
15 the following night ^ raising the river from  
16 some 2 or 3 inches above S. L. to 7 1/2 inches above SL.  
17 at 7 Am of the 21st  
18   " 7 pm       "       "                   11 1/2       "       "  
19   6 am        --22?                   11 15/16   "       "  
20   7 pm        22d                   15 1/8  
21   7 Am        23d                   15  
22   7 pm        23d                   15 3/4  
23           Thus 2 1/8 inches of rain at this  
24 season, falling on one day--with little or  
25 no wind--raises the river while it is falling  
26 some 4 inches--on the next day it rises 4 more  
27 --the next night it rises 7/16 inch--more; the next day  
28 (2d after the rain) it rises 3 3/16 inches--the next  
29 night it falls 1/8 inch it rises again 3/4 inches  
30 (or 5/8 absolutely). I.e. it rises till the 3d day  
31 after the rain. I.E after a remarkably  
32 heavy rain of one day--it does not rise as  
33 much in a night as it ordinarily falls in a day  
34 at this season.

---

<sup>134</sup>line from caret to inserted text

1  
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31

June 24--60

2 pm to Clam Shell

The dog-dayish weather continues--

The leaves generally are eaten--where young &  
tender--as the leaves of melons (squashes)  
as soon as they expand a little-- When they  
become more hard & glazed--they are less  
& earlier  
edible. Hence this^ is the season for galls  
of various kinds-- The pads are already extensively  
eaten. I do not know what eats th{ose}  
shot like lines-- but I see the pads esp--of  
the yellow lilies--with many little black  
or dark brown grubs on them (no doubt hatched  
on them) {annular}, & yellow beneath--& now  
//eating them--but not eating through. making  
crinkled lines all over them.

%Perhaps I do July 2d%  
// %Notice%<sup>135</sup> No young breems in the nests yet

That Hilly road through Baker's  
land to Bare Hill--is a true up country  
road--with the scent of ferns along it.  
There are birches &c enough in the road for  
bean poles & to stick your pea in with--& the  
man who has just built him a true country  
house there is now indulging himself with  
peas--fresh prob. for the first time-- The  
brush 5 times as high as his peas which  
are now in bloom.

Have seen the flowering fern ripe for  
some days.

---

<sup>135</sup> "%Notice%" is squeezed into the margin

1 Saw young blue birds fully grown yesterday-- //

2 but with a feeble note--& dull colors.

3 Start a woodcock from amid ferns //

4 Common curled dock--some time. //

5 Notice the red-cups of the tops of trumpet //

6 weed a foot 2' high.

7 All plants leaped say the middle of June--& summer //

8 commenced. River {begs} then to wear its summer aspect. //

9

10 I perceive the rank, dog-like scent of meadow

11 rhue See white lily buds.

12 June 25th

13 2 Pm to Dugan Desert--

14 I see a female marsh hawk

15 {beating} along so well suddenly give chase

16 to a small bird darting to right & left 20 feet

17 high about a pine.

18 There are no turtle tracks now on the desert.

19 but I see many crow tracks there--& where

20 they have pecked or scratched in the sand in

21 many places--possibly smelling the eggs!?

22 Also the track of a fox over the sand. & find

23 his excrement buried in the sand & the crows

24 have dabbled in the sand over it. It is

25 full of fur as normal. What an unfailing

26 supply of small game it secures--that its

27 excrement should be so generally of fur!

28 As near as I can make out with my

29 glass, yes I see & hear the particolored warbler //

30 at Ledum swamp on the larches & pines--

1     A bluish back--yellow breast with a  
2     reddish crescent above--& white belly--& a  
3     continuous screeching note to the end.  
4             At Eve up the Assabet--  
5             %7 pm--River 12 1/2 abv. SL.%  
6             The water of the Assabet is now very generally  
7     whitened with the down of the black willow  
8     floating on it--yet it is not yet collected  
9     //in very dense masses--not quite in the p. of its  
10    fall--the coarsest kind of lint that falls  
11    on the stream. The phalaris grass,  
12    //now may be in its p.--is with its great white  
13    lifted over its rank blades 18 inch above  
14    spike ^ perhaps the most conspicuous grass we have  
15                     will soon close up into a narrow spike  
16    in C. (or hereabouts except the Phragmites)  
17    //Scirpus lacustris some days. Hear 4 or  
18    5 screech owls on different sides of the  
19    river--uttering those peculiar low {screaming}  
20    or {working}--ventriloqual sounds--prob. young  
21    //  
22    birds some of them lately taken flight  
23             Farmers are just begining their June-  
24    //  
25    grass haying.  
26                     no {Torrey} Poa dentata  
27             The Glyceria pallida? ^ grows in that ditch  
28    //  
29    at the little brook on the Corner road--{above}  
30    to {the road} on the S side in A Wheelers (?) land--  
31  
32                     June 26th  
33             Still hazy & dog-dayish--  
34    //  
35             Go to the Menagerie in the pm  
36                     %River 10 1/2 above S. L.%  
37             At 5 Pm %^% cross the meadow to the hemlocks  
38    The blue eyed grass, now in its p. occupies



1 I went within 3 ~~or~~ 4 rods & they were  
2 hardly scared at all. They young were  
3 but little bigger than chickens 4 or 5 days  
4 old--yet could fly 2 or 3 rods-- The partridge  
5 now takes out her brood to feed all the  
6 country over & what an extensive range they  
7 have--not confined to a barn yard.

8 To day it is cool & clear & quite  
9 //windy & the black willow down is now  
10 washed up & collected against the alders  
11 & weeds--the river mostly swept of its dust  
12 & looking more sparkling.

13 Farmer says that he found on the 24  
14 a black snake laying her eggs on the side  
15 //  
16 of the hill between his peach orchard & the  
17 ledge in the woods. He showed me the place  
18 today-- The hole was about 3 inches long  
19 by one wide & 4 or 5 inches deep in a slanting  
20 direction {drawing} He found the snake  
21 lying with her head & tail both at once in  
22 the hole occupied with laying {drawing} & she  
23 had then layed 12 eggs he pressed  
24 out 2 more--(14 in all) They were  
25 not connected together--& were 2ce as large  
26 as the sternothaerus egg. (soft shelled--)  
27 He left them on the ground--but when he  
28 went there this morning--he saw some crows  
29 devour them before his eyes-- This hole<sup>136</sup> was  
30 not in sand but in rather lean pasture

---

<sup>136</sup>h written over a w

1 sod--& hard--freshly made-- It bore a general  
 2 resemblance to a turtle's hole. Was close by  
 3 where his uncle (?) tried to dig through to  
 4 the other side of the world--dug more or less  
 5 for 3 years. used to dig nights--{as} long as one  
 6 candle lasted {-left} a stone--just between him & the  
 7 other side--not to be removed till he was ready to marry  
 8 Washingtons sister: The foxes now occupy his  
 9 hole  
 10 Holcus Lanatus {x} a week or 10 days  
 11 Hosmers field on Assabet--N of Poke Logan.  
 12 Juncus tenuis %V% 3 or 4 days. //

13 Farmer calls the flowering fern--'Staghorn'  
 14 says it is the common name with farmers  
 15 His bees are swarming--all collected over the //  
 16 outside of the hive

17 In his meadow that tall very slender--%reddish%  
 18 %delicate and trembling% Yet not the long branched species%  
 19 well spread ~~pan~~ capillary panicle--reddish--  
 20 %I have {&} will call it so% say 3 or 4<sup>137</sup>  
 21 perhaps Agrostis perennans--~~some~~ days, perhaps  
 22 Is the greener one--on bank below Poke Logan  
 23 distinct? Is that short red-top-like  
 24 grass of farmers pasture--now out say 3 or 4  
 25 shoot & ends  
 26 days--red top--(or a scabra?)<sup>138</sup> say ^ red-top //

27 River at 6 Pm 7 5/8 above SL-- //  
 28  
 29 The pine shoot which on the 19th  
 30 had grown 16 1/4 inches is now 20 3/4 long--or  
 31 has grown 4 1/2 inches in 8 days--a little more  
 32 than 1/2 an inch a day It had evidently grown  
 33 much faster before. V July 4th

---

<sup>137</sup>"say 3 or 4" is directly above "~~some~~" in the MS as it replaces this word

<sup>138</sup>parenthetical note might be crossed out w/pencil





1 near the {caving} edge here--with copper &  
2 green reflections--head green & blue ones  
3 They are sluggish--& can be transported on  
4 a leaf.  
5 leaves  
6 On the alders ^ by the river side in Sunset  
7 Interval-- I see countless small black  
8 miller like insects 3/8 inch & of this form  
9 {drawing}--but all of them had not feelers  
10 I think they were the same that hover in  
11 //  
12 a swarm over the water at eve.  
13 A species of Juncus prostrate & rooting--  
14 in RR. ditch above the Platens is almost out.  
15 // %v} July 7th%  
16 June 29th  
17 // Dog-dayish & showery with thunder--  
18 Though a thunder shower has past NE & grazed us  
19 //at 6 Pm 91° the hottest yet^ & in  
20 consequence--at 6 1/2 or 7 another Thunder shower  
21 moves up from the SW--& there is a sudden  
22 remarkably  
23 burst from it with a ^ very strong gusty wind  
24 //& then rain for 15 minutes falls in a blinding  
25 deluge-- I think I never saw it rain so hard--  
26 There was the same sudden & remarkably violent storm about 2 hours  
27 The roof of the depot shed is taken off--  
28 earlier all up & down the Hudson--& it struck the Great  
29 many trees torn to pieces--the garden flooded  
30 Eastern at her moorings in N. York & caused some damage  
31 at once--corn & potatoes &c &c beaten flat  
32 You could not see distinctly many rods through  
33 the rain. It was the very strong gusts  
34 added to the weight of the rain that did  
35 the mischief-- There was little or no  
36 wind  
37 ~~rain~~ before the shower--it belonged wholly to it.  
38 Thus our most violent thunder shower--followed  
39 //the hottest hour of the month.

1 June 30th 1860

2 Try the temperature of the springs & Pond--

3 at 2 1/4 pm the atmosphere N of house

4  
5 83°--above zero

6 {is} the same Pm

7 ^The water of the Boiling spring 45°

8 Our well, after pumping 49°

9 Brister's Spring 49°

10 Walden Pond (at bottom in 4 feet water) 71

11 River at a rod from shore 77°

12 (2 pm the 1st of July the air is 77° & the river 75°)

13 I see that the temperature of the

14 boiling spring on the 6 of March 1846 was

15 also 45°--& I suspect it varies very little

16 through out the year.

17 If you {paw} {into} {sand} both by day & night you

18 find the heat to be permanently {greatest} some 3{--}

19 inches (today) below the surface--& this is about

20 depth at which the {~~small~~} tortoises place their

21 eggs-- Where the temperature is highest permanently

22 & changes least between nights & day.

23 A 2 Pm the River is 6 inches above SL. //

24 Generally speaking the fields are not //

25 imbrowned yet but the freshness of the

26 year is preserved-- Standing on the side of

27 F. H. Hill the verdure generally appears

28 at its height, the air {clear} & the

29 water sparkling (after the rain of yesterday)

30 & it is a world of glossy leaves & grassy

31 fields & meads.

32 The foliage of deciduous trees is now so nearly

1 //--as dark as ever greens that I am not  
2 struck by the contrast.  
3 I think that the shadows under the edge  
4 of woods are less noticed now because  
5 //  
6 the woods themselves are darker--so  
7 too with the darkness & shadow of elms  
8 Seen through this clear spark-  
9 ling breezy air--the fields--woods  
10 & meadows--are very brilliant & fair  
11 The leaves are now hard & glossy (the oldest)  
12 yet still comparatively fresh--& I do not  
13 ~~but~~ see a single acre of grass that  
14 has been cut yet-- The river meadows  
15 on each side the stream looking toward  
16 the light--have an elysian beauty--  
17 A light yellow plush or velvet as if  
18 {some} gamboge had been rubbed {into} them  
19 They are by far the most bright & sunny  
20 looking spots--such is the color of the  
21 sedges which grow there-- While the  
22 pastures & hill sides are dark green--  
23 & the grain fields glaucous green--  
24 It is remarkable that the meadows, which  
25 are the lowest part--should have this  
26 lightest, sunniest, yellowest look.  
27 Now that season begins when you see the  
28 //  
29 see the river to be {so} regularly divided longi-  
30 tudinally into pads, smooth-water, &  
31 sparkling ripples between--in a clear day.



1 //--a pest in grain fields--same as I noticed  
2 formerly in Stow's field--{Say} 6 weeks. Is it  
3 %V Aug. 19th%  
4 Branica campestris?  
5 July 1st 60  
6 2 pm to Well Meadow  
7 //\_\_\_\_\_River 3 7/8 above SL.  
8 //Rattle snake grass is just beginning-- The slender  
9 & leafy Panic of the meadows (tall for size) say a week  
10 //  
11 Saw a large black & blue (edged) butterfly yesterday  
12 //Fowl-meadow grass X  
13 // Notice those slate colored spots on a {rough-}  
14 g. rod leaf--answering to the crimson or red maples  
15 surrounded by a light ring & centered with greenish  
16 The Hellebore fall is now conspicuous & fairly  
17 {underweigh}--the cabbage but just begun to fall--  
18 I see one leaf of the last fully 18 inches x 13  
19 //Brachyelytrum grass ap. just begun or a day.  
20 While reclining on the sedge at end of  
21 town bound path--by the scoparia--I see  
22 smooth  
23 a warbler deliberately investigating the^ sumac,  
24 & their old {berry bunches}--in various positions  
25 It is a slaty blue above--with a bright yellow  
26 {front head}--& much yellow on the wings at  
27 angle &c--a very distinct black throat {drawing}  
28 triangular {wise} with a {broad} black line through  
29 the eyes on side head--a forked tail which  
30 is dark beneath--belly & vent white or whitish.  
31 // It is undoubtedly the sylvia chrysoptera  
32 or golden-winged warbler which I think must be  
33 breeding here. I see young partridges not  
34 bigger than robins fly 3 or 4 rods--not

1 %or {palustris}%  
 2 squatting fast now. %?%  
 3 %call it {Eatonia} Pennsylvanica--No No%  
 4 What is the prevailing grass of Well meadow  
 5 now? It is not the {~~\_\_\_\_\_~~}<sup>140</sup> trisetum palustra?  
 6 %Do I not see the same seedlings in Hub's Close now closed up appressed  
 7 & whitish July 26--60?%  
 8 Returning over the causeway--the light  
 9 of the sun has reflected from the {awns} of  
 10 a grain field (prob. wheat <sup>yes</sup> ^) by {abiel} Wheeler's  
 11 house--so brightly and in such a solid mass as  
 12 to far surpass in amount of light the densest  
 13 whiteweed thereabouts--& at first impress  
 14 you as if it were whiter than white-{weed}<sup>141</sup>  
 15 --but in fact it was not white--but a  
 16 very bright sunny gleam from the waving  
 17 phalanx of {awns}--more calculated to  
 18 reflect the light than any object in  
 19 the landscape  
 20  
 21 July 2d 60  
 22 Am to Lilies above nut Meadow--  
 23 The {Phasis}<sup>142</sup> heads are now closed up--&  
 24 //  
 25 it looks like another kind of grass-- Those  
 26 heads which stood so whitish some 18 inches  
 27 above their broad green leaves-- The bayonet //  
 28 rush is not quite out.  
 29 The lilies are not yet in p. A large one //  
 30 measures 6 1/2 inches over x 2 1/2 high  
 31 Now a days {hear}--from my window the constant  
 32 {tittering} of young {golden} robins--& by the river //  
 33 fields the alarm note of the peet weets--concerned  
 34 about their young.

---

<sup>140</sup>crossed-out word

<sup>141</sup>written over another word

<sup>142</sup>looks like "phasis" but this is not the name of a plant--1906 edition has "phalaris"

1 ? Does not the summer regime of the river  
2 begin say about July 1st--when the black  
3 willow is handsome--& the beds of front-  
4 rank polygonum are formed above water?

5 Yesterday I detected the smallest grass  
6 //that I know ap. festuca tenella? ap.

7 out of bloom--in the dry path S W of the  
8 yew only 2 to 4 inches high like a moss--

9 July 3d 1860  
10 2 pm to Holbrooks meadow & Turnpike  
11 to {try} Springs.

12 Looked for the marsh hawks nest (of June 16th {qv.})  
13 in the Great Meadows. It was in the very midst  
14 of the sweet-gale (which is 3 feet high) occupying  
15 an opening only a foot or 2 across-- We had much  
16 difficulty in finding it again--but at last  
17 nearly stumbled on to a young hawk. There  
18 was one as big as my fist resting on the bare  
19 flat nest in the sun--with a great head^ & open  
20 gaping or staring eyes  
21 ^panting mouth--yet {mere} down greyish white  
22  
23 down as yet--but I detected another which  
24 had crawled a foot one side amid the  
25 bushes, for shade or safety more than 1/2  
26 as large again--with small feathers & a  
27 yet more angry hawk-like look. How  
28 naturally anger sits on the young hawk's  
29 head. It was 3 1/2 pm & the old birds

1 were gone--& saw us not-- Meanwhile their  
2 callow young lie panting under the sweet gale  
3 & rosebushes in the swamp--waiting for their parents  
4 to fetch them food.

5 June is an up-country month--when our  
6 air & landscape is most like that of a  
7 more {mt ainous} region--full of freshness  
8 with the scent of fern{s} by the way-side

9 The Scheuchzeria is full of green  
10 fruit fully grown at Gowings-- It forms //  
11 the upright grass like plant next the more  
12 open pool--rising amid the floating sphag-  
13 num--with the spatulate sun dew interspersed  
14 with it {&} a very little of the leaden sheathed  
15 eriophorum & a sprig or 2 of Cassandra--

16 The Glyceria aquatica has been //  
17 out some time & is now ap done at Holbrooks  
18 meadow-- The Agrostis scabra, the //  
19 fine long slender branched fly away grass,  
20 almost out in what was Moore's swamp by  
21 Bedford Road.

24 Also in the ditch on the S side the road  
25 there--partly procumbent at base--a  
26 rather delicate & pale {rough-flowered} grass  
27 with (in this case) the paleae so projecting at  
28 tip as to give it a dentate appearance--  
29 I called it last year the Poa dentata of //  
30 Torrey--now in its p. here--& larger specimens in  
31 the ditch by the corner road S side (SW of {stump} {fence})  
32 say 10 days-- The paleae have a white or scarious

1 tip & just below it a dark transverse line

2 July 4--60

3 // Gentle rain in the night (last)

4 The Wht pine shoot which on the 19th of June

5 had grown 16 1/4 inches & on the 27th 20 3/4

6 is now 23 1/8 inches long--

7 2 pm Look at Springs toward Dugans & White pond.

8 Standing on I. P. Browns land--S side

9 I observed his rich and luxuriant uncut

10 grass lands northward now waving under

11 the easterly wind. It is a beautiful Camilla

12 // sweeping the waves of light & shade over

13 the whole breadth of his land--like a low

14 steam curling over it--imparting wonderful

15 life to the landscape--like the light & shade

16 of a changeable garment--waves of light

17 & shade pursuing each-other over the

18 whole {breadth} of the landscape--like waves

19 hastening to break on a shore. It is an

20 interesting feature very easily overlooked--

21 & suggests that we are wading & navigating

22 at present {in} a sort of sea of grass--

23 which yields & undulates under the wind

24 like water--& so perchance the forest is

25 seen to do from a favorable position.

26 None of his fields is cut yet--

27 Early there was that flashing light

1 of waving pines in the horizon--now the  
2 Camilla or grass & grain.

3 Juncus bufonius X prob several days in some places //  
4 consid.  
5 A juncus like {tenuis} but earlier (now some- //  
6 time done) & with more pointed pod {~~than~~} Old road  
7 behind our Texas {Lot}--

8 Also that 3 flowered--spreading racemed one  
9 12 to 18 inch high now just done & abundant //  
10 in the White pond field esp. the N. W. part of it--  
11 The involucre {no} rising above the flowers-- Methinks  
12 there are several species in the neighborhood of  
13 {tenuis} undescribed.

14 The sedgy hollows table-lands & {frosty}  
15 places in the woods now most beautiful--  
16 the sedge most fresh & yellowish green--a  
17 soft dry bed to recline on-- E.g. that  
18 place S of Ledum swamp-- The sedge  
19 esp. in the old path--falling every way like  
20 cow-licks on an unkempt head. When we enter  
21 it from the west with the sun shining between  
22 thundery clouds it is all lit with a blaze  
23 of yellow light--like a pasture on mt  
24 Washington, nearer the sun than usual.  
25 How beautiful the dark green oak leaves  
26 now-- How dark the chincapin oak leaves--  
27 Now the pines are almost indistinguishable //  
28 by color amid the deciduous trees.

29 The large johnswort now begins to be  
30 noticed generally--a July yellow.  
31



1  
 2 "The common heat of the earth which is  
 3 48° in this country"--"The common  
 4 heat of the internal parts of the earth  
 5 is ascertained by springs which arise from  
 6 the strata of earth too deep to be affected  
 7 by the heat of the summer, or the frosts of  
 8 winter. Those in this country, as has  
 9 been seen, are of 48° of heat, those  
 10 about Philadelphia, are said by Dr  
 11 Franklin to be 52°"--

12 "Springs are either such as run continually  
 13 called, perennial; or such as run  
 14 only for a time, & at certain seasons  
 15 of the year, & therefore called temporary  
 16 springs. Others again, are called  
 17 intermitting springs, because they flow  
 18 & then stop again; & reciprocating  
 19 springs whose waters rise & fall, or  
 20 flow & ebb, by regular intervals"--

21 "Springs are further divided into  
 22 oozing or weeping springs, where the  
 23 water gently trickles through the pores  
 24 of the land; pipe springs where they<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>143</sup>The end of this entry is on another piece of paper inserted on the previous page. It reads as follows:

appear in a single sill; & wall springs  
 where the water issues, as it were,  
 through the joints of a wall

1 June 30th July 3d 4th 6th & 7th I carried  
2 in pm  
3 round a thermometer & ascertained the temperature  
4 of the springs--brooks &c

5 The springs in the order of coldness stand thus

6	1	Boiling spring	45°	June 30
7	2	Dennis R. R.	46 1/2	July 7th
8	3&4	Henry Shattucks <u>2</u>	48°	July 6
9	5	Violet sorrel (N. Barrett's)	48	July 6
10	6	E Hosmer's Dam.	48	July 3d
11	7	I. Farmer's	48	July 6
12	8	Beyond Peter's	48 to 49	July 3d
13	9	Brister's	49	June 30
14	10	Comer spring (W. Wheelers)	49	July 4th
15	11	Minot Pratts	49	July 6
16	13	Cheney's	50+	July 3d 6 pm (air 72° (Jul 4 2pm air
17				83 & spring <sup>144</sup>
18				50+ still
19	12 <sup>145</sup>	Dugan's	50	July 4th
20	14	Garfield's (Morris swamp)	52	July 3d
21	5	John Hosmers -- --	54 --	July 4
22	16 <sup>146</sup>	Assabet	54	July 7th
23	167	Oak meadow	54	July 6
24	18	Wheeler's	56 56	July 7

25 Omitting the last--(as too much enlarged  
26 warmed  
27 artificially & so ~~enlarged~~) the average  
28 of ~~16~~  
29 temperature 17^ is 49 1/24°--49 1/2°--  
30 14 to 15  
31 Omitting also the 1--2--^16 & 17th i.e the extremes--

32 The average of the remaining 11 is 48.7 & they  
33 do not differ more than 2° from one another

34 On the whole then where I had expected  
35 to find great diversity I find remarkable uni-  
36 formity-- The temperature of good or cool

<sup>144</sup>This text is on the previous line in MS

<sup>145</sup>transposition sign around 13 and 12

<sup>146</sup>6 written over a 5

1 springs {in} this town at this season varies  
 2 very little indeed from 49° & I should be  
 3 surprised to meet with one considered cold  
 4 which varied more than 3° from this.

5 The temperature of our well was 49° June 30th

6 " "E Hosmers N most 49° July 6  
 7 " " S most 49 1/2 "

8 49° would seem to be the temperature at present  
 9 very generally of water at a certain depth  
 10 in the ground. This is very near the mean  
 11 annual temperature of the air here.

12 The Temperature of the air in the meanwhile  
 13 was as follows--on the N side of our house

June 30	July 3d	July 4	July 6	July 7
at 2 1/4 <u>pm</u> 83°	2 pm 82°	2 <u>pm</u> 83	6 am 57 to 60	7 am 56
	6 pm 72°	2 pm 75	2 1/2 pm 76	
		7 pm 75		

19 The average temperature of the air at 2 pm  
 20 for the 5 days of my observations was 80°--& the  
 21 greatest variation during the observations was  
 22 some 10° in the course of the pm--

23 But I presume that this made no odds with  
 24 the temperature of the springs for Cheneys  
 25 spring stood 50°+ both at 6 pm the 3d when the  
 26 thermometer was at 72° & at 2 pm the 4 when  
 27 it had risen 11° higher.

28 I should say then that a spring colder than  
 29 remarkably  
 30 48° was ~~very^ cold-- of 50° or~~ 48° to 50°  
 31 inclusive, quite cold, a very good cold spring--  
 32 above  
 33 above 50 & not above 54 cold--~~between~~ that  
 34 & not above 58-- tolerable merely--  
 35

1           Or I should rather say that only 50° & below  
2 was cold for a spring.  
3 Say below 48 remarkably cold--  
4                           inclusive  
5 Between that & 50° ^ cold-- 50 to 54° inclusive  
6                           thence  
7 pretty cold-- 54 to 58° inclusive merely tolerable  
8 to drink.

9           Of the above springs all but nos 1--4--7--  
10 11 (?) & 17 are distinctly just at the base of a  
11 hill or bank & on the edge of a meadow or  
12 river-- Apparently the water which percolates  
13 through the hill or up-land--having reached a  
14 stratum saturated with water & imperious to it  
15 burst out in a spring. {No} one (the coldest)  
16 {only} bursts out higher up a hill side--&--4-7  
17 & 17--a little within meadows. No 11 should  
18 perhaps be included among the mass.

19           Of course an indefinite number of such springs  
20 may be found & cleared out along the bases  
21 of the hills--as wells dug anywhere are pretty  
22 sure to come to water of a similar character--  
23 The above are such as have been discovered  
24 --used--been kept open--or which have kept  
25 themselves clear. Frequently in ditching his  
26 meadow the farmer strikes on a powerful  
27 spring--& if it is cold enough & convenient to  
28 his house or work--he stones it up or sinks  
29 a {bub} or barrel there.

30           Of the above nos 3--6--8--13--15 are, or have  
31 been barrelled--or tubbed--

1           5&                           the last  
2           No ^ 13 stoned about (~~above / the // tub~~--with  
3           steps down to it  
4           Nos 1 & 18 much deepened & enlarged &  
5           more or less covered.  
6           The remaining 10 are in a natural state  
7           --only kept open more or less by use.  
8           8--9--& 14 have or have had a box for minnows  
9           in or near them.  
10          Perhaps the most natural well of them all  
11          is no 11 {Minot} Pratt's--filling an oblong  
12          angular cavity between upright rocks.  
13          Where the bottom is gravelly & they are made  
14          deep by being barrelled or stoned up they are  
15          {p} peculiarly clear & crystalline-looking--  
16          Walden pond like  
17          water^--quite unlike the river & brooks.  
18          A peculiar clearness with whitish sands at the bottom  
19          Each farmer values his spring & takes a pride  
20          perhaps because too cold for vegetation to defile them.  
21          in it. He is inclined to think it the coldest  
22          in the neighborhood.  
23          Each one is the source of a streamlet which  
24          finds its way into the river--though possibly  
25          one or 2 of them may dry up some seasons.  
26          Only one to my knowledge ~~do~~ visibly  
27          bubbles up--({or} did before interfered with)  
28          viz the Boiling Spring--which is the coldest.  
29          This would indicate that its reservoir is still higher considerably--& deep within the  
30          hill  
31          You commonly see the water coming in more  
32          or less copiously through the ground on the  
33          upper side--sometimes from under a rock  
34          is a considerable stream & with a tinkling  
35          sound.  
36          The coldest, as I notice, have the clearest  
37          & most crystalline or Walden pond like look.

1 Henry Shattucks 2 were of the same temperature  
2 though one was in the open meadow at the  
3 head of a ditch & the other in the bank &  
4 covered or boxed over. This shows that they come  
5 at {once} from a considerable depth in the  
6 earth--& have no time to be warmed before  
7 they flow off. A rail standing on its end in one of  
8 his ditches was almost concealed so deep  
9 He pointed out 2 or 3 in his ditches "as big as your body"  
10 is the mud in his meadow. & of unknown depth--

11 No 1 is at the head of them all & no doubt was  
12 used by the Indians. It is used by the Fitchburg RR--  
13 for their locomotives--

14 No 2 was made in cutting for the RR--  
15 & is used by the track repairers.

16 Some are far away & only used by hunters & walkers  
17 & berry pickers-- Some are used in haying time only--  
18 some are so cold & clear & so {hear} withal as  
19 to be used {only} by one family--who "turn up their  
20 noses" at the well-- Others as Dugans are  
21 instead of the well-- One, as Wheelers, has  
22 had 500 dollars expended on it.

24 No 6 was found by Hosmer when he built his dam  
25 & he imagines that it has medicinal properties--  
26 & used accordingly to come {to} drink at it often  
27 though half a mile {from} his house-- Some will  
28 have a broken tumbler hid in the grass near--  
29 or a rusty dipper hung on a twig--near by--  
30 Others again drink through some hollow weed's  
31 stem None are too cold for {the} R. {fontinalis}  
32 which will hardly make room for your face

1 when you stoop to drink  
 2 Some are only {know} to myself & friends &  
 3 I clear them out annually--  
 4 I suspect that most of them never freeze entirely  
 5 over--

6 The Brooks stood thus  
 7 The temp. {of the} at 2 pm being (as before) about 80°

8		_____ Hemlock Brook (Grackle Swamp)--.	61	1
9	July 7	{where} I saw the little snap. turtle}		
10		3d) Saw Mill Br at turnpike	62	2
11		4th) Nut meadow (at Brown's fence)	64	3
12		4th) " " (Road by Dugan's)	65	4
13		3d) Br. bet. Emerson & Connor	65	5
14	9th	Swamp Bridge (Back Road)	70 (air 80 1/2)	6
15			at 2 pm	
16	9th --	Miles swamp Br. (Conantum),	70 1/2 "	7
17	6--	Dakins in road beyond Winn's	73	8
18	6	Below Francis Davis' in road	74	9
19	3d	Mill brook (Turnpike Bridge	75	10
20	3d	Mill brook (E quarter school house)	78	11
21		-----		
22		11) 75 7 1/2		
23		68 9/11 say 69		

24 The first 5 may be considered cold brooks  
 25 The first 2d & 5th came directly out of  
 26 else  
 27 cold, peaty, or ^ shady swamps.--  
 28 This suggests that the soil of such swamps  
 29 though cleared & cultivated--must be many  
 30 degrees cooler than that of dry open uplands,  
 31 & demand different crops & treatment.

1           The River stood thus at my boat's place  
 2   June 30--2 pm--air 83° 1 rod {from} shore 77°  
 3   July 1st 2 pm air 77       "               " 75°  
 4   July 3    2 pm air 82  
 5               6 pm air 72       "               " 75°  
 6           4th 2 pm air 83       "               " 78 (at Clam Shell)  
 7                                In middle       76 (       "       " )  
 8                                4 {ft} from shore       79 (       "       " )  
 9   NB. after 3/4 inch rain on the 5th  
 10 6        6 am air (57 to 60) 1 rod from shore 67  
 11                                In middle       69  
 12               2 pm air 75   1 rod from shore 76  
 13               7 pm air 75   1 rod off 73  
 14 7        7 am air 56   1 rod off 69  
 15                                In middle       70 1/2  
 16               2 1/2 pm air 76 In middle 75  
 17                                1 rod off 74 to 75  
 18           Average temperature of river at 1 rod from  
 19 shore at 2 pm = 76° or 7° more than  
 20 that of the brooks tried-- As the brooks are  
 21 larger they approach nearer to the river in  
 22 temperature.  
 23           I will be seen by the obs. of the 4th--6th & 7th ult  
 24 that there is from 1 1/2 to 2° difference bet.  
 25 the temp. of the river at 1 rod from shore &  
 26 in the middle & that in the morning the  
 27 middle is the warmest at 2 pm the coldest  
 28           If the weather is colder than usual the diff. bet  
 29 the side & middle is less.  
 30 Hence evidently fishes will change their ground

1 every day & night as they prefer warmer or cooler  
2 22d  
3 water. V. June^ 30--55--also July 2d & 3d 55

4 The temperature of the Assabet at the  
5 stone heaps in the middle (both at top & bottom  
6 it being only some 3 feet deep) on the 7th of July  
7 at 4 1/2 pm was 75° or the same as the  
8 main stream at 2 1/2 pm

9 The following water also was tested.

10	June 30	Walden pond at bottom in 4 ft water	71	%V Aug 23 & 24
11				& Aug. 10th
12	July 4	White pond top 5 feet from shore	76	& Aug 22d
13				for But. Cliff%
14	3d	Gowings swamp (edge of middle pool)	78	
15		" " In the sphagnum	77	
16		generally		
17	3d	Merrians cow watering place--	83	
18		beyond Gowing's Swamp--		
19	3d	Spring in Holbrooks Ditch	58	
20		V		

21 Places where cows drink were ap. at this date  
22 from 75° up to 85°

23 In the pm of July 3d--when the air  
24 at our house at 2 o clock was 82°--a  
25 breezy afternoon--the little arrow head  
26 desert on Sted. Buttrick's Land in the Great  
27 fields, the therm. being buried 1 3/4 inches deep  
28 rose to 90° at 3 inches deep to 86°--Lying  
29 flat on the surface back up--to 86-- Held  
30 in air above to 84°

31 That is at this time of day say mid pm

1 it is warmer at 2 {to} 3 inches beneath the  
2 surface in such sand (where turtle's bury their  
3 eggs) than in the air {about} above-- Indeed  
4 I should think that in the hottest weather the  
5 eggs would be half cooked here.

6 At 2 to 3 inches deep in a half deserted large  
7 anthill on Holbrooks path--it rose to 102°  
8 This was loose & gravelly--or some 18° higher than in  
9 the air. This shows how much heat a sandy &  
10 {porous} soil may {detain.}

11 NB. My experiments were vitiated by my having to  
12 cover the thermometer with the sand which was  
13 taken up both from the surface--& from below.  
14 & {not} waiting for the hole to {acquire} the  
15 same temperature with the surrounding soil of  
16 the same depth.

17 It appears that in a cold day at present  
18 the water of the river at 6 am will be 10

19 to 14° warmer than the air & ac--feels warm

20 In the translation in to Eng. of {Crantz's} Greenland from  
21 to the touch. high Dutch (1767) I find "an elve or mountain spring"  
22 & again "Salmon elves, or the little streams from the hills."--

23 July 8th

24 Yesterday was quite hazy with an E. wind--

25 this morning there is a cold mist--which

26 clear up at noon of 9th

27 soon becomes rain at 2 1/2 pm The

28 thermometer is {at} 66° & some sit by fires //

29 July 9th

30 Clears up at noon

31 See 2 handsome Rose breasted Gross beaks //

32 on the corner causeway-- One utters a peculiar

1 squeaking or snapping note--& both by form of  
2 this & cold  
3 bill & ^ note ^ reminds me of some of those  
4 foreign birds with great bills in cages.

5 There is a smart shower at 5 pm & in  
6 //  
7 the midst of it a humming-bird is busy about  
8 the flowers in the garden--unmindful of it,--  
9 though you would think that each big drop  
10 that struck him would be a serious accident.

11 July 10th 60

12 2 pm to Pleasant Meadow via Lincoln<sup>147</sup> Bridge

13 The festuca ovina is a peculiar light colored  
14 whitish grass, as contrasted with the denser  
15 dark green sod of pastures--as on the swells  
16 by the tin-hole near Brister's.

17 Entering {J. Baker's} great mud hole-- This  
18 cloudy cool pm I was exhilarated by  
19 bright  
20 the mass of cheerful ^ yellowish light reflected  
21 from the sedge (C. Pennsylvanica) growing  
22 densely on the hill sides laid bare within  
23 a year or 2 there. It is of a distinct  
24 cheerful yellow color even this overcast  
25 //  
26 day--even as if they were reflecting  
27 a bright sunlight--though no sun is  
28 visible It is surprising how much this will  
29 light up a hill side--or upland hollow  
30 or plateau--& when in a clear day, you  
31 look toward the sun over it late in the  
32 pm-- the scene is incredibly bright  
33 & elysian.

---

<sup>147</sup>L written over a B

1           These various lights & shadows of the grass  
2   make the charm of a walk at present  
3           I find in this mud hole a new grass  
4   Eatonia Pennsylvanica 2 1/2 feet high ap. X                               //  
5   What then that grass of Well meadow {June}  
6   --which I falsely so called?  
7           juncus ap. marginatus--say 10 days.                               //  
8                               July 11th--60  
9           Heavy rain in the night 10-11th--                               //  
10           An unusual quantity of rain within a week                       //  
11           too much now for our garden the lower leaves of vines yellowed  
12   past-- To day & yesterday--are cool & com-  
13   fortable days with a breeze-- Therm at  
14   2 pm-- 70 to 77  
15           2 pm to Pine Hill.  
16   Herds grass & red top in p.-- I often                               //  
17   notice them growing in parallel rows of reddish  
18   & green--the seed ap. having fallen so.  
19           Haying is now generally under-way--                               //  
20           As I go along the RR causeways, I am  
21   interested now, & of late, by those patches  
22   a rod or two over amid the red-top herds grass  
23   &c of A. Wheelers meadow of agrostis  
24   scabra--that exceedingly fine slender branched  
25   grass drooping & waving in the wind-- It gives  
26   a pale pinkish? purple sheen to these  
27   parts--completely monopolizing (apparently)  
28   the ground there-- It makes the most purple  
29   impression of any grass-- Call it Early

1 //purple grass--as compared with the  
2 Eragrostis pectinacea Prob. it is not quite  
3 //in p.-- It is the most finely branched & slender  
4 for its size  
5 culmed^-- & near at hand the most invisible  
6 of any grass ~~that prevails~~ at present.  
7 & less noticeable close at hand than in a favorable  
8 light at a distance-- You will see thus  
9 scattered over a meadow little flecks  
10 & patches of it-- almost like a flat  
11 purplish cob web {of} the morning--& it  
12 seems to recline on the other grasses  
13 It is the finest hair that waves in the fields  
14 now-- Proserpine's hair.  
15 Find a yellow butterfly about dead--prob. in  
16/  
17 consequence of the heavy rain of last night.  
18 In the pool in Laurel glen--Glyceria  
19 out long since & now going to seed generally & very  
20 //acutiflora almost ^ abundant in wettest part of great  
21 meadows about {Holt}  
22 In the Deep cut glen--a grass much like  
23 that I falsely called Eatonia Pennsylvanica  
24 so common  
25 in June ^ at Well meadow bend. The first is 2 flowered  
26 //no {awn} glumes 3 nerved--& ap X v {press}--  
27 Is it not scirpus debilis that I see almost  
28 // yes--& it is {much} of it out July 20th  
29 out on shore at first {not} so common{^}  
30 It was  
31 (~~& saw some time ago~~) & not {s} subterminalis  
32 which I saw before & this is still more generally in bloom July 20th  
33 The juncus {conradi}--like {of} pouts nest X  
34 //  
35 I look at a young fox at Derby's--  
36 You would say from his step & motions that  
37 his legs were as elastic as India rubber,  
38 all springs--ready at any instant to bound

IP

1 high into the air-- Gravity seems not enough to  
2 keep him in contact with the earth-- There  
3 seems to be a peculiar principle of resiliency constantly  
4 operating in him.

5 River at 7 pm 8 1/2 inches above S. L. //

6 July 12--60

7

8 Hear a nuthatch in the street--so they breed //

9 here--

10 The best way to drink esp. at a shallow  
11 spring--or one so sunken below the surface  
12 as to be difficult to reach--is through a tube.  
13 You can commonly<sup>148</sup> find growing near a  
14 spring a hollow reed or weed of some kind suitable  
15 for this purpose--such as rhue--or touch-  
16 menot--or water saxifrage-- Or you can  
17 carry one in your pocket.

18 Juncus militaris X //

19 The river at 8 pm is 8 3/4 inches above SL. //

20 Just after the sun is set I observe the  
21 dew drops on the pontederia leaves-- (Do //

22 not know how early they beg. to form--) Even  
23 when the leaf stands perpendicular the drop  
24 is collected at the uppermost point & then  
25 on a slight jar {or} agitation of the water  
26 runs down the leaf. This is the only broad  
27 & thick leaf that rises above the water--& there-  
28 fore it appears to be the only one that collects  
29 the dew thus early.  
30

---

<sup>148</sup>c written over another letter, maybe p

1 //A Mr. Bradshaw--Taxidermist--Carpen-  
2 ter &c &c of Wayland--tells me that  
3 he finds the Long eared owl there in summer--  
4 & has set it up.  
5                   July 13--60  
6           2 pm to Little Truro--  
7           You now esp. notice some very red fields  
8 //when the red top grain grows luxuriantly &  
9 is now in full flower--a red-purple--passing  
10 into brown--looking at a distance like a red-  
11 sandstone soil. The different cultivated  
12 fields are thus like so many different colored  
13 checkers on a checkerboard-<sup>149</sup>  
14           First we had the June grass reddish brown & the  
15 //sorrel red of June-- now the Red-top red of July.  
16 For a week--(& if you looked very closely  
17 for a fortnight or more) past--the season  
18 //  
19 has had a more advanced look--from the  
20 reddening imbrowning or yellowing & ripening of  
21           & some grain; rye wheat &c  
22 many grasses--^ as the sweet scented vernal  
23 (for some time generally withered) & the June grass  
24 so that the fields & hill sides present  
25                                   The vernal freshness  
26 a less liquid green than they did. of June is passed  
27           Our mowing fields new laid down with  
28 herds' {grass} red top & {clove} -- (ie the 2d year)  
29 are red or reddish squares with divided regularly  
30 with greener herds top in parallel lines--  
31 prob. the seed of different weight having fallen  
32 thus

---

<sup>149</sup>vertical line in left margin from line 8-13

1 {drawing} the red spaces often 8 or 10 feet wide

2 The various colors or tints

3 of grasses, in some large pasture

4 for instance, esp in cloudy weather, supply

5 the place of light & shade. The pasture is

6 distinctly parded with them half a mile off--

7 the very light whitish festuca ovina--the

8 dark green poa-compressa--& rounded yellow

9 patches of sedge--c. {scoparia} &c

10 Observed last night young swallows roosting on the

11 willows over the river--& for some days have seen them

12 on the telegraph wires.

13 Observed a huckleberry bush--springing from the

14 top of a large & high white pine stump that had

15 been sawed off-- It stood in the chink between the

16 bark & the wood--& had evidently come from a seed

17 dropped by a bird which had blown into this crack.

18 A heavy shower (with thunder) just before //

19 noon this am--& more in the west of us in the Pm

20 July 14--60

21 2 pm to Botrychium Swamp.

22 Botrychium {Virginicus}<sup>150</sup> {~~save~~} ap in p. //

23 Alopecurus aristulata past p. Pratts Pond //

24 side. Perceive now the light colored

25 tops of chestnuts in bloom & when I come near

26 them an offensive sickening odor somewhat //

27 like that of the barberry blossoms--but worse.

28 Returning I notice in a large pool of

29 water in A. Heywoods cowyard--a thick

30 greenish yellow scum mantling it--an ex-

31

---

<sup>150</sup>proper spelling is virginianum

1 ceedingly rich & remarkable color--as if it  
2 were covered with a coating of sulphur.  
3 This sort of scum seems to be peculiar to cow yards--  
4 & contrasts with that red one by the Moore's  
5 swamp road last summer. Out of foulness  
6 nature thus extracts beauty: These phenomena  
7 are observed only in summer or warm weather,  
8 methinks.

9 7 Pm on river

10 // Water 10 5/8 above S. L. prob. about done rising

11 // The spartina grass X

12 I look for dew drops on the {pontederia}, but  
13 see none at first--but finally looking in a  
14 still & shady place behind some willows I see  
15 many<sup>151</sup> drops fully formed sparkling in the light.  
16 at just 8 minutes after 7 by my watch--  
17 (The sun sets at 35 minutes after 7) say  
18 then half an hour before sunset. But it  
19 being windy, I did not notice any generally  
20 even long after sunset.

21 Also looked to see if the lilies withdraw  
22 under water at night, as stated in Mrs  
23 Lincolns botany. The buds which opened  
24 & closed today--& other buds, now rest 1/2  
25 inch or more deep in the water--which they  
26 would naturally do by their form & weight--  
27 When they open they open in the morning  
28 they will prob. rest more boyantly on the  
29 surface--but I have never discovered  
30 that they withdrew under water.

---

<sup>151</sup>m written over a T



1 nos 1 & 7 give a yellow hue to uplands  
2 open wilds or woodlands & dry {hollows}-- where  
3 the forest has recently stood--not pastured.  
4 3--4--5--6--9--10 make the mass of the  
5 sedge on the river meadows--of a general yellow  
6 hue-- 2 & 8 flourish more about their edges  
7 11 greens the muddy banks at low water--& 12  
8 starts in dark green patches here & there along  
9 the muddy shores of the river--

10 July 15--60

11 It seemed to me yesterday that the foliage  
12 had attained its maximum of darkness--  
13 //  
14 and as I ascended the hill at eve the  
15 hickories looked even autumnal. Esp I  
16 was struck by the dark--but still perfect  
17 green leaf of the swamp white oak.

18 I hear this am the link link of  
19 //  
20 the first bobolink going over our garden--  
21 (though I hear several full strains of bobolinks  
22 today as in May--carrying me back to apple-  
23 sunday--but they have been rare a long  
24 time) Now as it were the very cope of  
25 the dark-glazed heaven{s} yields a slightly  
26 metallic sound when struck.

27 I hear on all sides these days the loud tinkling  
28 rattle of the mowing machine--but alas  
29 the mower goes to the blacksmiths to whet  
30 his scythe only every 2d or 3d day.



1 know it to be red top you see it to be too  
2 high colored for that-- Yet it thus suggests  
3 a harmony between itself & the ground.

4         Look down on a field of red top now  
5 in full bloom 1/4 mile west of this hill--  
6 a very dense & red field--at 2 1/2 pm  
7 of this very warm & slightly hazy but not  
8 dog dayish day--in a blazing sun--  
9 I am surprised to see a very very distinct  
10 white vapor like a low cloud in a  
11 mountainous country or a smoke drifting  
12 along close over the red top-- Is it not  
13 owing to the contrast bet. this hot noontide  
14 air & the moist coolness of that dense  
15 grass field?

16         Then there is the cheerful yellowish green  
17 of the meadows--{wher} the sedges prevail--  
18 ie yellowest where wettest--with darker  
19 patches {of g} & veins of grass &c in the  
20 higher & dryer parts.

21         I can just distinguish with my naked eye (knowing  
22 where to look) the darker green of pipes  
23 on the great meadows 2 miles from the hill.

24         The potato fields are a very {dak} green.

25                 July 16th

26         2 pm to great Meadows by boat

27         You notice now along the river--on  
28 the muddy shores--the dry (& closed) whitish

1 heads of the canary grass--standing high  
2 above its yet fresh green leaves-- It forms  
3 only narrow dense patches a few rods in length.

4 The banks of the great meadows are  
5 red-top--& is it not, *A. scabra*--? (the fine  
6 long branched yet branching again often below the middle)<sup>153</sup>  
7 and fowl meadow on the lower parts of  
8 the bank commonly.

9 The *glyceria acutiflora* is abundant & now  
10 going {to sed} in the wettest part of the Holt  
11 portion of the meadow--

12 That which {I have} called the poa dentata of  
13 torry is a very common grass in ditches & other  
14 wet places--esp. with the last named at the  
15 Holt & is now mostly done-- Should think it  
16 might be an undescribed species of *glyceria*. //

17 *Setaria viridis* Channing's garden--prob. //  
18 2 or 3 days.

19 I notice the fruit of the burr seed (op Pritch-  
20 ard shore) now large pickle green--& about  
21 as big as that of the upper sudbury meadows--  
22 so I think it is the same though not so rank.

23 In the bays by the river side where  
24 the pads have been least eaten--I see  
25 at least 3 times as many of the 3 kinds  
26 {mixt} as can be on that surface--one  
27 overlapping & crowding another--& the more  
28 exposed curled up on their edges. But  
29 they are so much riddled <sup>already</sup> ^ & eaten by insects  
30 that this abundant supply is needed.

---

<sup>153</sup>close paren. is actually underneath "middle" in MS

1 It is an abundant vegetable food apparently  
2 for many kinds. I see a large tuft  
3 of pontederia whose leaves have been  
4 {slit} {longitudinally} into a dozen parallel  
5 slits--not always {clear} {out}--& so they  
6 {hang} in ribbons & there is a downy {feather}  
7 of a bird attached to one. Could it have  
8 been done by some water fowl?  
9 //Pipes have been out of bloom ap. a long time  
10 Standing amid the pipes of the Great  
11 Meadow I hear a very sharp creaking  
12 //peep, no doubt frm a rail quite near  
13 {me} calling to or directing her young  
14 {who} are meanwhile uttering a very fast  
15 which you would not hear if not very much inclined to hear it  
16 {somewhat} {similar} peep ^ in the grass {close}  
17 around me. Some times the old bird  
18 sharp  
19 {utters} 2 short^ creaks-- I look sharp but  
20 can see nothing of them. The sounds now  
21 here--now there within 2 or 3 rods of me  
22 incessantly running in the grass  
23 I had already heard, more distant, a more  
24 //prolonged note frm some water fowl--perhaps  
25 a plover, if not possibly a male rail--hereabouts.  
26 The ailantus<sup>154</sup> glandulosus (Warren's yard)  
27 in its height prob. on Saturday 14th--filled the  
28 //  
29 streets with a disagreeable sickish odor much  
30 like that of the chestnut-- I should put  
31 this--the chestnut & the Barberry together

---

<sup>154</sup>prop spelling is ailanthus

July 17--60

2 pm to Walden--

The soft sand on the bottom of Walden as deep as I can wade--feels very warm to my feet while the water feels cold. This may be partly a mere sensation--but I suspect that the sand is really much warmer than the water & that some creatures take refuge in it accordingly--that much heat passes through the water & is absorbed in the sand. Yet when I let a thermometer lie on the bottom ~~quickly~~--& draw it up quickly I detect no difference bet the temperature of the bottom & of the water at the surface. Prob. it would have been diff. if the therm. had been buried in the sand.

The air at 2 pm was 77-- Walden near the shore is 76--in the middle 74<sup>o155</sup> when I let down a therm. some 60 feet & draw it up quickly I get no lower than 74<sup>o</sup>--but it may have risen as it came up.

The night-hawks' ripping sound heard overhead these days--reminds us that the sky is as it were a roof & that our world is limited on that side--it being reflected as from a roof back to earth. It does not suggest an infinite depth in the sky--but a nearness to the earth as of a low roof, echoing back its sounds.

Eleocharis acicularis still blooms--

The sternothaerus in Walden has a smooth

---

<sup>155</sup>There is either punctuation or a blotch here.

1 clean shell rather prettily marked--it is so  
2 clean & would by many be taken from a different  
3 species from that of the river--which is commonly  
4 colored with mud & moss. I take 2 into the  
5 boat--& they think it enough when they have  
6 merely hidden their heads in a corner--  
7 Also the great bull frogs which sit out  
8 on the stones every 2 or 3 rods all around  
9 the pond--are singularly {clean} & handsome  
10 bull frogs--with fine yellow throats  
11 sharply separated from their pickle{-}green  
12 heads by their firmly shut mouths--& with  
13 beautiful eyes-- They sit thus imperturbable  
14 often under a pile of brush--at nearly regular  
15 intervals-- An English taxidermist of  
16 Wayland--(a cockney) told me the other  
17 day that he would have set up a bull  
18 frog it has so beautiful a{n} "hie"--  
19 but he could not buy a bull-frog's "hie"  
20 in the market.

21 July 18

22 2 pm to 2nd Division

23 The Asclepias Cornutus is abundantly visited

24 now a days by a large orange brown  
25 with dark spots &  
26 //butterfly ^ with silver spots beneath-- Wherever

27 An asclepias grows you see them.

28 The 2d Division juncus is already withering &

29 is considerably browned--so early is it.

30 //

31 It appears not to ripen any seed.

1 July 19--60

2 A very dark cloud came up frm the west  
3 this forenoon--a dark curtain rolled up  
4 with a grayish light beneath it--which  
5 so darkened the streets & houses that seam-  
6 stresses complained that they could not  
7 see to thread a needle--and for a few minutes  
8 rain fell in a deluge--the gutters ran //  
9 full & there was a whirlpool at every grating

10 This month has been remarkably  
11 wet--& the haymakers are having very  
12 {catching} weather

13 2 pm up river in boat //  
14 The pontederia is now generally conspicuous  
15 & handsome--a very fresh blue--with no  
16 stale flowers.

17  
18 You now see great beds of polygonums //  
19 getting  
20 above the surface ready to bloom--& the dulichium  
21 stands thick in shallow water-- //

22 While in the cultivated ground the pigweed  
23 butterweed  
24 ^& Roman {wormwood}--& amaranth are now  
25 rank & conspicuous weeds.

26 One troublesome rank weed in the garden now  
27 %rather flat%  
28 is the Pan. crus galli--its great %^% spreading  
29 branches-- I see one just out x //

30 I hear now that very fine pittering  
31 sound of a locust or cricket in the grass //

32 The juncus militaris is commonly, but freshly,  
33 out X //

1           We come to a stand-still & study the  
2 pads in the J. Hosmer bull rush today.  
3           There are on the pads, eating them--not  
4 only many black slugs or grubs--but a  
5 great many small dark brown beetles--1/4  
6 of an inch long-- with a pale brown edge.--  
7 copulating--also other beetles--skaters--& flies  
8 (small brownish large winged flies in numbers together.  
9 And a variety of eggs are fastened to the pads--  
10 many in little round pinkish patches-- I see  
11 one purplish patch exactly in the form of  
12 the point of a leaf--with a mid rib--veins  
13 & a bristle like point--calculated to deceive--  
14 this lying on the pad. Some small erect  
15 pontederia leaves are white with eggs on the  
16 under side as if painted.

17           There are small open spaces amid the pads  
18 little {deeps} {bottomed} & surrounded with {~~ho~~}  
19 brown & ruddy brown crust like coral--where  
20 every recess is revealed in the sunlight.  
21 Here hundreds of minnows of various sizes  
22 & species are poised--comparatively safe  
23 from their foes--& commonly a red spider  
24 is seen making its way from side to side of the  
25 deep.

26           The rich crimson under sides (with {ther}  
27 {regulary} branching veins.) of some white lily  
28 pads surpasses the color of most flowers.  
29 No wonder the spiders are red that swim  
30 beneath--I think of the fishes that swim



1 July 20--

2 2 pm to Walden--

3 Warm weather--86+ at 2 pm (not so

4 //

5 warm for a good while--

6 Emerson's lot that was burnt between

7 the RR. & the pond--has been cut off

8 within the last 3 months--& I notice

9 that the {oak} sprouts have commonly

10 met with a check after growing 1 or 2 feet

11 & small reddish leaflets have again put

12 //

13 forth at the extremity within a week or so

14 as in the spring-- Some of the 0. sprouts

15 are 5 to 6 feet high already.

16 On his hill near by where the wood was

17 cut about 2 years ago--this 2d growth

18 of the oaks--esp. white o's is much more

19 obvious--& commenced longer ago. The shoots

20 of this year are generally about 2 feet long

21 long--but the first foot consists of large

22 dark green leaves--which expanded early before

23 the shoot met with a check-- this is surmounted

24 by {another}<sup>156</sup> foot of smaller yellowish green

25 leaves-- This is very generally the case &

26 produces a marked contrast. Dark green

27 bushes surmounted by a light or yellowish

28 green growth.

29 Sometimes, in the first mentioned sproutland

---

<sup>156</sup>looks like "a nother" in MS

1 You see where the first shoot withered, as  
2 if frost bitten at the end--and often only  
3 some large buds have formed there as yet.  
4 Many of these sprouts--the rankest of them  
5 are fated to fall being but slightly joined to  
6 the {stump}--riddled by ants these & others are  
7 already prostrated.

8         Bathing on the side of the deep cove--I notice{d}  
9 just below the high water line (of rubbish)  
10 quite a number of little pines which have //  
11 just sprung up amid the stones & sand & {weeds}  
12 some with the seed atop-- This then is the //  
13 date of their coming up naturally. They have  
14 evidently been either washed up--or have blown  
15 across the ice or snow to this shore. If p. pine  
16 they were probably blown across the pond--  
17 For I have often seen {them} on their way across.

18         Both *scirpus subterminalis* & debilis  
19 are now in {bloom} at the pouts nest, the  
20 former the longest time;--the water being very low &  
21 separated from the pond-- The former out for some  
22 time, the latter not long.

23         Great numbers of pollywogs have apparently //  
24 just changed into frogs-- At the pondlet  
25 on Hubbards land, now separated from the  
26 main part by a stony bar--hundreds of small  
27 frogs {ar} out on the shore enjoying their new  
28 state of existence--swarms of them--which  
29 with constant plashing go hopping into  
30

1 {into} the water a rod or more before me--  
2 where they are very swift to conceal them-  
3 selves in the mud at the bottom. Their<sup>157</sup>  
4 bodies may be 1 1/2 inches long or more.  
5 I have rarely seen so many frogs together.  
6 Yet I hardly see one pollywog left in this  
7 pool.  
8       Yet at the shore against pouts' nest--I  
9 see many pollywogs--& some with hind  
10 legs well grown beside their tails lie up close  
11       on the sand  
12 to the shore ^ with their heads out like frogs.  
13 ap. already breathing air before losing their  
14 tails. They squat & cower there as I come  
15 by just like frogs.

16                       July 21--60

17       A rainy day--1/2 inch of rain falls--  
18       spoiling much hay-- This is so wet a season  
19 //that the grass is still growing past & most  
20 things are very fresh.  
21/ The leaves generally do not get to be perfect  
22 till the middle of July--when they are of a dark-hard-  
23 glossy green-- E.g. the swamp white o.

24       6 pm up Assabet

25       Now after the rain--the sun coming forth  
26 brightly The swallows in numbers are  
27 //skimming low over the river just below  
28 the junction

29       Considerable {burr read} valisneria<sup>158</sup> &

---

<sup>157</sup>"Their" written over "They"

<sup>158</sup>proper spelling is vallisneria

1 heart leaf has been washed up against  
2 the reeds & pads along the sides of the river  
3 of late.

4 The canary grass standing so high & densely  
5 with its now very light-brown {closed} heads--looks  
6 more like grain at a distance than any of our  
7 wild grasses--as you look down the river  
8 from the junction.

9 July 22

10 2 pm 70° & with a breeze cool. //

11 To Annursnack--

12 See in the ditch by the roadside on  
13 Colburn Hill a box turtle which was crushed //

14 some time ago--& {ther} is the mark of the wheel  
15 that passed over him. It is remarkable that  
16 though I have seen but 4 or 5 of these turtles in  
17 this town--2 at least of them had been crushed  
18 by a wheel--that few as they are they should have  
19 got in the way of a wheel. I found another  
20 on the RR once SE of this--on a part of  
21 this same dry region & one on the dry plain  
22 under F. H. Hill.

23 In the path thro' Hosmer's pines beyond the  
24 Assabet--see a wood turtle (whose shell  
25 has ap. had one or 2 mouthfuls taken out  
26 of it on the sides--) eating in a leisurely man-  
27 common  
28 ner a ^ pink-topped toadstool some 2 inches  
29 in diameter--which it had knocked down  
30 & half consumed-- Its jaws were covered with it.



1     --it is first dark green where white  
2     clover has been cut (still showing a myriad  
3     low white heads which resound with the hum of bees--)  
4     next along the edge of the bottom a meadow  
5         or belt  
6     is a strip 3 or 4 rods wide of red top--uncut  
7     perfectly distinct--then the cheerful bright yellow  
8     sedge of the meadow--yellow almost as {gamboge}  
9     --then a corresponding belt of red top on its upper  
10    edge--quite straight & rectilinear like the  
11    first--then a glaucous green field  
12    of grain still quite low--& in the further corner  
13    of the field a much darker square of green  
14    than any yet--all brilliant in this wonder-  
15    ful light-- You thus have a sort of terrestrial  
16    rain bow-- thus  
17    {drawing}                    glaucous grain  
  
18                                red top  
19                    cheerful lit yellow  
20                    sedge--meadow  
21                                red top  
  
22                    cut clover-<sup>159</sup>  
  
23            The farmer accustomed to  
24    look at his crops from a mercenary point  
25    of view is not aware how beautiful they  
26    are. This prospect was really exciting

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<sup>159</sup>The text on lines 17-22 is all labels on a drawing

1 even as a rainbow is. Then the next pasture  
2 on the N. W.--where it sloped toward me  
3 gently--a smooth velvet--or impalpable  
4 green slope--with here & there the  
5 lightest cobwebby {clouds} of {lighter} {green}  
6 like a dew on it where {~~the~~} a little  
7 fescue grass ~~had~~ still {made} an impression  
8 in spite of the {cows}-- These soft indefinite  
9 lighter touches on the dark green enamelled  
10 slope!-- It was like a delicately watered  
11 surface. & here & there stood on it  
12 a few young hickories--their stems &  
13 their umbrage both as black as a coal.  
14 & further just this side the wall over  
15 which the clear light came--some  
16 low bushes prob. sumach--reflected a  
17 You can tell the crops afar off  
18 hoary silvery light-- by their color.  
19 The next more springy pasture on the  
20 N. was all lit up with yellow ferns.  
21 Ap. Bromus ciliatus X on the paint cup  
22 //  
23 slope--but not smooth like {Pratts} & this  
24 has 3 nerves to each glume & not so long an {arm}  
25 as described. --Smooth sumach ap in p.  
26 //  
27 & handsome as a spiraea.  
28 // The flies that rain about your head in {woods}  
29 //how long? Hills (not so far off as to be blued)  
30 are now a yellowish brown--from the withered heads of  
31 Pastures generally a brownish tinge  
32 //grass-- 1st locust heard.

1 This page contains a penciled list of natural phenomena that probably relate to  
2 this MS volume. When a photograph becomes available, the list will be  
3 transcribed.