

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.¹
4 ^{2%}Acton stone bridge - E arch the lower side outer end of the long stone
5 is about 1/4 inch above summer level³
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%⁴

¹This information comes from the April 25, 1860 journal entry.

² This paragraph was handwritten by transcriber. May be an indication of pencil.

³This information comes from the April 27, 1860 journal entry.

⁴This 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}⁵
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

⁵Drawing 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]⁶
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 apple⁷ 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}⁸

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-

⁶T's brackets

⁷A letter is crossed out under the "l" in "apple."

⁸Drawing 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 & downy 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. 14⁰+
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 whether ~~it is~~ a real animal or not--
29 -- You can plainly see the horns which
30 grew forth from their crowns--&

1 how well that word irefully describes ^ their a beast's
2 fighting! and then for the number
3 which Alexander's men slew "as he
4 Travelled to India" and what a travelling
5 was that my hearers--8.550 just the
6 number you would have guessed after the
7 thousands were given--and easy one to
8 remember too. He goes on to say that
9 "their horns are great & made like a saw,
10 and they with them can cut asunder the
11 branches of osier or small trees, whereby it
12 cometh to pass that many times their necks
13 are taken in the twists of the falling
14 boughs, whereat the beast with repining
15 cry, bewrayeth himself to the hunters, & so is
16 taken."

18 The artist too has done his part equally
19 well--for you are presented with a drawing
20 a stout front &
21 of the beast with ^ an exceedingly "ireful"--
22 look as if he were facing all Alexanders army
23 with serrated horns--the tail of a lion
24 a cheek tooth (canine?) as big as a boar's⁹
25 Though some beasts are described in
26 this book which have no existence as
27 I can learn but in the imagination of
28 the writers--they really have an existence
29 there--which is saying not a little, for
30 most of our modern authors have not imagined
31 the actual beasts which they presume to de-

⁹Lines 22-24 marked for transposition by left brackets. The top bracket starts before "a stout" and extends into the margin and down to the left of line 22. To the left of it is a 2. The bottom bracket brackets lines 23 and 24 and is marked to the left by a 1.

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 dray¹⁰ 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

¹⁰probably 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 friends¹¹
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

¹¹"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--{.}¹²

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.

¹²Period 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 could¹³ 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 bee 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-

¹³The "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 {——}¹⁴ 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

&c

13 may be elsewhere, so that the birds ^ 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

¹⁴This 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 diaogo-
20 nally to the opposite side--while ripples from
21 the opposite side intersect the former--
22 producing countless regular & sparkling
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 readyiness 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 are¹⁵ 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

¹⁵Written over another word

1 The berries & seeds of wild plants
2 generally--however little it is suspected
3 by us, are the food of birds--squirrels or
4 mice--
5 Feb. 23d
6 2 Pm Therm. 56+ wind S.
7 33 Pm " 58+°
8 // & snow almost gone-- River rising
9 We have not had such a warm day since
10 the beginning of Dec (which was remarkably warm)
11 I walk over the moist Nawshawtuck
12 hill-side & see the green radical leaves
13 circular
14 of the buttercup--shepherd's purse-- &¹⁶
15
16 // sorrel--chickweed--cerastium-&c revealed.
17 About 4 Pm a smart shower
18 // ushered in by thunder--& succeeded by
19 a brilliant rain bow. & yellow light
20 from under the dark cloud in the W.
21 Thus the first remarkable heat brings
22 a thunder shower.
23 The words pardall & libbard
24 applied by Gesner to the same animal--express
25 as much of the wild beast as any.
26 I read in Brand's Popular Antiquities
27 that "Bishop Stillingfleet observes, that among the
28 Saxons of the northern nations, the Feast of
29 the New Year was observed with more than
30 ordinary jollity: thence, as Olaus Wormius

¹⁶Blotch or dash over the ampersand

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 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

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 anteater

15 skeletons stretching from SW to NE or with

16 the wind--{drawing} looking
17

18 like a little cotton--caught on a ^ telegraph

19 wire--the spine is so distinct--

20 A great part of the very finely divided cloud--o

21 stratum above another-had the ap. of a woven

22 web--the fibres crossing e

23 manner--r

24 {drawing}

25 The river risen--& quite over

26 // yesterday & today--& musquash began

1 Feb. 25th '60

11

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.

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

20 {drawing} ice¹⁷
21 As the waves rise & fall they seem to run
22 swiftly along the edge of the ice.

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

11

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

11

¹⁷The 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 but¹⁸ 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.

¹⁸"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 & Brown¹⁹ 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

¹⁹"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 ~~elida~~ 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 surprised 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.

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

24 Mar. 1st--60

25 Rain all day--

11

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

11

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 Frequently within 10 days it has
2 been uncomfortable walking in a great //
3 coat.

4 2 pm Therm--50+°
5 To Witherell Glade via clam shell--thence
6 to Hub's Close--

7 Thinking to look at the cabbage as
8 I pass under clam shell-- I find it very
9 inconspicuous--and should have said
10 that there was some there: The few tallest
11 & slenderest but tender ones were frostbitten
12 & far from blooming--but I found 3 or 4
13 a hardy mahogany colored one
14 more broad & stout but ^ very low half-
15 {covered} with withered sedge--
16 which it lifted up with it
17 ^ and next apparently open--putting my
18 finger into one the broadest & lowest--
19 which opened about 1/2 inch & stood with
20 its back to the west (while {they} are all sheltered
21 by the hill on the N) I was surprised when
22 I drew it forth to see it covered with pollen
23 --It was fairly in bloom, & prob. yesterday too. //

24 Evidently some buds are further advanced than
25 others even when the winter comes--& then these
26 are further expanded & matured in advance of the
27 very
28 others in the ^ warm days in the winter. No doubt
29 it may have bloomed in some places in this
30 neighborhood in the last day or 2 of Feb. this
31 year. Unusually warm weather in Feb. with
32 bare ground where they grow may cause them to bloom
33 before Feb. is over.

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}²⁰ 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

²⁰possibly "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}²¹ 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 yellowish or
26 feet apart--or more) is crowned with dirty, white
27 foam. The wind blows around each side
28 of the hill.-- the opposite current meeting
29 perchance--{or}²² it falls over the hills so
30 you have a field of ever-varying color.
31 dark blue--blackish--yellowish--light blue-

²¹Drawing extends six lines.

22 as?

1 & smooth sky-blue--& purplish--& 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 wht with a yellowish spot on each scale--
14 & a pink-yellow²³ 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.

²³There 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 Brister²⁴ 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~~ 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}.

²⁴"B" written over "b"

1 When I read Topsells ac. of the ichneu-
2 mon eating his way out of the crocodile--
3 I think that though it be not true in fact--
4 it is very true in fancy--& it is no small
5 gift--to be able to give it so good a setting
6 forth. What a pity that our modern natu-
7 ralists cannot tell their truths--with
8 1/2 his zest & spirit.

9 // Now-a-days we have rain & then big-
10 wind directly after it.

11 C says that Walden began to be hard to
12 // get onto the 1st of Mar.
13 below Flints' willow Row
14 I saw this pm a meadow ^ still frozen over
15 (at 3 pm) frozen last night--& the frozen
16 part corresponded {generally} to the
17 anchor ice on the bottom, while there was
18 an open canal all around & beyond the edge
19 of the anchor ice-- but when I returned 2
20 hours later the wind had broken up &
21 dissipated every vestige of this surface²⁵ ice.

22 // i.e. it was an ice formed last night
23 which it took the whole day with a strong
24 wind to break up in this rather sheltered place.

25 Our muddiest & wettest walking
26 // thus far was the last week of Feb.
27 I should have launched my boat--ere
28 // this--if it had been ready
29 The last skating was on Walden
30 // the 26th Feb. The next day--it was soft

²⁵"surface" written over "ice"

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 & 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 A hen hawk--rises & sails away over Holden //
2 wood as in summer-- Saw & heard one scream the 2d.

3 I notice where (ice or) snow has recently melted
4 a very thin dirty white web like a dense cob web--left
5 flat on the grass--such as I saw some years ago

6 There is a broad & very black space
7 extending thro' F. W. P. over the channel--
8 visible half a mile off--where the ice is
9 thinnest & saturated with water-- The channel
10 is already open a little way at the upper
11 end of the pond-- This pond at its outlet
12 contracts gradually into the river--so that you
13 could hardly tell where the pond left off & the
14 river began-- I see that the ice at present extends
15 that way--only as far as I last year assumed that
16 the pond did. In this sense the river hence
17 to the Hub. Bridge is pond-like compared with
18 the portion below.

19 See 2 ap sternothaerus eggs dropt in a slight
20 hollow in the grass--evidently imperfectly planted by
21 the turtle-- it is whole.

22 The last 3 have been true March days for //
23 wind. The handsome & neat brown (pale brown
24 yet distinct on the lighter withered sod) of the
25 lechea is now conspicuous as a shading in the
26 drying fields.
27 See no ducks today--though {much} water--nights too cold? //
28 Aspen down 1/4 {inch} {out}. //

29 Mar 5 Mar 5
30 The meadows skim over at night--
31 Wht pine cones 1/2 fallen //

1 The old naturalists were so sensi-
2 tive & sympathetic to nature that they
3 could be surprised by the ordinary events
4 of life. It was an incessant mira-
5 cle to them.--& therefore Gorgons & fly-
6 ing dragons were not incredible to them.
7 The greatest & saddest defect is not
8 credulity--but our habitual forget-
9 fulness that our science is ignorance.

10 Chickweed & shepherd's purse
11 // in bloom in C's garden--& prob. all winter
12 or each month.

13 // The song sparrows beg. to sing here about--
14 I see some tame ducks in the river--
15 6 of them-- It is amusing to see how exactly
16 perpendidicular they will stand with their
17 heads on the bottom & their tails up--plucking
18 some food there--3 or 4 at once--
19 Perhaps the grass &c is a little further advanced
20 there for them.

Geo. Buttrick--thinks that 40 musquash
have been killed this spring bet Hunts & Flint's
Bridge-- The best time to hunt them is early
morning & evening. His father goes out at
day break--& can kill more in one hour
near
after that--than from this time to sunset

He says that he has found 11 young in one
musquash--& that Joel Barrett observed
that one pair near his house bred 5 times

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 spiraea 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 hyberate--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 any²⁶ ~~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

²⁶"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 earine²⁷--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

²⁷"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 Overcast with a flurry of snow & a little

4 rain till 4 1/2 pm--

5 To Walden & Cliffs--

6 I am surprised to find Walden almost

7 entirely open. There is only about an acre

8 of ice at the SE end N of the Lincoln

9 drifted there

10 Pond ^ & a little

11

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 L²⁸ake
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 immovable--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.

²⁸looks like an "L" over an "1"

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 I see that the Indians have got
29 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-²⁹ 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 &

²⁹The 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 p 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 hawks 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-- ³⁰
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.

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

1 The frost is by no means out in grass up-land //
2 in 2 places
3 I see today ^ in mud & in snow--

4 what I have no doubt is the track of the
5 wood chuck that has lately been out--
6 with peculiarly spread toes like a little
7 hand.
8 Am surprised to hear--from the pool behind
9
10 Lees' Cliff--the croaking of the wood frog. It //
11 if is all alive with them & I see them spread out
12 on the surface. Their note is somewhat in harmony
13 with the rustling of the now drier leaves. It is more
14 like the note of the classical frog--as described by
15 Aristophanes &c-- How suddenly they awake--yesterday
16 as it were, asleep, & dormant, today as lively as
17 ever they are. The awakening of the leafy
18 woodland pools-- They must awake in good
19 condition. As Walden opens 8 days earlier than
20 I have known it--so this frog croaks about
21 as much earlier--

22 Many large fuzzy gnats, & other insects, in air //
23 It is remarkable how little certain knowledge
24 even old & weather wise men have of the compara-
25 tive earliness of the year. They will speak of the
26 passing spring as earlier or later than they ever
27 knew--when perchance the 3d spring before it
28 was equally early or late--as I have known

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 lie³¹ 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

³¹"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 sheldrakes--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 propellors 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 abruptly
17 its top like a birds beak ^ bent over it--
18 for its further protection--evidently to keep
19 with a sharp angle down its back
20 off wind & frost-- These various colors
21 are seen close together--& ther beaks
22 are bent in various directions--
23 All along under that bank I heard the
24 // hum of honey bees in the air--attracted
25 by this flower--especially the hum of one
26 within a spathe sounds deep & loud. They
27 circle about the bud at first hesitatingly--then
28 alight & enter at the open door & crawl over
29 the spadix--& reappear laden with the yellow
30 pollen. What a remarkable instinct
31 it is that leads them to this flower--

1 This bee is said to have been introduced by
2 the white man--but how much it has
3 indigenous
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 indigenous
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 indigenous 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 Cam³² 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

³²The word clam is missing the "l"

Callitricha has decidedly started--
I see that simplest form shell snail of
the water--copulating

We sit on the withered sedge on a warm
& sheltered hill side in the sproutland toward
J. P. B's cold pool. & observe the hazel cat-
kins around us already very much loosened
& elongated-- No doubt--this being the 4th
of the warm days--they began to be so on the 15th
As I sit there I notice on a bush 4 feet off
between me & the sun, the little fiery crim-
son stars where the stigmas have just begun to
peep-- (1/30 of an inch) minute points of crimson
not half so big as the head of a pin--yet making
a large impression--they so fill your imagination.

Pratt says that his bees come out
in a pleasant day at any time in the winter.
That of late they have come out & eased
themselves--the ground being covered around the hives
Were not these the little yellow pellets I saw in a skunk cab flower
some years ago--no for
with their yellow droppings. ^ He says they come
Farmer says the former are liquid.
home now ~~laden~~ with all yellow--I tell him

it is skunk cabbage pollen. I think there
would be no surer way to tell when this
flower had bloomed than to keep bees &
watch when they first returned laden with
pollen. Let them search for you--a swarm
of bees. Probably with a microscope you could
tell exactly when each of the bee frequented flowers
began to bloom throughout the year.

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 state³³
23 // 2 pm Therm 51+ wind easterly
24 blowing slightly--to Everett's 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

³³This 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 prob. yesterday in some places
13 The alnus incana is out{x}^ near Everettts spring
14 // But not the a. serrulata (ie the smaller one)
15 which grows S of scouring rush.
16 The plants which have grown the most
17 there--& they are very conspicuous now--are
18 %much more than any bulbosus%
19 // the forget me not--the ranunculus repens--
20 & a common sedge--which already begins (just fairly begun
21 // to yellow the tip of some tussocks {drawing} at Heywood Meadow
22 the 25th)
23 The lower part of the hill at Minotts
24 // is decidedly green now--
25 // The road & paths are perfectly dry &
26 rutted in the village excep a very little
27 frost still coming out on the S side the street.
28 Mar 20th
29 // Worm piles in door yard this am.
30 // A foggy morning--turns to some April-like rain
31 // %after {E wind} of yesterday%
32 H. Buttrick says he saw & heard wood cocks

11

7 He says that he caught 3 skunks & a crow last
8 week in his traps baited with muskrat for mink.
9 Says a fox will kill a skunk & eat him greedily--before
10 {} smells--but nothing will eat a mink.

11 2 pm Therm about 49+

12 This is a slight dripping truly--April like

11

13 rain-- You hardly know whether to open your
14 umbrella or not-- More mist than rain--
15 no wind & the water perfectly smooth &
16 dark--but ever and anon--the {cloud} or mist
17 thickens & darkens on one side & there
18 is a sudden rush of warm rain--
19 which will start the grass. I stand on
20 Hunts Bridge & looking up stream--see
21 now first in this april-rain--the water
22 being {only} rippled by the current--those
23 alternate dark & light patches on
24 the surface--all alike dimpled with
25 the falling drops. (The ground now soaks
26 up the rain as it falls-- The frost being
27 pretty commonly out.) It reminds me
28 of the season when you sit under a
29 bridge & watch the dimples made by
30 the rain.

1 I see where some one has lately killed a
2 // striped snake.

3 The white maple by the bridge is abundantly
4 out--& { }³⁴ 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 warm
9 dancing on a ^ sproutland about 3 feet above
10 a very large white pine stump--which
11 had been sawed off quite smoothly--& was
12 conspicuous-- They kept up their dance
13 directly over this--only swaying {2} & fro
14 slightly--but always recovering their position
15 over it. This afternoon--in the sprinkling
16 rain I see a very small swarm of the same
17 kind--dancing in like manner in a garden
18 only a foot above the ground but directly
19 over a bright tin dish--(ap. a mustard
20 box)--& I suspect that they select some
21 such conspicuous fixed point on the ground
22 over which to hover & by which to keep their
23 place. finding it for their convenience to
24 keep the same place. These gyrate in
25 %{for same v. Mar 10--59}%
26 the air as water bugs on the water.%^%

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

³⁴2 letters crossed out

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 therm 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 March³⁵
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

³⁵There should actually be a triple-underline beneath these two words.

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

³⁶On 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

³⁷Thoreau 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.

³⁸There is a moss called lycopodium.

1 Some native birds³⁹
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

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

⁴⁰scratched-out word

⁴¹period with a strikethrough (not a dash)

⁴²scratched-out word

⁴³There is a line that runs from the caret to the inserted text.

⁴⁴There 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 turtle⁴⁵--*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	Mar 4th Mar 5
18	opened				
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

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

⁴⁶Vertical 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 Jan Feb. Mar Ap. May June July Aug Sep Oct. Nov. Dec 9 10
 4 27.8 27.9 36.2 46.4 56.5 66.2 71.6 69.4 62.2 51.5 41. 31.1
 5
 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.⁴⁷
 18 Pat. Off. Rep. for 55 p 375 mean temperature
 19 At Amherst Mass
 20 i54JanFeb. 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
 28 in order of cold they stand
 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 8.48⁴⁸ 11.70 12.37 9.15 6.4
 41 Decrease⁴⁹
 42 2.71 4.37 6.09 11.02 11.10 12.62 1.19

⁴⁷There is a slash mark running through this section.

⁴⁸Thoreau'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.

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

1

--18-60 & 19⁵⁰

2

--({ } 29 xxx 59)

3

4

--2060

⁵⁰This 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 sheldrake-& 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 ⁵¹It 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 occupies 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.

⁵¹several 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 1/5⁵²

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 (Same from Mendon table)
17 siderably more-

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.⁵³

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

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

⁵³There is a box around this insertion

1 very
2 to bend him a ^ stout iron wire in the form
3 of an S & S then hooking this to the
4 2 broken ends--& setting it upright
5 on a rock he hammers it down till
6 it rests on itself in the form of an 8 which
7 is very difficult to pry open.

8 2⁵⁴ Pm about 39+

//

9 to Copan-

10 I see a male frog-hawk beating
11 a hedge--scarcely rising more than 2 feet from
12 the ground for half a mile--quite below
13 the level of the wall within it. How unlike the
14 hen hawk in this!

15 They are real wind clouds this Pm have
16 an electric {fibrey} look-- Sometimes it is
17 a flurry of snow falling no doubt. Peculiar
18 cold & windy cumuli are mixed with
19 them--not black like a thunder cloud but
20 cold dark slate--with very bright white
21 crowns & prominences.

22 I find on Indian ground, as today on
23 the Great Fields--very regular oval
24 stones like large pebbles--sometimes 5 or
25 6 inches long--water worn of course--
26 & brought hither by the Ind. They commonly
27 show marks of having been used as hammers.
28 Often in fields where there is not a stone
29 of that kind in place for a mile or more.

31 From Holbrooks clearing I see

⁵⁴The double underline serves to cross out the bottom of a "3" that the "2" has been written over.

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 sheldrakes 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 sheldrakes 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) {-}⁵⁵ numbering them ~~from~~ 1.2.3 &c
10 from the highest force ~~upward~~ downward--
11 was

	48		47								
Jan	Feb	Mar.	Ap.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec ⁵⁶
6	5	3	3	3	2	1	4	4	6	5	4
4	9	7	10	7	5	8	6	3	11	2	1
7	6	9	12	10	2	8	3	1	11	4	5 ⁵⁷

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

⁵⁵crossed out letter

⁵⁶There is an arc drawn from January to April and another from May to December.

⁵⁷There 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. ⁵⁸
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.

⁵⁸Vertical 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 x⁵⁹
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

⁵⁹It 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 {hellobore}⁶⁰ //

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

⁶⁰The 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 slighs
27 {into} wheeled vehicles at an ~~moment~~ hour's
28 warning.

30 Even the boys sled gets put away by de-
31 or {when} it is {found} to be in the way
32 grees--^ 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 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.

⁶¹There is a letter scratched out before {edqings}.

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 silver⁶²

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

⁶²There 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 then
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-

⁶³"The 12th" crossed out in pencil

⁶⁴Checked against 1906

⁶⁵The last two paragraphs are bracketed in the left margin with a "2" and "1" respectively to the left of the brackets. This is an indication by T that the paragraphs should be transposed.

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 am
13 beneath me-- {the} tossed bodily as I am in thought
14 & sentiment. Than longen folk to gon on voyages⁶⁶
15 --The water presses on the oars-- I wish to
16 hear my mast crack & see my {my}
17 {rapt} boat run on her side so low
18 her deck drinks water & her keel plows
19 air-- My only competitors or fellow-
20 voyagers are the musquash hunters.
21 To see a dead sucker washing in the meadows.
22 -- The ice was broken up & navigation commenced
23 --we may set sail for foreign parts--or
24 expect the {1st} arrival any day--to see the
25 phenomena of the water--& see the earth
26 from the water side-- To stand outside of
27 it on another element & so get a {pry} {on} {it}

⁶⁶from 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 ~~ef~~ 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)

& pale brown lecheas--which mottle it
very pleasingly. This dry whitish tawney
or drab
^color of the fields--withered grass lit
by the sun--is the color of a teamster's
coat. It is one of the most interesting effects
of light now--when the sun coming out
of clouds shines brightly on it-- It is the
fore-glow of the year. There is certainly a
singular propriety in that color for the
or a hunter
coat of a farmer or teamster or shepherd^
who is required to be much abroad in our
landscape at this season-- It is in harmony
with nature--& you are less conspicuous
in the fields & can get nearer to wild
animals for it. For this reason
I am the better satisfied with the color
of my hat--a drab--than with
that of my companion which is black --
though his coat is of the exact
tint--& better than mine--but again
my dusty boots harmonize better
with the landscape than his black
& 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 lame~~d~~ 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 with
10 appear-- I once went into the woods ~~for~~
11 a party for a fortnight-- I wore my
12 old & common clothes which were of Ver-
13 mont gray-- They are no doubt the best
14 they had for such an occasion--of a
15 fashionable color & quality-- I thought
16 that they were a little ashamed of me while
17 we were in the towns-- They all tore their
18 clothes badly but myself, & I who it
19 chanced was the only one provided with
20 needles & thread, enabled them to mend
21 them-- When we came out of the woods I
22 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 By degrees you pass from heaven
2 to earth up the trunk of the White
3 pine-- See the flocks of its {boughs}
4 reflecting the sun--each light or
5 sunny above & shaded beneath, even
6 like the clouds with their dark
7 bases--a sort of mackerel sky
8 of pine boughs

9 The woodchoppers are still in the woods
10 in some places--splitting & piling at
11 least.

12 I hear that May flowers brought from
13 Fitchburg--last Thursday--(22d) have--
14 blossomed here-- They are { } much earlier
15 than any of ours. Ours at 2 Div--
16 (1st Lot) are under the icy snow.
17 5 {&}
18 The rare juncus there is ^ 6 inches high
19 //
20 & {red} (from the cold?) on the bare meadow--
21 much the most growth of any thing
22 of the kind--hereabouts--very little water
23 --only at the cowslip.
24
25 The equisetum has risen above water at first
26 //Nut Meadow crossing--
27 // The earliest willows are now in the
28 gray--too advanced to be silvery--mouse or
29 maltese cat color--
30 The 2d Div. Spring--is all covered with
31 a brown floating gelatinous substance
32 of the {consistence} of frog spawn--but

1 with nothing like spawn milk in it
2 It is of irregular longish or rather ropey
3 form--& is of the consistency of frog spawn
4 without the sp ova-- I think it must be
5 done with-- It quite covers the surface--
6 I also find near by a green zig zag-wormy
7 spawn like substance--in strings under
8 the water--in which I feel a sort of granule
9 spawn like-- Can this be the excrement
10 of any creature--can it turn & swell to
11 that brown & floating jelly--? Are these
12 the production of lizards--or the R--
13 fontinalis?
14
15 Tried by various tests this season fluctuates
16 more or less-- E.g. We may have absolutely no
17 There was none in the winter months of 58--(only for Mar 4
18 52-53 & was on other winters-- to 14
19 sleighing during the year^--or it may continue un-
20 interrupted from the beginning of winter to the 3d of April
21 as in 56=& the dependent phenomena be equally late
22
23 The river may be either only transiently closed
24 in--in 52-3--&57-8--and may not be
25 open entirely (up to pond) till Ap 4th
26
27 As for Cold--some years we may have as cold
28 days in Mar. as in any winter month--Mar--
29 4--58 it was 14--& on the 29th 54 the pump
30 frozen as to require thawing
31
32 The river may be quite high in Mar. or at
summer level

⁶⁷ 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 Mar 29th
6 Calm warmer & pleasant at one. //
7
8 Mar 30
9 A very warm & pleasant day. (at 2 Pm 63+° & rising) //
10 more worm piles in yard (not seen since morning //
11 of 20th on ac. of cold &c) You will see them
12 earlier on warm banks, as at clam shell, earlier
13 than in our yard. Do not wood{ } &c
14 feed on them at night. They ~~se~~ to come out
15 just before the toads which feed on them--
16 These little piles on the bare earth, like dimples
17 on water, remind you of April.
18 wind S. W.
19 The Pm so warm ^ you take off coat. //
20
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 sound⁶⁸ 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 waterfall⁶⁹-like sound of the wind--this

27 faintest imaginable prelude of the

28 toad-- I often draw⁷⁰ my companions atten-

29 tion to it & he fails to hear it at all--

⁶⁸There is either a stray mark or dash here.

⁶⁹Ends in a flourish.

⁷⁰Ends 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 Sunday--Ap. 1st

12 Warm--with the thick haze still con-
13 // cealing the sun.

15 Worm piles abundant this morning
16 Pm Gooseberry begins to show a little green
17 but not our currant.
18 // 3 Pm up assabet--in boat

20 There is another fire in the woods this Pm
21 // 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 disolor?
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 the wood-turtles (the first I have noticed)
3 & painted turtles rustling down the bank
4 into the water--& see where they have travelled
5 over the sand and the mud-- This & the pre-
6 vious 2 days have brought them out in numbers //
7 Also see the { } on the bottom
8
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 made⁷¹ 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 a⁷² thinker hears is sentences
35
36 statements or opinions-- He seeks to affirm
 some thing as true-- I am surprised that

⁷¹"made" written over "may"

⁷²possibly 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.-- α

//

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. forward⁷³
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

⁷³There 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 away⁷⁴
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.⁷⁵ ?

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

⁷⁴See Harding, *Days*, 423-424.

⁷⁵There 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 in⁷⁶ 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

⁷⁶The 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 some
6 by a steady progress--~~many~~ flowers would blossom
7 tomorrow if it were as warm as today--but
8 cold weather intervening may detain them a week
9 or more-- The spring thus advances & recedes repeatedly
10 its pendulum oscillates while it is carried steadily
11 forward-- Animal life is to its extent
12 subject to a similar law-- It is in warm &
13 calm days that most birds arrive--& rep-
14 tile & insects--& men come forth.

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.

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 // it began to move NEasterly through the
12 balm of Gilead grove--taking up a large body
13 of withered leaves beneath it, which were whirled
14 about with a great rustling--& carried for-
15 ward with it into the meadow--frightening
16 some hens there. And so they went on
17 gradually--or rather one after another
18 settling to the ground--& looking at last
19 almost exactly like a flock of small
20 birds dashing about in sport--till they were
21 out of sight 40 or 50 rds off-- These leaves
22 were chiefly only a rod above the ground.
23
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 // Anursnack--
29
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 // --& has been some time-- So I think I may say that
6 the very first opened Ap. 1st (q. v.) xxxx--
7 This may be not only because the season was
8 early & warm--but because the water was so low--
9 or would that be favorable?--

10
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 cow
22 reminded me of the ^ blackbird & of the oriole
23 at first. I saw at once that they were new
24 to me--& guessed that they were cross bills--which
25 // was the case--male & female. The former
26 was dusky greenish (through a glass) orange & red
27 the orange &c on head breast & rump. The rest
28 dark large bill
29 white-- The female more of a dusky slate
30 color & yellow in stead of orange & red.
31 They were very busily eating the seeds of
32 the hemlock--whose cones were strewn over
33
34

1 the ground & they were very fearless--allowing me
2 to approach quite near--
3
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. At⁷⁷ 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

⁷⁷Ends in a flourish.

1 Ap. 14th 60

2 A strong westerly wind in Am shaking the

3 // house

4

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 1/2 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 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 topers
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 degreee
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 ~~Buttricks~~ 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?⁷⁸

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

25 The S. discolor--peels well //

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

27 Melvin says he has heard snipe some days //
28 but think them scarce.

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

⁷⁸There 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. Haynes⁷⁹
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 dutch⁸⁰ House is more loose & sandy

⁷⁹Josiah Haynes, Jr.

⁸⁰There 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 suddenly⁸¹ 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

⁸¹Thoreau 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 // Therm 56° or 54°+

2 // See shadflies. Scare up woodcock on the
3 were
4 //shore by my boat,^ the first I had seen. It

5 was feeding within a couple of rods, but I

6 {had} seen or thought of it-- When I made a

7 loud & sharp sound driving in my-+ row locks, it

8 suddenly flew up. It is evident that we

9 very often come quite near woodcocks & snipe

10 thus concealed on the ground without starting

11 them & so without suspecting that they are near.

12 These marsh birds--like the bittern have this

13 habit of keeping still--& trusting to {their} re-

14 semblance to the ground.

15 See now henhawks a pair soaring high

16 //as for pleasure--circling ever further & further

17 away--as if it were mid summer-- The

18 peculiar flight of a hawk--Thus fetches

19 the year about-- I do not see it sore in

20 this serene & leisurely manner very early in

21 the summer methinks--

22 almost

23 The early Luzula is ^ in bloom--makes a show

24 // with its budded head--& its purplish & downy

25 silky--leaves-- on the warm margin of clam-

26 //shell bank. 2 or 3⁸² dandelions in bloom

27 spot the ground there.

28 Land at Lees Cliff-- The Cassandra (water-

29 we found it the 20th

30 //brush) is well out--how long? ^ & in one place

31 //we disturb great clouds of the little fuzzy gnats

⁸²Stray 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- //
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 sumer 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 hollow⁸³ 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 // days old--yet it instinctively clung to my hand
27 with its little claws as if it knew that there
28 was danger of its falling from a height to the
29 ground which it never saw. The idea of

⁸³The "l"s in "hollow" are crossed as "t"s.

1 clinging was strongly planted in it. There was
2 maple twigs
3 quite a depth of loose sticks ^ piled on the top
4 of the nest. No wonder that they became
5 skilful climbers who are born high above
6 the ground & began their lives in a tree--having
7 first of all to descend to reach the earth. They
8 but
9 are cradled in a tree top--in ^ a loose basket,
10 in helpless infancy, & there slumber when their
11 mother is away-- No wonder that they are never
12 made dizzy by high climbing that were born
13 in the top of a tree, & learn to cling fast to the
14 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 // on the trees where they were--having failed to catch
16 one-- They retreat some 40 rods off to off another
17 tree--& renew their concert there-- The hawk plumes
18 himself & then flies off rising gradually--&
19 beginning a circle & soon it joins its mate &
20 soars with it high in the sky & out of sight--as
21 if the thought of so terrestrial a thing as a
22 black-bird had never entered its head.

23
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 her⁸⁴ mouth--half way across 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 carraige 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,

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

⁸⁵This 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.

⁸⁶There is a flourish at the end of "e" in "Nature."

⁸⁷There may be a period here-or it could just be a stray mark.

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 now⁸⁸ look on heaps of fuel with indiffer-
29 well husbanded--
30 One old plank ^ is, sufficient shield agains-
31 the cold that is to come.

⁸⁸It 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 flattened 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 impulse 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
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 ranunculus
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

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

1 Yet strange to say--I did not see the
2 smoke of the still larger fire between Concord
3 & Acton in March--at all--I being in
4 Lincoln & out doors all the time--

5 This Groton fire--did not seem much further off
6 than a fire in Walden woods--& as I believe
7 & hear--in each town the inhabitants supposed
8 it to be in the outskirts of their own township.

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 scirrhous--
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 The early potentillas are now quite abundant //
3 Pm to Stone heaps & Stone Bridge.
4 Since (perhaps) the middle of Ap. we have
5 had much easterly (NE chiefly) wind & yet no
6 rain--though this wind surely fails to bring rain
7 in March. (The same is true till 9th of May at
8 least--, ie inspite of E winds--there is no rain--) //
9
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 2
15 amid the bushes what I supposed to be ^ wood-
16 chucks holes--with a well worn path from
17 close
18 one to the other--& the young trees ^ about them
19 aspen & black cherry had been gnawed for
20 a foot or more upward for a year or 2
21 -- There were some fresh wounds--& also old
22 of last year
23 & extensive scars ^ partially healed.
24 The naked vib. is leafing //
25 The sedge--ap C. Pensylvanica has now //
26 been out on low ground and beyond
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 This marked by the straw
6 ground where the soldiers had their tents^--with
7 his head prone--& poking in the straw with
8 a stick--now & then turning back or aside to ex-
9 amine something more closely-- He is dressed
10 methinks better than an average man whom
11 you meet in the streets. How can he
12 pay for his board thus? He dreams of finding
13 a few coppers or perchance a half dime which
14 have fallen from the soldiers pockets--&
15 no doubt he will find something of the kind, having
16 dreamed of it. having knocked, this door will
17 be opened to him.

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 // deal of coolness in the wind--so that I can
27 scarcely find a comfortable seat-- (Yet a
28 week later--with therm at 60+ & but little
29 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--~~ver~~ 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.

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

23 May 4th

25 River 3 1/4 in below S L Scales of turtles //
26 //
27 are coming off (Paint. turtle) Quite a warm day //
28 70+ at 6 Pm. Currant out a day or 2 at least //
29 //
30 & our 1st gooseberry a day later //

31 Pm to Great Meadows by boat
32 I see Haynes with a large string of pickerel
34 & he says that he caught a larger yesterday--

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 // any better pickerel fishing than now-- He
6 has caught three good sized trout in
7 the river within a day{--}one would
8 weigh 1 1/2 lbs. One above the RR bridge
9 --1 off Abner Buttrick's Saw Mill Brook.
10 He⁸⁹ has caught them in the river before
11 but very rarely-- He caught them as he
12 was fishing for pickerel-- This too may be
13 because the river is low & it is early in the
14 season-- He says that he uses the
15 rana halecina for bait--that a pickerel
16 will spit out the yellow legged one.
17
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
31 Thus he first traces the channel of the
future brook & river & deepens it

⁸⁹"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.

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

11 A nuphar advena in one of these pools what
12 you may call out--for it is rather stale-- //
13 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 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 evening⁹⁰
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 //folia say yesterday X
35 There are some dense beds of houstonia
36 in the yard of the Old Conantum house.

⁹⁰There 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 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 Vernal grass X at this cliff. (common at
14 //
15 Damon's Spring the 12th)
16 The marginal shield fern is one foot high here.
17 //
18 Amelanchier Bot. flower in p.
19 //
20 Have seen no ducks for a week or more
21 //Gnawel some time. Vac.⁹¹ Pennsylvanica
22 //flowers against rocks--not long.
23 Sun goes down red. Hear of Bear-berry well
24 //
25 out the 29th of April at Cliffs & then prob. some days.
26 //
27 The peepers & toads are in full blast
28 at night.
29 May 6th '60
30 River 3 1/4 inches below summer level. Why is
31 //
32 it only 3/18 of an inch lower than last Sunday?
33 (Ap. 29) for we are in the midst of a remarkable
34 drought & I think that if there had been
any rain within a week near the sources of the
river I should have heard of it. Is it that

⁹¹The "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--

11

10 2 Pm to 2d Division

11 74°+ wind SE & Hazy

11

12 A gold-finch ap. 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

11

15 side of a bank or rather ditch-- I

16 earliest ones in such sheltered & concealed places-- What
17 did they do before the white man came here with
18 his ditches s stone-walls? (Methinks by the 13th I
19 hear the bay-wing sing the oftenest)

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 prenathe

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.

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 //
24 already vespertinal. maple keys 1 1/2 inch long

26 Mists these mornings--

27 Our 2d shadbush out--how long? It is generally
28 just beginning in the woods.

29 My chamber is {oppressively} warm in the evening. //

30 May 7th 60

31 River 1/8 inch lower than yesterday

32 chimney swallow-- Cat bird sings

33 Hear the white-throat sparrows--peabody note in gardens

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 // insects Ribes florida by bridge(flower) X
15 // Cultivated cherry flowered yesterday at least,
16 //
17 //not yet ours. myrtle-bird
18
19 old
20 Met ^ Mr Conant with his eye & half the
21 side of his face black & blue--looking very badly--
22 He said he had been jerked down on to the Barn
23 floor by a calf some 3 weeks old which he
24 was trying to lead. The strength of calves is re-
25 markable-- I saw one who had some difficulty
26 in pulling along a calf not a week old.
27 With their 4 feet they have a good hold on
28 the earth. The last one was sucking a cow that
29 had sore teats & every time ~~the~~ it bunted
30 the cow kicked energetically raking the
31 calfs head & legs--but he stood close against
32 the cows belly--& never budged in spite of
33 all her kicks--though a man would have
34 jumped out of the way. Who taught the calf
35 to bunt?
36
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 The small--pewee how long-- The night warblers //
8 note-- River 4 7/8 inch below S. L. //
9 Stone-heaps how long? //

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

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

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

29 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 inch
19 May 9th-- River 5 3/4 below SL.
20 //
21 I think I heard a bobolink? this am
22 //
23 A Swan boy brought me what I take to be a very
24 red--Rana sylvatica caught on the leaves the 6th--
25 Have had no fire for more than a fortnight
26 //
27 & no great coat since Ap. 19th
28
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 conc
36 //mill brook behind R. W. E. in p. say 10th
37
38 // Pm to Flints pond
39 // It is a still cloudy thoughtful day--
40 // 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 {boung} 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 ~~rathe~~ 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
13 sand like small ant-hills--but looking more closely
14 saw by the size of the holes (a little less than 1/4 of an
15 inch) & the comparative irregularity of the heaps--as
16 if the sand had been brought forth & dropt in greater
17 quantity at once--attracted my attention--& I found
18 they were the work of bees. The bees were hovering
19 low over the surface--& were continually entering &
20 rising from the holes. They were about the size of
21 a honey bee--black bodied--with⁹² I thought yellow
22 thighs--if it was not pollen. Many of the holes ap-
23 peared to have been freshly stopped up with granules
24 of moist sand. These holes were made close together
25 with very little grass on it
26 in the dry & sandy soil there ^ sloping toward the
27 triangular
28 west--between the roads--& covered a ^ space some 7 rds
29 by 3 I counted 24 in a square foot-- There must
30 have been some 25000 of these nests in all. The surface
31 was yellowed with them. Evidently a kind of mining bee //
32 I see in roadside hard sward by the brook beyond

⁹²There 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 // brick-red state
10 heard
11 I saw yesterday--one or 2 warblers--one's note was
12 in rhythm like a very feeble field sparrow--was it
13 was it not the Particolored warbler--with bluish head & yellow beneath--but
14 not the screeper note
15 //the red-start? Prob. 1 or 2 strange warblers now.
16 but note ending with jingle slightly like the field sparrow
17 // meadow fox-tail grass out several days.
18
19 May 11th
20 The river no lower than yesterday's
21 // Warbling vireo
22 2 Pm 77+° very warm
23 to Factory village
24 // Red start.
25 // Red wings do not fly in flocks for 10 days past
26 I think
27 I see at Damon's spring some Dandelion seeds
28 all blown away & other perfectly ripe spheres--
29 (much more at Clam Shell the 13th) It is ripe then
30 //several days--or say just before elm seed--but the
31 mouse ear not yet on the 13th any where.
32 // The senecio shows its yellow.
33 // The warmth--makes us notice the shade of
34 houses & trees--(even before the last have leafed)
35 as Harrington's elm & house
36 falling on the greened banks. June like.
37 See some large black birch stump
38 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 great⁹³ 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.

⁹³"A great" poss. written over text

1 Hear several bobolinks distinctly today. //
2 Hear the pebbly notes of the frog. //
3
4 See the coarse green rank Canary grass.
5 springing up amid the bare brown button bushes
6 & willows. Redwings are evidently busy building //
7 their nests-- They are sly & anxious, the females,
8 about the button bushes.
9
10 See 2 crows pursuing & diving at a hen hawk
11 very high in the air over the river-- He is steadily circling
12 & rising--while they getting above dive down
13 toward him ~~with~~ passing within a foot or 2
14 making a feint--he merely winks as it were--
15 bends or jerks his wings slightly as if a little
16 startled, but never ceases soaring--nor once
17 turns to pursue or shake them off-- It seemed
18 as if he was getting uncomfortably high for
19 them.
20 At Holden swamp--hear plenty of
21 particolored warblers, (tweezer birds) & //
22 redstarts //
23 Uvularia sessilifolia abundant how long? The //
24 swamp is so dry that I walk about it--in my
25 shoes--& the Kalmia glauca is ap. quite backward
26 accordingly--can scarcely detect any buds of it--
27 While the Rhodora on shore will ap bloom to- //
28 morrow. Hear the Yorrick //
29 The intermediate ferns & cinnamon--
30 a foot & a half high have just leafeted out //
31 The sensitive fern is only 6 inches high--ap. the

1 //latest of all-- Sorrel X

2 It is a remarkable day for this season

3 //

4 --you have the heat of Summer before the

5 leaves have expanded. The sky is full of glowing

6 //summer cumuli-- There is no haze--the mts

7 are seen with perfect distinctness-- It is so

8 still

9 warm that you can lie on the ^ brownish grass

10 in a thin coat--& will seek the shade for this

11 purpose.

12 What is that fern so common~~ly~~ at Lees Cliff

13 //

14 now sprung up a foot high with a very chaffy

15 stem? ~~shield fern~~ Marginal shield? ?

16 Is that Polypod. dryopteris in the bank behind

17 the slip elm? now 6 or 7 inches high.

18 There is no mouse-ear down even there-- Those

19 //

20 weeds which have looked most expanded & downy

21 are invariably cut off by some creature (prob.

22 //insect. & withered. The crickets creak steadily among the

23 rocks--

24 //The Carex varia (?) at Lees all gone to seed.

25 //Barberry in bloom X Myosotis stricta XXX

26 //

27 //Arum triphyllum how long? Cardamine

28 //Rhomboidea ap. tomorrow--just above Bittern

29 Cliff. It is so warm that I hear the

30 //peculiar sprayey note of the toad generally

31 //at night. The 3d sultry evening in my chamber

32 // A faint lightening is seen in the N horizon

33 The tender yellow green of birches-- is now

34 //

35 the most noticeable of any foliages in our land-

36 scape--as looking across the pond from Lees Cliff-

37 the poplars are not common enough-- The

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 May 14th

6 The heat continues-- //

7 It is remarkably hazy--wind still NE //

8 You can hardly see the horizon at all
9 a mile off-- The mornings for some time past
10 have been misty rather than foggy--& now
11 it lasts through the day--& becomes a haze

12 The sun light is yellow through it-- //

13 In the Pm it is cooler--much cooler

14 at about 60+ & windier. //

15 Some S disolor down shows itself before //
16 mouse ear. The order is then Dandelion--elm-- //
17 seed--willow--& next prob. mouse ear down-- //
18 i.e. of the more noticeable seeds.

19 At Stows meadow by RR. I see carex stipata //

20 may be 5 days out-- C. vulgaris 5 to 8 inches high //
21 still out near English cress May 16
22 & done ^ (the short scattered dark scaled one)

23 At Smiths shore the C. buxbaumii is nearly done //

24 Put them in the order (the meadow carices observed)
25 till I know better still out near Eng. cress May 16
26 C. vulgaris May 1st--C. Stricta--May 3d^--Bux-

27 baumii May 6th--C stipata say 9th or perhaps

28 the first 2 together. Flowering fern is a foot high //

29 C. sees the chestnut sided warbler & the tanger //

30 today & heard a whippoorwill last night. //

31 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.

May 15

8 Pm to sedge paths & {Cliffs}--
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.

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 There is a small sedge common along the
14 path--(c. pensylvanica like--but the fertile
15 flowers are very slender if not abortive--unlike
16 the latter & well developed on top of Cliffs. The
17 one a S. humilis not in flower yet.
18
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 against which the pines are already darkened
28 Thus
29 At this season there is ^ a mist in the air & a
30 mist on the earth
31
32 Rye is a foot or more high--% & some 2 feet the early% //
33 The springing sorrel--the expanding leafets--the
34 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 expanded--

2 The Golden robin utters from time to time

3 a hoarse or grating cr-r-ack

4 The creepers are very common now--

5 Now that the warblers are here in such numbers

6 is the very time on another account to study them.

7 for the leaf buds are generally but just expanding

8 ~~into leaves~~ & if you look toward the light

9 you can see every bird that flits through a

10 small grove--but a few weeks hence the leaves

11 will conceal them--

12 The deciduous trees are just beginning to invest //

13 the evergreens--& this methinks is the very midst of

14 the leafing season--when the oaks are getting into the

15 gray.

16 %day XX%

17 A Lupine will ap. open tomorrow-- //

18 1 wild pink out X Red cherry ap in p. ////

19 A golden-crowned thrush keeps the trunks of the

20 young trees between me & it as it hops away.

21 Are those poplars the tremuliformis? ?

22 which look as dead S of Holbrooks land--not having

23 leafed out.

24 Menyanthes ap a day or 2. Andromeda //

25 polifolia how long? //

26 Is that sedge 10 to 12 inches high & now in

27 its p. (say 5 days old) by Holbrook shanty path--

28 the C. vestita? see pressed one. //

29 Andromeda colyculata much past p. //

30 Is that small sedge on Beck stows peninsula

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 unequally
19 double samarae--~~irregularly~~ disposed along the
20 branches trembling in the wind--like⁹⁴ the
21 flame of the shad bush so this handsome fruit--
22 now
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

⁹⁴possibly "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 next the river--the Aspid. Thelypteris? now 5 or 6 inch high
38
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-leaved cornel leafets 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 may be earlier in midst of Hub's close--
2 in river meadows--or near mouth of Dakin's brook-- to
3 By Sam. Barretts meadow side--I see a female
4 maryland yel. throat busily seeking its food amid the
5 dangling fruit of the early aspen, in the top of the
6 tree. Also a chestnut sided warbler--the handsome //
7 bird--with a bright yellow crown--& yel--& black
8 striped back--& bright chestnut sides--not shy--
9 busily picking about the expanding leaves of our
10 white birch-- I find some minute black flies
11 on them.

12 Rye 2 1/2 & 3 feet high-- It is so dry that
13 much of the side saddle leaf has no water in it
14 Old brown rocks in the river & mill ponds show
15 water
16 by their water lines how high the **river** has formerly stood.

20 May 18th--60

21 Pm to Walden--

27 Gold thread out how long? by Trillium //
28 wood side. Trentalis say X //

34 Apple trees now for 2 or 3 days generally bursting

⁹⁵poss stray mark between "t" and "k" of "catkins"

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 // on all sides of short steins which are either upright
6 or spreading--forming often regular solid cylinders
7 12 to 18 inches long--& only 1 1/2 inches in diameter
8 the flowers facing out every way-- Of uniform
9 diameter--determined by the length of the peduncles.
10 --Pretty wands of white flowers--with leafets intermingled
11 The remarkably dry weather--has been
12 both very favorable & agreeable weather to walkers.
13 We have had almost constant east winds--
14 yet generally accompanied with warmth--
15 none of the rawness of the E. wind commonly--
16 We have, as it were, the bracing air of the sea
17 shore with the warmth & dryness of ~~the~~ June
18 in the country.
19 The night-warbler is a very powerful singer for
20 so small a bird-- It launches into the air
21 above the forest--or over some hollow or open
22 space in the woods--& challenges the attention
23 of the woods by its rapid & impetuous warble
24 & then drops down swiftly--into the tree tops
25 like a performer ~~sud~~ withdrawing behind the
26 scenes--& he is very lucky who detects where
27 it alights.
28 That large fern (is it Aspid Spinulosum?--) of
29 // Brister spring swamp is a foot or more high-- It is
30 partly ever green.
31 A hairy wood pecker betrays its ~~nest~~ ^{hole} in an
32 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 White thorn in bloom at Tarbel's spring X con-
2 siderable of it--possibly a little yesterday.
3
4

//

5 What they say of the 19 of April 75--that
6 grain
7 "the apple trees were in bloom & grass was waving
8 in the fields" could only have been said
9 a week
10 within ±0 days past this early year--

11 This is the season when the meadow grass is seen
12 waving in the wind at the same time that the shadows
13 of clouds are passing over it.

14 At the Ministerial swamp--I see a white ladies slipper
15 fully grown
16 almost out ^ --with red ones--

//

17 By the path side near there what I should call
18 a veery's nest with 4 light blue eggs--but
19 I have not heard the veery note this year only the
20 yorrick-- It is under the projecting edge or bank of the
21 path--a large mass of fine grass stubble pine needles
22 &c--but not leaves & lined with pine needles.

//

23 In 2d Div. meadow Eriophorum Polystachion ap 2 or 3
24 days--though only 6 or 8 inches high at most.

//

25 The 2d Div. Rush--is not quite in bloom yet-- The panicle
26 is quite fresh 1/8 to 1/4 inch long--but the sepals are not
27 green but light brown-- Is it a new species?

28 Going a long the 2d division road this side
29 the brooks--where the woods have been extensively
30 cut off-- I smell now the sun having come out
31 after the rain of the morning--the scent of the withered
32 pine boughs which cover & redden the ground--
33 They part with their tea now--

34 You see now on all sides the grey-brown-
35 lumbering wood chucks running to their subterranean

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 leafets 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.

13 mouse ear down at last XX

//

14 Scirpus planifolius how long? ap in p. in woods about

//

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

17 Judging from Hind's Report of his

18 survey of the region between the Assiniboine

19 & Saskatchewan Rivers the prevailing trees--and

20 they are small are aspens & willows--which

21 if let alone--ie if the prairie were not

22 burned by the Indians--might at last

23 make a soil for nobler forests--

24 No wonder that these small trees are so

25 widely dispersed--their abundant fine &

26 light seed being buoyed up & wafted far

27 through the atmosphere--speedily clothe

28 the burnt tracts of British America--

29 Heavy seeded trees are slow to spread them-

30 selves--but both air & water combine to transport

31 the seeds of these trees--

1 May 21--60

2 Cold., at 11 Am 50+° & sit by a fire.
3 //
4 At 12 It begins to rain--
5 //
6 Pm to Cambridge--all vegetation is refreshed
7 by the rain. The grass appears to stand perfectly
8 erect & on tip toe several inches higher all
9 part
10 once in every field--the green ^ prevailing over
11 the brown ground in every field--
12 The color of the new leaves is surprising--
13 The birches by the RR as I am whirled by them
14 in the cars, flash upon me yellow as gamboge
15 their leaves more like flowers than foliage.
16 Winter-green had started the 18th at least
17 //Noticed the shadows of apple trees yesterday--

18 22--60

19 Another cold & wet day--requiring fire
20 // The principal rain was during last night & was quite considerable.
21 ceases to rain ^ (but continues foul) at midday--
22 //C. hears a cuckoo & appears by his account,
23 //to have seen the Sylvia maculosa.

24 I see the effects of frost (prob the morn of the 21st)
25 //
26 on squashes that sowed themselves.

27 May 23--60

28 6 Am to Junction River 4 1/6 inch
29 //
30 below S L. having risen about 3 inches since
31 the morning of the 19th

32 See hopping along the limbs of a black willow

1 & inspecting its leafets for insects--in all positions
2 often head downward--the sylvia striata--black-
3 poll warbler-- Black crown or all top of head, a //
4 broad white space along side head & reaching less distinctly
5 over the neck--in a ring--beneath this from base of mandi-
6 bles a streak of black--becoming a stream or streams of
7 black spots along the sides--beneath white--legs
8 yellow-- Back above slaty-brown streaked with
9 black--primaries yellowish dusky--with 2 white
10 bars or marks--inner tail feathers more or less white--
11 Not particularly lively
12 tail forked--bill black-- The female is said //
13 to be considerably different-- This at first glance
14 was a chickadee like bird-- It was rather tame
15
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 &⁹⁶ 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

⁹⁶"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 Started up 2 prob--Totanus Solitarius? (possibly
27 //
28 small yellow legs ???) They utter a fainter
29 yellow-leg note rather than peet weet note
30 --viz--phe, phe,/ pheet pheet pheet
31 Are not shy! stand still or beside a tussock
32 to be looked at-- Have peculiarly long slender
33 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 Critchicrotches some 2 or 3 days--(now tender to eat) //
12

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 acetate⁹⁷ 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

⁹⁷Thoreau 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.

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 Pm to Gowings Swamp & Copan--
12 Quite warm & I see in the east the first
13 //summer shower cloud--a distinct cloud
14 to the horizon
15 above and all beneath ^ the general slate color
16 of falling rain though distant--deepest in the
17 middle--
18 // The scheuchzeria out some days ap. (but only in
19 the open pool in the midst of the swamp.
20 I see half a dozen heads of tortoises above the
21 sphagnum there in the pool--& They have ver-
22 milion spots on the neck or hind head. some
23 sort of oraange vermillion. Are they the yel spot,?
24 or wood tortoise?
25 to bloom
26 // The European cranberry budded ^ & grown 1 inch.
27 // Comandra out not long.
28 //Red & white o leafets handsome now.
29 //Pe-pe heard. & prob consid. earlier--
30 It is remarkable that the aspen on Holbrook's
31 road--though in most places it is the
32 earliest indigenous tree to leaf--is the very latest
33 ?
34 & the buds are hardly yet {swolen} at all. Can
35 it be a distinct var.?
36 // See the effect of frost on the sweet fern (either this am
37 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 //
7 Euphorbia cyparissias ap X Cherry birds //
8 7 pm river 1 inch below S. L. //
9 Carex granularis (??) well out say a day or 2 //
10 Smith's shore.
11 26th--60
12 Overcast--rain threatening--wind NE--& cool //
13 9 am to Easterbrooks' Country.
14 //
15 C. lanuginosa Smiths shore--say 3 or 4 days--C. Pallescens (?) //
16 long stalked staminate--Channing's shore high up X
17 C. Pallescens {var.} undulata X rather spreading common-- //
18 Clark's
19 as in ^ field from ~~of~~ my old house. C. Polytrichoides well //
20 out say a few days Botrichium Swamp.
21 C. grisea-like? same place, same time C. Muhlen- //
22 %v June 13th% //
23 bergii (??) not long %^% Glyceria nervata not quite //
24 Melons have peeped out 2 or 3 days
25 Our pink azalea X
26 5 pm River 5/8 inch below S. L.
27 27th 60
28 Fire in house again. //
29 The Sylvia striatas are the commonest bird
30 for several days past
31 in the street as I go to the P. O. ^ I see 6 (4 males
32 2 females) on one of our little fir trees--one ap as
33 many more on another close by--the white
34 bars on the wings of both sexes are almost
35 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 leafets
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 // bank of the river-- for it is that that greens the very
23 low muddy banks.

25 J Farmer found a marsh-hawk's nest on the 16th ult
26 // (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
19 berry patch by Trillium wood--ie in low ground ? not
20 long ago & done.

21 Solid White fog over meadow at in evening.

22 I notice tonight that the potamogetons
23 have just reached the surface of the river & begin to
24 spread out there-- The surface of the water in shallow
25 places begins to be interrupted or dimpled with small
26 brown leaves-- First from the 9th to 13th the first
27 pads began spread & the pontederia &c showed
28 themselves-- Now the appearance of the potamo-
29 getons marks a new era in the vegetation of
30 the river--the commencement of the summer
31 stage-- Its spring ends now--its time of freshet (genera-
32 is over.

33 The river is now some 3 inches below SL.

1 May 29th 1860

2 Pm after hawks with Farmer to Easterbrooks

3 Country--

4 He tells me of a sterile bayberry bush between
5 his house & Abel Davis opposite a ledge in the
6 road say half a dozen rods off in the {field}
7 on the left by a brook--

8 Hearing a warbling vireo he asked me
9 what it was--& said that a man who
10 lived with him thought it said Now I
11 have caught it "O how it is sweet"! I
12 am sure only of the last words or perhaps
13 "Quick as I catch him I eat him--O it is very sweet"
14 Saw male & female wood tortoise in a

15 meadow in front of his house--only a little
16 brook anywhere near-- They are the most of a
17 land turtle except the box turtle--

18 We proceeded the Cooper's Hawk nest in
19 %v. 17th%
20 an oak & pine wood (Clark's) N of Pawktasset.

21 I found a fragment one of the eggs which
22 he had thrown out-- Farmers egg, by the way
23 was a dull or dirty white--ie a rough
24 white with large dirty-spots--perhaps in the
25 grain but not surely--of a regular oval
26 form & a little larger than his marsh
27 hawk's egg. I climbed to the nest--some
28 30 to 35 feet high in a white pine against
29 the main stem-- It was a mass of bark
30 fiber & sticks about 2 1/2 feet long x 18 inches

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 S
16 This was a dozen rods $\frac{N}{2}$ 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 %v June 11%
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--~~ap~~ high in a wht 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 nest 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 Whiting's 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 3d⁹⁸
10 2 Dangle berry The decid. trees which look late
11 3 Mt Rhus are ~~p~~ in order of lateness
12 latest
13 bay berry--button bush--
14 Poison dogwood--Black ash
15 Buttonwood-- (Mt rhus
16 vac. dumosum & Holbrook aspen
17 not being seen.) The
18 locust is pretty green.
19
20 The first 3 look dead at a
21 little distance. but the bay--
22 berry showed growth (including
23 flower buds) before button bush.
24
25 %v. June 4th%
26 10 Vac. Dumosum--June 13 grown 1/2 too 1 inch
27
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

⁹⁸There 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 ruddy⁹⁹ / 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 color
26 now paint some fields with the tint of early
27 summer--

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

⁹⁹ 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-- Perhap-
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 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 Young Stewart tells me that when he

19 visited again that Gray Squirrel's nest which

20 I described about 1 month ago up the Assabet--

21 the squirrels were gone & he thought that

22 the old ones had moved them--for {he} saw

23 the old about another nest.

24 He found another similar nest with 3

25 dead {blind} gray squirrels in it--the old

26 one probably having been killed.

27 This makes 3 gray squirrels' nests that

28 I have seen & heard of (seen 2 of them) this

29 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 // rainy.
13

14 Pm to River behind Hubbards Grove--

15 Red clover 1st seen-- A boy brought me
16 // yesterday a nest with 2 maryland yel throat's
17 //eggs & 2 cowbirds eggs in it & said that they
18 were all found together. Saw a pigeon yesterday--
19 //
20 //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 // 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 The yellow {Bethlehem} star is pretty common //
8 now The {poison} dog wood is so late--&
9 has such a proportion of thick gray stem--that
10 at a little distance they look like dead trees amid
11 the green birches & alders.

12 8 Pm Up Assabet

13 The river is 4 inches above sum. Level-- //
14 A cool evening--a cold white twilight sky--
15 after the air has been cleared by rain--& now
16 the trees are seen very distinctly against it--
17 as yet heavy masses of verdure--but a
18 light {open} work the leaves being few & small
19
20 yet--as regularly open as a sieve--

21 Cool as it is--the air is full of the singing of
22 toads--peeping of hylodes--& purring of
23 prob. R. palustris. The last is esp. like //
24 the {snoring} of the river. In the morning
25 when the light is similar you {will} not hear
26 a peeper I think, & scarcely a toad.

27 Bats go over--& a king bird very late-- //

28 Mosquitoes are pretty common-- Ever & anon we //
29 hear the stake-driver from a distance-- {There}
30
31 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 // I soon hear its mournful scream prob to its
6 mate--not loud now--but though within
7 20¹⁰⁰ or 30 rds--sounding a mile off ~~off~~--
8 I hear it louder from my bed in the night.

9
10 Water bugs dimple the surface now quite
11 // across the river--in the moonlight, for
12 it is a full moon.

13
14 The evergreens are very dark & heavy--
15 Hear¹⁰¹ 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 // --i.e the river has begun to fall within 24 hours
24 & less after the rain ceased.

25
26 2 Pm to Bay-berry
27 These are the clear breezy days of {early} June--when
28 // the leaves are young & {few}--& the sorrel not yet
29 //in its p. Perceive the meadow fragrance
30 // Am surprised to some 20 or more crows in
31 a flock still--cawing about us.

32
33 The roads now stream with red maple
34 // seed-- The pines shoots have grown generally
35
36

¹⁰⁰"20" written over "30"

¹⁰¹Blotch 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)¹⁰² //

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

¹⁰²"(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 lead¹⁰³ & 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.

¹⁰³1906 has "dead"

1 The clear brightness of June was well
2 represented yesterday by the buttercups--
3 (Rv Bilbosa) along the roadside-- Their
4 yellow or glossy & varnished within, but not
5 without. Surely there is no reason why the
6 new butter should not be yellow now--
7 The time has come now when the laborers--having
8 washed & put on {thir} best suit--walk into
9 the fields on the sabbath--& lie on the ground
10 at rest

11 Aphides on alders--which dirty your clothes //
12 with their wool as you walk.

At the W. spring of F. H. Hill--I cast
a bit of wood against a p. pine in
bloom (perhaps not yet in p. generally) & I see
the yellow pollen dust blown away from it in
a faint cloud--distinctly for 3 rds at least--
& gradually rising all the while--(rising 5 or 6
feet perhaps)

1 I find ap the same or what I will call
2 // the bean-swamp-sedge (only smaller than
3 that) i.e--the slender--drooping {culmed}
4 {drawing} among the checkerberries this side
5 all done long since
6 of Trillium Wood--also better in Hubb's
7 meadow by ditch N of Corner Road Causeway
8 --v if this is like the C. Varia of Lees.
9
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 its shadow--but in a week or more the twigs
2 will have so extended themselves & the number
3 of fully expanded leaves be so increased that
4 the trees will {look} heavy & dark with foliage
5 & the shadow be dark & opaque--a gelid
6 shade. Hazy & mts concealed //

7 I notice today e.g. that most maple--birch,
8 willow--alder--& elm leaves are fully expanded
9 but most oaks--& hickories--ash trees &c are not
10 quite
11 You may say that now when most trees have
12 fully expanded leaves--& the black ash fairly shows
13 green--that the leafy season has fairly commenced //
14 (I see that I so called it May 31--& 27th 53)

15 June 5th 60

16 Am NE wind & rain steady rain //
17 but hardly yet large {ones}
18 Hemlock beadwork handsome^-- //

19 When I open my window at night
20 I hear the peeping of hylodes distinctly through //
21 the rather cool rain ({as} also some the next am)
22 but not of toads--more hylodes than in the
23 late very warm evenings--when the toads were
24 heard most numerously-- The hylodes evidently
25 love the cooler night of spring-- The toads the
26 warm days & nights of May-- Now it requires
27 which will silence the toads
28 a cool (& better if wet) night ^ to make the
29 hylodes distinct.

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 // in. above SL. & is rising fast-- But little rain
10 has fallen this Pm.
11
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 // Saw¹⁰⁴ 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 // very densely flowered willow, perhaps the most so of
21 {any}-- the sterile ones seen afar (even by moon-
22 light on the 2d) are dense masses of yellow
23 {aga} (now more pale) against the green {trees} in
24 the rear-- {The} {have} but little leafiness themselves--
25 as yet--
26
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.

¹⁰⁴added 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--& 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---}¹⁰⁵ 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,

¹⁰⁵scratched 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 yew¹⁰⁶
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.

¹⁰⁶curved line from caret to inserted text

1 The red maples now become darker & firm or hard
2 The large leafed sumachs
3 June 8--60
4 River at 6 am 12 7/8 above SL. //
5 2 pm to Well Meadow
6 via Walden--
7 Within a day or 2 has begun that season-- //
8 of Summer--when you see afternoon showers
9
10 --may be with thunder--or the threat of them
11 dark in the horizon and are uncertain whether to
12 venture far away or without an umbrella. I noticed
13 the very first such cloud on the 25th of May-- The //
14 dark {~~etc~~} iris of June. When you go forth to walk
15 at 2 Pm you se perhaps in the SW--or W--or may
16 be E horizon a dark & threatening mass of cloud
17 showing itself just over the woods--its base
18 a horizontal & dark--with lighter edges where it
19 is rolled up to the light while all beneath is the kind
20 of dark slate of falling rain-- These are summer
21 showers--come with the heats of summer--
22 June grass just begun to bloom x in //
23 the village
24 A Great yellow & dark butterfly--(C. saw something //
25 like it a week ago)--
26 What delicate fans are the great red o. leaves
27 now just developed--so thin & of so tender a
28 green--they hang loosely flaccidly down--at the
29 mercy of the wind like a new born butterfly

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. Scabratia say 10 days.
33 C. tenella (near the earliest cowslip) all in seed
34 //& much seed fallen & no sterile flower--say 3 weeks

¹⁰⁷scratched out word

¹⁰⁸may be one word

1 {hows}¹⁰⁹ 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 <u>Pm</u>	"	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 <u>Pm</u>	" (showers during day)	14 3/4	"	"
23	i.e having ceased raining the eve of the 6th the				
24	river reached its highest the eve of the 7th				
25	but it had done more than 1/2 its rising before the				
26	rain was over--& it by no means rose steadily				
27	afterward--for in the 1st 12 hours (of night)				
28	{after} the rain ceased it rose only 1 3/16 inches				
29	in the next 12 hours (of day)		2 11/16		

¹⁰⁹maybe 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. {scoparia}¹¹⁰ 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 // 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

¹¹⁰proper 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 frgments
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 frgments
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 annursnack 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} cocoon--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 more{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 were{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?

I find the Sudbury meadows unexpectedly wet--
Ther is at least one foot of water on the meadows
generally-- I cut off the principal bends--pushing
amid the thin sedge & pipes--& land on Tall's
Island-- I had carried India rubber boots to look
for wren's nests--but the water was very much
too deep--& I could not have used them except--
on the very edge {on} some places-- Yet the river in
Concord this morning was but just one foot
about
above summer level--& 18 ^ inches above which
it was just before the middle of May--when
every body remarked on its extreme lowness--& {Ebby}
Conant--observed to me "It is lower than ever it
was {known} to be, is n't it?" I told him that
I had seen it as low, in the summer, about every
other year. If you should lower it 18 inches
{now} here there would still be much water on
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 I do not see the great scirpus fluviatilis
2 there yet-- The greater part of the meadows
3 are evidently too wet for the c. stricta {&}
4 (occasionally some large tussocks--surrounded by water)
5 ^& monile even--& the pipes are but thin--
6 There are many large spaces of pads--
7 as at Talls I. showing that they are wet
8 all summer-- The sedges {even} {are} thick &
9 rank--only on the more elevated & drier edges
10 It is too wet even for sedges to flourish--for they are not dense as on other
11 meadows
12 except on {those} higher parts near the hills or shores--
13 of the meadow-- This is more like a lagoon
14 C. stricta grows thinly (with thin pipes) or occasionally in large tufts-- --On
15 dry parts only the
16 c monile-- &c &c
17 than a meadow in fact.
18 Landing on Tall's Island--I perceive a sour
19 scent frm the wilted leaves & scraps of leaves
20 which were blown off yesterday--& strew the ground
21 in all woods.
22 Just within the edge of the wood there I
23 see a small painted turtle ~~with~~ on its back
24 with its head stretched out--as if to turn over--
25 surprised by the sight I started to investigate
26 th cause-- ~~I found that~~ It drew in its head at
27 once--but I noticed that its shell was partially
28 empty I could see through it frm side to
29 side--as it lay--its entrails having been
30 extracted-- through large opening{s} just before--
31 the hind legs. The dead leaves were {——}¹¹¹
32 flattened fr a foot over where it had been
33 operated on--& {where} a little bloody-- Its
34 paunch lay on the leaves--& contained much
35 old
36 vegetable matter--^ cranberry leaves &c-- Judging
37 by the striae it was not more than 5 or 6 yrs
38 old--(or 4 or 5) Its fore parts were quite

¹¹¹scratched out word

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 difficut 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 frm
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 frm 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 tussuck 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 yellow within, with a green center, Then ^ light
9 a
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--{—} {—}¹¹² 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--

¹¹²two scratched out letters/words

1 The {potamogeton} (the large common one) is
2 remarkable as a brown leaf--fit color for
3 the brown water on which it floats--but
4 the {potamogetons} are blue & scarcely obvious yet //
5 on the river.

6 A painted turtle laying at 5 pm //
7 Saw a sphinx moth night before last--
8 The carex tentaculata at Clam Shell in p. (say //
9 It abounds at Forget me not shore--dense flowered
10 week) spreading spikes--
11 At 9 pm 54°+ & no toads nor peepers heard. //
12 Some fields began to be white with white weed //
13 on the 9th

14 June 12--60

15 pm up Assabet--
16 I find several E. insculpta nests--& eggs //
17 & see 2 painted turtles going inland to lay at 3 Pm //
18 At this moment--These turtles are on their
19 way inland to lay their eggs--all over the state--
20 warily drawing in their heads and waiting when you
21 come by-- Here is a painted turtle just a rod
22 inland--its back all covered with the {fragment}
23 of green leves¹¹³ blown off & washed up yesterday--
24 which now line the shore-- It has come out
25 through {their}¹¹⁴ {wrack.} As the river has gone down
26 these green leaves mark the bank in lines
27 just like saw-dust.

28 I see a young yel. spot turtle {on} the Assabet--
29 quite
30 still ^ broad & roundish--though I count about 7
31 striae. It is very handsome.

¹¹³poss. "leaves"

¹¹⁴maybe "this"

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 // were very few weeds in the river--& have since heard
22 it repeatedly.

23 I noticed as I sat in my boat by the river side
24 last evening 1/2 hour after sunset--a very
25 //low & local yet dense fog close to the shore
26 under the edge of the sedge on one side, a foot
27 high x 3 or 4 wide for several rods-- It
28 occupied such a space as a shadow does under
29 a hedge-- It occurred to me that perhaps the
30 water was cooler there than elsewhere.
31
32 I find on the face of Clam Shell hill

1 carex Muhlenbergii--about ripe--the perigynia
2 nerved distinctly on both sides--I think that this //
3 is the same with that of May 26 & June 10 &c all
4 that I may have thought {cephalophora}¹¹⁵ this year--
5 --though I did not find them distinctly nerved on
6 both sides. They were younger--the acheneum
7 of this is orbicular. It grows then here & prob.
8 at Lees S. slope--Annursnack Hill (very {common})
9 & is generally long done.

10
11 I see {at} Martial Miles--2 young woodchucks
12 taken 16 days ago-- When they were perhaps //
13 a fortnight old. There were 4 in all
14 & they were dug out by the aid of a dog. The
15 mother successively pushed out her little
16 ones to the dog--to save herself--& one
17 was at once killed by the dog. These 2
18 are now nearly 1/3 grown-- They have {found}
19 a hole within the house into which they run--
20 & whither they have carried shavings &c & made
21 a nest-- Thence they run out doors & feed close
22 along about the house--lurking behind {barrels}
23 &c They eat yarrow--clove--catnep &c
24 &c--are fed with milk & bread. They do
25 not drink the milk like a dog or like a cat
26 --but simply suck it taking the sharp edge
27 of the shallow tin dish in their mouths--
28 They are said to {spit} like a cat-- They eat
29 {bread} sitting up right on their haunches
30 & holding {in} it in their fore paws just like

¹¹⁵possibly "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 The carex canescens is (the glaucous
22 scoparia like) is the prevailing c. there
23 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 pannicles 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 Bryttus¹¹⁶ obesus
2 // juding frm its stripes & form-- It was quite tame
3 & 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

¹¹⁶"B" written over "b"

1 May (?) they require the coolness of the evening to
2 arouse them. The Hylodes appear to have
3 // 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 // in a meadow The large early wool grass of
20 // 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}¹¹⁷ 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}¹¹⁸-- 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

¹¹⁷extends three lines

¹¹⁸big?

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 She had copiously wet the ground before or while digging as
5 inches wide) up the sandy or gravelly bank--
6 the {picta} does
7 & I saw where she had before dug or began to
8 dig with in a rod of this--but had retreated
9 to the river-- I withdrew to the bridge to observe
10 her (not having touched her) but she
11 took the occasion to hasten to the river--
12 A thunder shower in the N goes down the Merrimack
13 I see a carex (at mouth of swamp bridge
14 ?
15 brook) & elsewhere) say {bel} monile & {bullata}
16 --but {com.} with 2 fertile spikes--smooth stalks
17 but very dense flowered & thick spikes--the
18 perygynia¹¹⁹ {flatten} for want of room--ap. 2
19 sterile spikes-- Seen also last year. I think.
20 We have had warmer weather for
21 // say since 12th
22 several days--^a new season begun--daily
23 Heat probably about 85°+ at 2 pm
24 baths--thin coat--&c--V top of NP
25 The bull frogs now commonly trump at
26 // night & the mosquites are now really trouble-
27 // some.
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 cocoon 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 excrement¹²⁰
39 of the toad--of which I have seen an account.

¹¹⁹usually sp. perigynia

¹²⁰There 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--^{v12}

20 Heat about 85° at 2 pm-- True Summer-- //

21 Hylodes cease to peep--

22 Purring frogs (R. Palustris:¹²¹) cease--
23
24 Lightening 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 As I stand at Clam Shell, it occurs to

34 me that I never see the stink-pot laying its eggs
35 on on land by day--that therefore it must lay its eggs

¹²¹colon might only be a blotch

1 %no {v} {look} in journal { } when {Riobertus} have { }%¹²²
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--

¹²²too faint to read on copy

1 mostly forerunning or superficial to the shower. //
2 Carex flava out possibly a week
3 //
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 // {drawing}¹²³ 2 or 3 together--or hardly
12 so broad as this. each with a grub in it

14 June 19--60

15 Dewy clouds in the air today & yesterday--
16 // yet not threatening rain--somewhat dog-day
17 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

¹²³extends 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 {P.Y- }
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 while 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}¹²⁴ up
18 & down these hollows now--
19 Observe a nest crowded full with ^ young--⁴ //
20 brown thrashers half fledged. You would think
21 they would die of heat so densely packed--&
22 over-flowing 3 head one way & the other lies
23 across-- How quickly a fox would gobble them
24 up!
25 Ripple lake NE shore is lined with a
26 pine
27 pale yellowish ^ pollen--though there are
28 no pines within--a dozen rods--& those ^ on
29 as with meal
30 the E--1/2 of the pool is gray with the dust--
31 Is not this paler yellow than of the
32 white pine? {W} of Goose pond. Thus these
33 ponds & pools in the woods--catch the
34 pine pollen that may be floating in the

¹²⁴1906 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 // path,--& {about} the ripple lakes. Even
8 if your eyes were shut you would know
9 they were there--hearing the rustling of their
10 wings as they flit by or wheel in pursuit
11 of one another. {Very} Various colors & sizes.

12 I observe that the water bugs confined
13 them selves to the shore even of Ripple lake
14 {now} {by} {day}--though I doubt if there are
15 fishes that would disturb them in the middle
16 here.

17 The eriocaulon shows white heads 2 to 5 inches
18 // high--

19 I follow a distinct fox path amid the
20 grass & bushes for some 40 rods--beyond
21 Brittons' Hollow leading from the great
22 fox hole-- It branches on reaching the
23 peach orchard. No doubt by these routes
24 they oftenest go & return to their hole.

25 As broad as a cartwheel--and at last
26 best seen when you do not look {to} hard for
27 it.

28 Some tall rough golden rod is 3 feet high
29 // & generally in rich ground it is 2 or more--
30 also some fragrant golden rod is 2 feet high--

1 The carex tentaculata is peculiar whitish
2 spiked.

3 The clethra has a peculiarly fresh shining
4 leaf-- The Red O. leaf has a hard gloss to it--

5 Some large round oak apples on small
6 trees or bushes are interesting and handsome even //
7 as a fruit--a lemon--or orange. Here are
8 some 5 inches in circumference--glossy green on {one}
9 side (pale on the other) with whitish prominences.

10 Those {drawing} 2 {pointed} ones
11 of yesterday--are a pale dull green with similar--
12 whitish points

13 Pads already eaten for some time--in straight //
14 lines as if {racked} by shot--& I see that they
15 are {thus} eaten {from} the¹²⁵ upper side for {here}
16 is one place begun but not eaten through.

17 Is not that the {Glyria} {palliada}¹²⁶ now
18 out a day or 2 in the small fern just S of //
19 Lincoln {bound} on the Turnpike??

20 Eriophorum gracilis¹²⁷ (the triangular leafed) well out X
21 same place with the last--prob some days--

22 Red starts are common here now-- //
23 Sugar maple keys are falling on the common //
24 The {green} sarsaparilla berries make quite a
25 show--as you catch sight of them half concealed by their
26 leaves.

27 June 20--60

28 No dew this morn, but early in the am

29 Heavy rain (with holdings up, all day & part

30 of the following night. Very little wind & that NE
31 (This the result of the 2 days of dewy clouds--dog dayish)--

¹²⁵There is a scratched out letter here.

¹²⁶likely Glyceria pallida

¹²⁷should be gracile

1 It comes down perpendicularly--nearly 1 1/4 inches
2 falls into a large tin pail with upright
3 // sides (which I had placed in the garden--for
4 the purpose) between 8 am & 12--& by the
5 next morning there is 2 1/8 inches--(which is the
6 more rain falls yester today--than any day since march, if not this year
7 whole of it--)^ It is a warm rain & I sit
8
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 // (prob from about 2 or 3 above in the morning of yesterday)
19 // A 7 Pm it is 11 1/2 inches above S. L.
20 The wind is still NE. & the air is now so
21 cold (cooled by the rain) that most have
22 fires--& it is uncomfortably cool out of
23 the sun--which does not shine much this Am
24
25 Phalaris Americana X (some prob 2 or 3 days)
26 // It is the rankest & for its size most conspicuous
27 common grass. You see great dark green islets
28 of it by the side of or even in the river where
29 it is muddy--with the large whitish pannicles (?)
30 lifted above the {broad} rank leaves. These
31 are 4 or 5 feet high--very luxuriant
32
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 At 12 pm it is only 59° above zero-- //
2 some
3 & I am surprised to hear ^ toads sing--which I have not heard
4 lately by day. as if this degree of coolness even (at midday)
5 was agreeable to them--corresponding to 62 or more
6 above.

7 At noon the {sun}¹²⁸ comes fairly out--& the //
8 breezy
9 wind rises-- June has been quite a breezy¹²⁹ month
10 thus far-- I have waited in Vain for {perfectly} smooth
11 water in which to watch the bream poised over her
12 nest-- There has been almost a steady breeze or
13 breeziness--with the waving of new-leaved boughs.
14

15 2 Pm to Little Truro.
16 %3 stamened%
17 Is that tailless-seeded %^% juncus (by RR. at planks

18 above the {platens} the paradoxus or {articulatus}¹³⁰ //
19 %v {it} when { } July 7 going to { } {seeking} turtles
20 out some days. %call it {Scirpoides}%
21

Also several rods beyond this is a 6 stamened dark
green prostrate Juncus rooting at the joints--not yet
out--what is it? %v July 7th% //

Carex flora grows up the RR. about as far as the spring //
on the N side-- I see on the RR track young
partridges about as big as my fist--while //

the old bird in grass does not see me at first.
The young now make a sound not so {fine}--more
some of the notes of
like ^ little chickens. The old bird steps about
alarmed with {swolen} throat--or neck-feathers
puffed up--

Crossing Wm Brown's dry field in front
of the School house I see a young thrasher //
which has just left the nest--& the old bird

¹²⁸might be "sun" written over another word

¹²⁹"breezy" blotched and corrected above

¹³⁰"paradoxus or {a...} crossed out in pencil

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 Ripple¹³¹ 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 which has {but} {ten} pads in it.

¹³¹"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 ⁶
7 --in {other} directions--is 5 or ~~4~~ times as far--
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 ~~he~~ 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}¹³² the surface for 2 or 3 feet out there.
32 (Many little {snow} (?) fleas on it)

//

¹³²grazing?

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 Carex¹³³ 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 only 7/16 in the night. at 7 pm it 15 1/8 above SL.
29 I see minnows by the shore 1/2 inch long.
31 Rice tells me that he saw in a mud hole

¹³³ blotch or pd. after C

1 near the river in Sudbury about a fort-
2 night ago. A pout protecting her ova
3 // --which were in a ball about as big as an
4 all exposed
5 apple--^not at all hatched (I think he
6 said on a stick) under which she {swamp}
7 swam. There were also pouts of various sizes
8 about there--some only 2 inches long! says
9 his son William
10
11 Hear the peculiar peep. of young golden robins on
12 // the elms this morning.
13
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
22 There is a strong NE wind this Pm The thermometer
23 60°+ only at 12 1/2 Pm & 65+ at 5 Pm-- But
24 //it is remarkably cold in the wind & you require
25 a thick coat-- 65°+ now with wind is uncomfortably
26 cold. I hear that it has killed some birds--Martins
27 &c found dead in neighbors' yards
28
29 The heavy rain of the 20th with the cold of
30 the 21st has killed some birds-- A martin
31 & another bird were found dead in Wheildon's garden.
32
33 The leaves are now rapidly becoming hard & glazed
34 --acquiring {firmness} as well as a darker color--
35 // 2Pm to Great Meadows
36 A paint turtle digging to lay in wood path

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 Meadow- //
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 // of a willow 2 1/2 feet from ground at my boat's
3 place-- The bird has the usual marks ~~expec~~ ex-
4 cept perhaps the spot on the breast is more obvious
5 & the lines {over} the eyes more white & distinct.
6 The eggs have a much bluer-white ground than
7 those I have & beside are but slightly spotted
8 with {brown} except toward the larger end. The
9 chip of the bird is metallic--not the hoarse chip
10 of the spring-song spar.. v. eggs in {coll.}
11 %v June 25--56%
12 2 Pm to Bare Hill road--
13 & the 24th also
14 This is a decidedly dog-dayish day^--foretold
15 // by the red-moon of last evening.
16 The sun light, even this forenoon, was ~~yello~~
17 peculiarly yellow--passing thro' misty clouds--
18 & this afternoon the atmosphere is decidedly
19 blue. I see it in the street within 30 rods--
20 & perceive a distinct--musty odor.--
21 // First bluish misty dog-day--& sultry. Therm.
22 at 2 only 85°+ however--& wind comes Easterly
23 now & rather cool (as it does the 24th)
24 The foliage is now thick--& for the most
25 part dark--& this kind of weather is prob.
26 the result of this amount of shadow--
27 //but {it} grows cooler with Easterly {wind} before night
28 --I suspect that it may be true as said, that
29 ? the first half of June is cooler than the last
30 half of May.-- On this account--
31 // 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.¹³⁴ //
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.

¹³⁴line from caret to inserted text

1 June 24--60

2 2 pm to Clam Shell

3 The dog-dayish weather continues--

4 The leaves generally are eaten--where young &
5 tender--as the leaves of melons (squashes)
6 as soon as they expand a little-- When they
7 become more hard & glazed--they are less
8 & earlier
9 edible. Hence this[^] is the season for galls

10 of various kinds-- The pads are already extensively
11 eaten. I do not know what eats th{ose}
12 shot like lines-- but I see the pads esp--of
13 the yellow lilies--with many little black
14 or dark brown grubs on them (no doubt hatched
15 on them) {annular}, & yellow beneath--& now
16 //eating them--but not eating through. making

17 crinkled lines all over them.

18 %Perhaps I do July 2d%

19 // %Notice%¹³⁵ No young breams in the nests yet

20 That Hilly road through Baker's
21 land to Bare Hill--is a true up country
22 road--with the scent of ferns along it.
23 There are birches &c enough in the road for
24 bean poles & to stick your pea in with--& the
25 man who has just built him a true country
26 house there is now indulging himself with
27 peas--fresh prob. for the first time-- The
28 brush 5 times as high as his peas which
29 are now in bloom.

30 Have seen the flowering fern ripe for
31 some days.

¹³⁵ "%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.

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 screeping 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 // birds some of them lately taken flight
22 Farmers are just begining their June-
23 // grass haying.
24 no {Torrey} Poa dentata
25 The Glyceria pallida? ^ grows in that ditch
26 // at the little brook on the Corner road--{above}
27 to {the road} on the S side in A Wheelers (?) land--
28 June 26th
29
30 Still hazy & dog-dayish--
31 // Go to the Menagerie in the pm
32 %River 10 1/2 above S. L.%
33 At 5 Pm %^% cross the meadow to the hemlocks
34
35 The blue eyed grass, now in its p. occupies

1 & harder
2 the drier ^ parts of the meadow where I can walk
3 dry shod--but when the coarser sedge grows--
4 & it is lower & wetter--there is none of it. I keep
5 dry by following this blue guide--& the grass is
6 not very high about it. You cross the meadows
7 dry shod by following the winding lead of the
8 blue eyed grass which grows only on the firmer
9 more elevated & drier parts.

10 The hemlocks are too much grown now & are
11 too dark a green--to show the handsomest bead
12 work--by contrast

13 Under the hemlocks on the bare bank--
14 //
15 ap the aira flexuosa not long.

16 Young black willows--have sprouted &
17 put forth their 2 minute round leafets--
18 {wher} the {cottony} seeds have lodged in
19 a scum against the alders &c--leafets
20 from 1/40 to 1/25 of an inch in diameter.

21 When separated from the continuous film
22 of down they have a tendency to {sink.}

23 The Canada Naiad (?) which I gathered
24 yesterday--had perhaps bloomed--thought I detected
25 with my glass something like stamens about the little
26 //
27 balls.

29 June 27--60

30 2 pm up Assabet to Farmers
31 See on the open grassy bank & shore
32 just this side the hemlocks--a partridge
33 with her little brood-- Being in my boat

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 // of the hill between his peach orchard & the
16 ledge in the woods. He showed me the place
17 today-- The hole was about 3 inches long
18 by one wide & 4 or 5 inches deep in a slanting
19 direction {drawing} He found the snake
20 lying with her head & tail both at once in
21 the hole occupied with laying {drawing} & she
22 had then layed 12 eggs he pressed
23 out 2 more--(14 in all) They were
24 not connected together--& were 2ce as large
25 as the sternothaerus egg. (soft shelled--)
26 He left them on the ground--but when he
27 went there this morning--he saw some crows
28 devour them before his eyes-- This hole¹³⁶ was
29 not in sand but in rather lean pasture

¹³⁶n 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.

11

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 4¹³⁷
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?)¹³⁸ say ^ red-top

11

27 River at 6 Pm 7 5/8 above SL--

11

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

¹³⁷ "say 3 or 4" is directly above "some" in the MS as it replaces this word

¹³⁸parenthetical note might be crossed out w/pencil

1 Get from Farmers specimens of Barley & Wheat
2 %V30 {May}%
3 & in the former--ap. *Bromus Secalinus* (?) %^% none
4 // %V { }%
5 of them yet out--

6 June 28--60

7 Assabet Bath & Sunset Interval--

8 On the 25th I first noticed that the
9 black willows (the sterile ones not whitened)

10 with down) were just begun to be handsome

11 //
12 with their light {ethereal} green against

13 other trees. They are now getting to be sufficiently
14 thick.

15 This month, it must be 85° at 2 pm

17 & still to make hot weather
18 wind is quite comfortable

19 June grass is now generally browned atop

```
20 //  
21 --its spikes being out of {bloom}--& old.
```

22 Herds grass out 2 or 3 days x
23 // & hear
24 I now see ^ many young birds about

25 //Young barn swallows on telegraph wire &c

26 Farmer said yesterday that he

27 thought foxes did not live so much
28

29 in the depth of the woods as on ^ hi

30 sides--where they lay out & overlook

31 the operations of men--studied thei

32 {ways}--which made them so cunning.

33 About The 21st I began to not.

34 //the festuca ovina in dry pasture--p.

35 & so {marking} a season--

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 83°--above zero
5 {is} the same Pm
6 ^The water of the Boiling spring 45°
7 Our well, after pumping 49°
8 Brister's Spring 49°
9 Walden Pond (at bottom in 4 feet water) 71
10 River at a rod from shore 77°
11 (2 pm the 1st of July the air is 77° & the river 75°)
12 I see that the temperature of the
13 boiling spring on the 6 of March 1846 was
14 also 45°--& I suspect it varies very little
15 through out the year.

16 If you {paw} {into} {sand} both by day & night you
17 find the heat to be permanently {greatest} some 3{--}
18 inches (today) below the surface--& this is about
19 depth at which the {small} tortoises place their
20 eggs-- Where the temperature is highest permanently
21 & changes least between nights & day.
22

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 // the woods themselves are darker--so
6 too with the darkness & shadow of elms
7 Seen through this clear spark-
8 ling breezy air--the fields--woods
9 & meadows--are very brilliant & fair
10 The leaves are now hard & glossy (the oldest)
11 yet still comparatively fresh--& I do not
12 but see a single acre of grass that
13 has been cut yet-- The river meadows
14 on each side the stream looking toward
15 the light--have an elysian beauty--
16 A light yellow plush or velvet as if
17 {some} gamboge had been rubbed {into} them
18 They are by far the most bright & sunny
19 looking spots--such is the color of the
20 sedges which grow there-- While the
21 pastures & hill sides are dark green--
22 & the grain fields glaucous green--
23 It is remarkable that the meadows, which
24 are the lowest part--should have this
25 lightest, sunniest, yellowest look.
26
27 Now that season begins when you see the
28 // see the river to be {so} regularly divided longi-
29 tudinally into pads, smooth-water, &
30 sparkling ripples between--in a clear day.
31

1 older
2 The ^ White Oak leaves have now a
3 blue or dark purplish bloom on their cheeks
4 {or} { prominences}--which you can rub off leaving them
5 green.

6 The grasses of sedge path--are the early sedge
7 (which is much of it turned {by} a {smut} festuca
8 ovina, & the carex siccata.

9 Bromus secalinus by Walden say yesterday X
10 Barley
11 This & that in Farmers wheat the same--
12 though some is downy & some smooth--& it does
13 not open much in bloom--because the glume
14 does not reach beyond mid. of 2d flower
15 %except a few at eve%
16 I hear no toads to speak of of late%¹³⁹-- //

17 See {in} the garden the hole in which a
18 {toad} sits by day--{drawing} It is a round hole
19 about the width of his body across, & extending
20 under one side about the length of my little
21 finger. In the main indeed {shaped} like
22 beneath
23 a turtles nest--but not so broad ^ & not quite
24 so deep. There sits the toad in the
25 shade & concealed completely under the
26 ground--with its head toward the entrance
27 waiting for evening. This was on the side of
28 a corn-hill. //

29 They are now cutting clover.

30 Scirpus subterminalis is ap. just beginning //
31 {at} the **pout** pout's nest the water being
32 very low.

33 There is a turnip like weed now in flower & going to

¹³⁹line from carat to "eve"

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 chrysopera
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 squatting fast now. %or {palustris}%
2 %?%
3 %call it {Eatonia} Pennsylvanica--No No%
4 What is the prevailing grass of Well meadow
5 now? It is not the {——}¹⁴⁰ 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 yes
11 a grain field (prob. wheat ^) by {abiel} Wheeler's
12 house--so brightly and in such a solid mass as
13 to far surpass in amount of light the densest
14 whiteweed thereabouts--& at first impress
15 you as if it were whiter than white-{weed}¹⁴¹
16 --but in fact it was not white--but a
17 very bright sunny gleam from the waving
18 phalanx of {awns}--more calculated to
19 reflect the light than any object in
20 the landscape
21 July 2d 60
22 Am to Lilies above nut Meadow--
23 The {Phasis}¹⁴² 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.

¹⁴⁰crossed-out word

¹⁴¹written over another word

¹⁴²looks 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
21 ^panting mouth--yet {mere} down greyish white
22 down as yet--but I detected another which
23 had crawled a foot one side amid the
24 bushes, for shade or safety more than 1/2
25 as large again--with small feathers & a
26 yet more angry hawk-like look. How
27 naturally anger sits on the young hawk's
28 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 Scared up a young bobolink which flies
2 //a couple of rods only--
3 A few toads still sing at eve--& I still
4 // notice on the rocks at White pond the pine
5 pollen yellowing them--though it fell some
6 3/8
7 //time ago. 7 pm river is 1 1/2--above S. L.
8
9 July 5th
10 Rain last night & all to day.--
11 I notice of late the Osmunda regalis
12 // fully grownd fresh & handsome.
13
14 July 6th rained last night
15 //
16 as well as all yesterday & some of the night before
17 3/4 of an inch has fallen.
18 // 6 am Rain 2 7/16 above S. L.
19 7 pm 3 5/8 " " --Thus 3/4 inches has raised it only
20 July 7 2 1/4 inches
21
22 7 am River 2 1/2 above S. L.
23 //
24 E. wind & hazy
25 //
26 I see a flock of some 25 crows--prob
27 //
28 the young are just grown--
29
30 Agrostis scabra x Cyperus filiculmis a day x
31 // //
32 //Rhyncospora fusca ap. beginning (see stigmas)--
33 //Glyceria elongata at little snapping turtle
34 or Hemlock ditch ap. done--say 10 days
35 pannicle not narrow now--more than G. fluitans
36 The creeping juncus of June 21 (up RR) some
37 // out say July 1st j. articulatus-like--yet not
38 erect--but creeping or ascendent
39
40 //Have beg. to gather currants 3 or 4 days.
41 //Notice a few ripe blue berries

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 they¹⁴³

¹⁴³The 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 2 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 & spring¹⁴⁴
 18 50+ still
 19 12¹⁴⁵ Dugan's 50 July 4th
 20 14 Garfield's (Morris swamp) 52 July 3d
 21 5 John Hosmers -- -- 54 -- July 4
 22 16¹⁴⁶ Assabet 54 July 7th
 23 16¹⁴⁷ 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

¹⁴⁴This text is on the previous line in MS

¹⁴⁵transposition sign around 13 and 12

¹⁴⁶6 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

14 June 30	July 3d	July 4	July 6	July 7
15 at 2 1/4 pm 83°	2 pm 82°	2 pm 83	6 am 57 to 60	7 am 56
16	6 pm 72°		2 pm 75	2 1/2 pm 76
18			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 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
22 instead of the well-- One, as Wheelers, has
23 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 <u>Brooks</u> stood thus			
7	The temp. {of the} at 2 <u>Pm</u> 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 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 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

every day & night as they prefer warmer or cooler
water. V. June[^] 30--55--also July 2d & 3d 55
The temperature of the Assabet at the
stone heaps in the middle (both at top & bottom
it being only some 3 feet deep) on the 7th of July
at 4 1/2 pm was 75° or the same as the
main stream at 2 1/2 pm

The following water also was tested.

June 30 Walden pond at bottom in 4 ft water 71 8V Aug 23 & 24
& Aug. 10th
July 4 White pond top 5 feet from shore 76 & Aug 22d
for But. Cliff%

3d Gowings swamp (edge of middle pool) 78

" " In the sphagnum 77
generally

3d Merrians cow watering place-- 83
beyond Gowings Swamp--

3d Spring in Holbrooks Ditch 58
V

Places where cows drink were ap. at this date

from 75° up to 85°

In the pm of July 3d--when the air

at our house at 2 o clock was 82°--a

breezy afternoon--the little arrow head

desert on Sted. Buttrick's Land in the Great

fields, the therm. being buried 1 3/4 inches deep

rose to 90° at 3 inches deep to 86°--Lying

flat on the surface back up--to 86-- Held

in air above to 84°

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 thermomenter 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 Lincoln¹⁴⁷ 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.

^{147}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
30 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/ 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 Hear a nuthatch in the street--so they breed //
8 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 commonly¹⁴⁸ 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.

¹⁴⁸c 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 checkerboard¹⁴⁹
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

¹⁴⁹vertical 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}¹⁵⁰ {~~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

¹⁵⁰proper 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 many¹⁵¹ 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 buoyantly on the
29 surface--but I have never discovered
30 that they withdrew under water.

¹⁵¹m written over a T

1 The fowl meadow grass is now in p.
2 & covering the islands very densely-- It has
3 a purplish tinge & a very green culm contrasting
4 with its pannicle.

5 The surface of the earth in summer is
6 painted of various shades of green--in mowing
7 some
8 & pasture & meadow & ^ waste land¹⁵² by the
9 grasses. The agrostis vulgaris of
10 pastures & hill tops is a dark green--
11 the festuca ovina a very light (even whitish)
12 green-- How rich some fields of red-top
13 at present--perfect squares it may be like
14 rich carpets spread out--& contrasting--with very
15 different tints of green next to them.

16 The true grasses (excepting the grains)
17 which thus at a distance paint the landscape
18 generally at this season or earlier--are
19 1 2 3
20 Herd's grass--red top--*agrostis scabra*--blue
21 4 5 6
22 joint (?)--June grass--*poa compressa*--
23 7 8 9
24 fowl meadow--sheep's fescue--*piper grass* (?)
25 10 11
26 vernal grass--canary grass Especially
27 nos 5--2--8--6--1-- but of these only one
28 (8) probably is indigenous. & nos 5--6--10--1
29 are now generally done

¹⁵²could be one word but I went with T. S. Eliot's spelling

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 // and as I ascended the hill at eve the
14 hickories looked even autumnal. Esp I
15 was struck by the dark--but still perfect
16 green leaf of the swamp white oak.

17 I hear this am the link link of
18 // the first bobolink going over our garden--
19 (though I hear several full strains of bobolinks
20 today as in May--carrying me back to apple-
21 sunday--but they have been rare a long
22 time) Now as it were the very cope of
23 the dark-glazed heaven{s} yields a slightly
24 metallic sound when struck.

25 I hear on all sides these days the loud tinkling
26 rattle of the mowing machine--but alas
27 the mower goes to the blacksmiths to whet
28 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

heads of the canary grass--standing high
above its yet fresh green leaves-- It forms
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)¹⁵³
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.

¹⁵³close 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 ailanthus¹⁵⁴ glandulosus (Warren's yard)
27 in its height prob. on Saturday 14th--filled the
28 // streets with a disagreeable sickish odor much
30 like that of the chestnut-- I should put
31 this--the chestnut & the Barberry together

¹⁵⁴prop spelling is ailanthus

1 July 17--60

2 2 pm to Walden--

3 The soft sand on the bottom of Walden as
4 deep as I can wade--feels very warm to my
5 feet while the water feels cold. This may
6 be partly a mere sensation--but I suspect
7 that the sand is really much warmer than the
8 water & that some creatures take refuge
9 in it accordingly--that much heat passes
10 through the water & is absorbed in the sand.

11 Yet when I let a thermometer lie on the bottom
12 quickly--& draw it up quickly I detect no difference
13 bet the temperature of the bottom & of the water at
14 the surface. Prob. it would have been diff. if
15 the therm. had been buried in the sand.

16 The air at 2 pm was 77-- Walden near //
17 the shore is 76--in the middle 74° ¹⁵⁵ when
18 I let down a therm. some 60 feet & draw it up
19 quickly I get no lower than 74° --but it may
20 have risen as it came up.

21 The night-hawks' ripping sound heard over
22 head these days--reminds us that the sky
23 is as it were a roof & that our world is limited
24 on that side--it being reflected as from a roof
25 back to earth. It does not suggest an infinite
26 depth in the sky--but a nearness to the earth
27 as of a low roof, echoing back its sounds.

28 Eleocharis acicularis still blooms-- //

29 The sternothaerus in walden has a smooth

¹⁵⁵There 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.

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 {regularly} 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 beneath this crimson canopy--beneath a crimson
2 sky-- I can frequently trace the passage of
3 a boat, a pickerel fisher--perhaps--by the
4 crimson undersides of the pads upturned.

5 The pads crowd & overlap each other
6 in most amicable fashion-- Sometimes one
7 lobe of a yel lily pad is above its neighbor
8 while the other is beneath--& frequently I see
9 where a little heart leaf (now showing
10 its green spidery rays--) has emerged by the
11 stem in the sinus of a great nuphar leaf &
12 is outspread in the very midst of it. The
13 pads are rapidly consumed--but fresh
14 ones are all the while pushing up & un-
15 rolling. {The} push up & spread out in the {least}
16 {crevice} {that} {offers}.

17 Upland haying is past p. & they are //
18 working into the low {ground}--{none} mowing on
19 the peat meadows yet.

20 I noticed on the 16 that the darkness of
21 the pipes was not obvious--the sedge is now com-
22 paritively so dark.

23 Minot who sits alone confined to his
24 room with dropsy--observed the other day
25 that it was a cold summer-- He knew it was
26 cold--the whipporwill told him so. It sung
27 once & then stopped.

1 July 20--

2 2 pm to Walden--

3 Warm weather--86+ at 2 pm (not so

4 // 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 leafets have again put

12 // forth at the extremity within a week or so

14 as in the spring-- Some of the O. 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}¹⁵⁶ 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

¹⁵⁶looks 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.

19 Both scirpus subterminalis & debilis
20 are now in {bloom} at the pouts nest, the
21 former the longest time;--the water being very low &
22 separated from the pond-- The former out for some
23 time, the latter not long.

24 Great numbers of pollywogs have apparently //
25 just changed into frogs-- At the pondlet
26 on Hubbards land, now separated from the
27 main part by a stony bar--hundreds of small
28 frogs {ar} out on the shore enjoying their new
29 state of existence--swarms of them--which
30 with constant plashing go hopping into

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. Their¹⁵⁷
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} valisneria¹⁵⁸ &

¹⁵⁷"Their" written over "They"

¹⁵⁸proper 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 The butterflies at present are chiefly on
2 the Canada-thistle & the may weed-- I see
3 on the last in the road beyond Colburn
4 hill a surprising number of the small reddish--
5 (small copper) butterflies--for a dozen
6 rods.
7

8 The Leek--will ap. bloom very soon-- I see
9 // the stigmas? I think-- What a surpriz{ing}
10 great
11 & stately plant-- Its, flower stem stands
12 now a little aslant some 15 {to} 18 inches
13 high--regular {beset} with its great thick
14 leaves--gradually {lessening} upward--to its
15 {massy} head-- It has a peculiarly columnar
16 appearance--like the leaning tower of Pisa.
17

18 Yesterday having been a rainy day--
19 the air is now remarkably clear & cool--
20 & you rarely see the horizon so distinct.
21 The surface of the earth esp looking west-
22 ward--grass grounds--pastures--& meadows
23 is remarkably beautiful. I stand in
24 Heywoods pasture West of the Leek--
25 & leaning over the wall look westward--
26 All things grass &c {are} peculiarly fresh this
27 season on ac. of the copious rains.

28 The next field on the west--slopes gently
29 from both {E} & W. to a meadow in the
30 middle-- So as I look over the wall
31

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-¹⁵⁹

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

¹⁵⁹The 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 // slope--but not smooth like {Pratts} & this
23 has 3 nerves to each glume & not so long an {arm}
24 as described. --Smooth sumach ap in p.
25 //
26 & handsome as a spiraea.
27 // The flies that rain about your head in {woods}
28 //how long? Hills (not so far off as to be blued)
29 are now a yellowish brown--from the withered heads of
30 Pastures generally a brownish tinge
31 //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.