the leaves and needles of these large trees allows water-loving insects and amphibians to live in the limited aquatic habitat. The woody edge between the upland and salt marsh provides feeding and resting habitat for small mammals, and myriad songbirds travel between the marsh and the open field. Watch for rare birds in the marsh, such as Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrows, salt marsh sharp-tailed sparrows or Virginia rails. From April through September, you may see osprey mating, incubating eggs and fledging from the impressive stick nest on the utility pole.

While you are here:
• Pack a lunch and watch for long-legged shorebirds foraging through the salt marsh.
• Observe the native plantings to see what insects are using them.
• Four-masted schooners once traveled the waters before you, on their way to Exeter. Imagine you are a captain, awaiting your cargo to set sail for Boston!

What I saw:

Geocache: Birds and Bees
Coordinates:
N43° 02' 21.0989 W70° 55' 29.5435

Navigating the Landscape
With its close proximity to homes and roads, this plot of land became overrun with exotic and invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed, black swallowwort, buckthorn and honeysuckle. Through the efforts of volunteers, Reserve staff and agencies like the Natural Resources Soil Conservation Service, this tiny piece of land has been transformed into an oasis for wildlife. Native plantings, such as dogwood, beach plums and apple trees, have brought back a variety of birds, mammals and insects to the site. As you enter the boardwalk, notice the buffer of large trees lining the small creek that empties into the salt marsh. In summer, you will experience a noticeable difference in temperature here. Shade from...