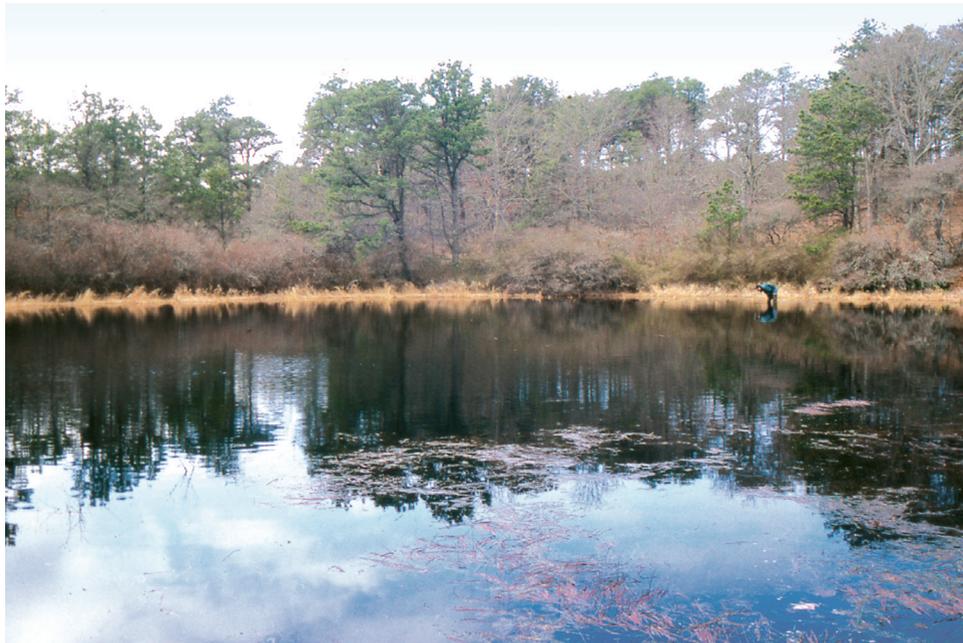


**A.**



**B.**



Photos courtesy of John Portnoy, National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore

**Figure 7.** Vernal pools on Lower Cape Cod are seasonally flooded wetlands that typically contain water in the winter and early spring when the water table is (A) high and are regularly dry in the summer and early fall when the water table is (B) low. This regime of periodic flooding and drying is vital for the life cycles of the diverse plant and animal life that inhabit these areas.