

TAKE A SECOND LOOK: THE YEAR OF BOSTON HARBOR

Two million people live less than twenty miles from one of the ornithologically richest and most varied areas in Massachusetts: Boston Harbor.

Only a few bird-watchers seem to appreciate this vast wild area next to a major metropolitan area. This rich birding resource, accessible by public as well as private transportation, is underutilized if not ignored by most bird-watchers.

Consequently, Take a Second Look will focus on Boston Harbor during 1980. In a series of field trips and seminars spanning the four seasons, Take a Second Look intends to involve bird-watchers at all levels of proficiency in a study of the populations and behavior of Boston Harbor's water birds. This should be an exciting learning experience for everyone as each becomes more familiar with the diverse birdlife of Boston Harbor and with the harbor itself.

Take a Second Look's first Boston Harbor field trip, on March 25, 1979, revealed what a single such field trip can accomplish. Six birders were introduced to the wealth of harbor birdlife for the first time. Observers discovered five Barrow's Goldeneyes, a Harlequin Duck, a King Eider, a Glaucous Gull, and a Black-headed Gull. Over 12,000 Common Eider were seen. Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage were seen in spectacular courtship displays; Gannets were observed harassing gulls and Buffleheads. Most important of all, accurate counts of all species of water birds in Boston Harbor were obtained using a multiple-party counting technique. Other than Christmas Counts, this was the first such census of Boston Harbor ever attempted.

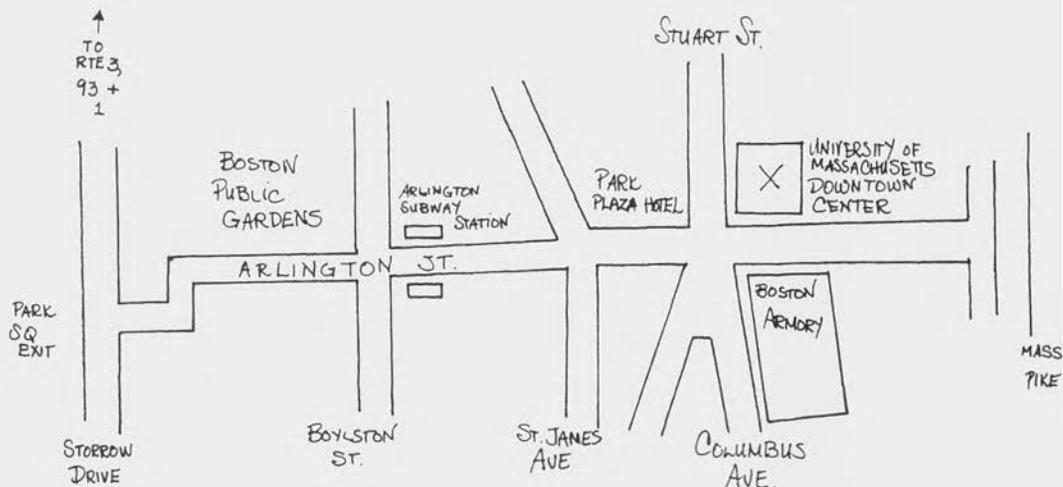
By conducting six surveys of the water birds of the harbor during 1980, TASL hopes to develop a body of data that can be used to aid efforts to preserve and enhance the harbor habitats. Each survey, which will be followed by a group tally and discussion of the day's observations, will enable people to become more familiar with the bird population of the harbor throughout the year.



Here is your schedule of TASL Boston Harbor field trips for 1980. Field trips and workshops pertaining to other aspects of bird-watching will be announced later in the year.

February 3, 7:00 p.m.:

Orientation meeting at the auditorium of the University of Massachusetts Downtown Center, 250 Stuart Street, Boston. A slide show on the water birds of Boston Harbor will be presented and the results of the Greater Boston and Quincy Christmas Counts, as they related to the Harbor, will be discussed. Goals and plans for the water bird censuses will also be discussed.



- Sunday, February 17: Survey and census of water birds.
- Sunday, March 16: Survey and census of water birds.
- Sunday, April 13: Survey and census of water birds.
- Sunday, July 20: Heron census.
- Sunday, August 3: Shore bird census.
- Sunday, November 23: Survey and census of water birds.

All water bird trips will start at 8:30 a.m. and last about five hours. Participants should bring very warm clothing and lunch. A compilation and seminar will follow every field trip. For the water bird trips, the following harbor areas and leaders have been designated:

South Harbor: Meet at Moswetuset Hummock, Squantum. David Brown: 328-3533; Leif Robinson: 237-5270.

Central Harbor: Meet at Castle Island, South Boston. Robert Stymeist: 734-1289.

North Harbor: Meet at Orient Heights MBTA Station, East Boston.
Denise Braunhardt, home: 331-6375; work: 482-0395; Craig
Jackson: 864-1917.

Nahant: Meet at MDC parking lot at the north end of Nahant Causeway.
Soheil Zende, home: 628-8990; work: 923-0941.

In mid-June, the annual Greater Boston Breeding Bird Census will once more count the harbor water birds. Although this is not a TASL field trip, the results of the survey will be added to our census reports. The 1980 Boston and Quincy Christmas Bird Counts will conclude our harbor surveys for the year.

All TASL trips are open to the public. Experienced field observers will lead the census parties, so if you are unfamiliar with Boston Harbor, or inexperienced in identifying sea birds, herons, or shore birds, these trips provide a special opportunity to learn more about the harbor and its birds. By taking part in only one of these field trips or the orientation meeting, you will lend valuable service to the project and become more familiar with Boston Harbor. Regular participation in the surveys and censuses should greatly enhance your appreciation and understanding of the richness of the Boston Harbor environment and its diverse bird life.

A nominal fee, \$1.00 per participant, will be collected for each meeting or field trip to defray photocopying, mailing, and refreshment costs.

For further information, please contact one of the following TASL coordinators:

Denise Braunhardt, 1155 Main Street, South Weymouth, MA 02190;
331-6375.

Craig Jackson, 531 Putnam Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138; 864-1917.

Soheil Zende, 380 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145; 628-8990



ERIKSON
GRAIN MILL
INC.

FULL LINE PURINA DEALER

MAIN STREET at the Bridge, ACTON 263-4733

A FULL LINE
OF
BIRD SEED
AND
FEEDERS