

THREE BAYS PRESERVATION, INC.

Monitor

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Shawn Carey

2008 Annual Bird Report from Mass Audubon

Once again, Mass Audubon conducted the monitoring of the nesting coastal waterbirds on Dead Neck Island during the summer of 2008. We were very fortunate that we had 6 different species of birds calling Dead Neck their home; Willets, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Common Terns, American Oystercatchers, and Spotted Sandpipers. It was, according to Mass Audubon, the first time American Oystercatchers nested in the area in at least 20-30 years.

For the majority of the nesting season, 14 pairs of Piping Plovers, 8 pairs of Common Terns and 18 pairs of Least Terns were observed on the island. However, because of an increase of dog, coyote, crow and Great Horned owl activity, the number of chicks who survived was very low, even though we used electric fencing around almost every nest. One of the reasons for the low productivity can be attributed to the loss of foraging habitat for the newly hatched chicks. The south side of the island near the jetty had eroded considerably during the winter and left very steep cliffs that the chicks had a hard time getting up. These high cliffs made it almost impossible for them to return to their nests. And, while they had a hard time on the south side because of the cliffs, the north side was usually full of island visitors and their boats. It was a tough summer for everyone jockeying for a good place. Next summer, we are planning on roping off a small area to enable the birds to feed on the river side of the island because winter storms, once again have dealt a severe blow to the south side of the island. In the meantime, as the birds begin to return to Dead Neck and the weather gets warmer, we are preparing for another summer. We have fencing on order and crews from Americorps standing by to help put it up. We can't wait!

Our Latest Dredge Project

In December of 2008, Three Bays Preservation finished its latest round of dredging, putting 900 cubic yards of material up on the bird nesting areas of Dead Neck Island. This material came from two separate private dredging projects in the three bay area. Over the past few winters, Dead Neck has suffered a great deal of damage due to storms and high winds. The front side of the beach has lost over 50 feet of sand and a very steep scarp has formed. The birds are having a difficult time making it down to the shoreline to feed

and then returning back up to the nesting areas. Also, the birds are finding it harder and harder to find suitable nesting areas. This sand that we receive from various dredging projects enables us to rebuild some very valuable habitat as well as build the island back up to a position of being a barrier for the land that lies behind it. Without this island, the homes and businesses that lie behind it would be totally exposed to winter storms, stronger wave action and very damaging winds. If you are considering a dredge project at your property, please consider donating the dredged material to Three Bays Preservation and help us to keep Dead Neck strong!



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Announcing the 2009 Eco-Tours of the Three Bays!



Get on the boat!!

Three Bays Preservation, Inc. is pleased to announce the third annual Eco-Tour Adventure Boat tours of the three bay area. We are once again involved with the SeaCotuit Festival. While in the past we have been co-sponsors, this year we are the sole sponsor of this very popular event.

Learn all about the ecology and history of the three bay area. See what kinds of animals and birds live in and on our bays. We will be posting more information on our website as we learn on what date the festival will occur.

2009 Spring Membership Drive

This is just a reminder that the 2009 spring membership drive will soon be underway. Please remember that to visit Dead Neck Island, you must have your membership card handy for the Three Bays Preservation staff, who will be monitoring traffic to, and usage of, the island.

If you have already renewed your membership and have not received your membership card, please contact the Three Bays Preservation office at **508-420-0780**.

THREE BAYS PRESERVATION, INC.

Preserve, Maintain & Protect

Three Bays Preservation Announces the Launch of Our New Re-designed Website!

On March 5, 2009, Three Bays Preservation launched its new website. With a crisp, clean look, we feel this represents the future of our organization. You can now make donations directly online, sign up for our E-Newsletter, and be kept up to date on all of the various projects we are involved in. We invite you to visit and look for yourselves:

www.3bays.org

Please let us know what you think! In an effort to save money and trees, we are now sending an E-Newsletter to everyone who has shared their email address with us. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter electronically, please use the unsubscribe feature and we will take you off the list. And, if you would like to be added to our email list, please send your email address to info@3bays.org.

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