

# TASL News January 2001



Take a Second Look

42 Baldpate Avenue

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http://www.szgraphics.com/tasl.htm

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## Summary totals for Boston Harbor TASL count on 7 January 2001

Species	Nahant	Winthrop	Boston	Squantum	Hough's Neck	Weymouth	Hull	Totals
R-t Loon	1		1	1	1		1	5
Com Loon	11			1			2	14
Hor Grebe	22	5	18	22		3	3	73
R-n Grebe	3	11					7	21
Gr Corm	3						2	5
D-c Corm		1						1
corm		30						30
G B Heron		1						1
M Swan			3	1			3	7
Brant	309	745	68	198	50	12	22	1404
Ca Goose	63	376		104	85	261	207	1096
Am Bl Duck	115	260	184	108	144	83	72	966
Mallard	2	75	22	1	40	64	67	271
Gr Scaup	6	11	15	925		4		961
Com Eider	1037	2329	240	1391	875	654	1234	7760
Ki Eider							1	1
Oldsquaw				5			20	25
Su Scoter	87	114	8	29	4	17	16	275
W-w Scoter	35	179	35	259	63	2	44	617
Co Goldeneye	37	95	72	251	221	119	69	864
Ba Goldeneye		2		1				3
Bufflehead	126	256	97	297	114	263	219	1372
Ho Merganser		2						2
Co Merganser			4			1		5
R-b Merganser	86	116	123	113	40	70	129	677
Ru Duck		1					45	46
S-s Hawk	2							2
Coop Hawk				1				1
unid accip			1					1
R-t Hawk	1		1			1		3
Merlin			1					1
Sanderling	97			40	1		4	142
Pur Sandp	8							8
Dunlin	4	4						8
Bon Gull	61	2		2			4	69
LB-b Gull	1							1
Razorbill							1	1
B Guillemot							3	3
B Kingfisher				1				1
Ho Lark	9	10						19
Or-cr Warb	1							1
Harbor Seal		25	2	2				29

A summary of January TASL data is at  
<http://www.szgraphics.com/tjan-sum-1982-2000.htm>.

## Weather data (1/7/2001)

*Weather:* Mostly sunny  
*Wind:* NW 8 - 16 kph (5 - 10 mph)  
*Temperature:* -3° to +4°C (28° to 38°F)  
*High tide:* 8:30 AM

## Participants (1/7/2001)

*Nahant:* Carolyn & John Marsh, Dorothy Saffarewich, Bob Stymeist  
*Winthrop:* Joanne Benard, Pat Randall, Fay & Peter Vale  
*Boston:* Ken Barney, Paula Chasan, John Damian, Mike Fager, Kathy Foley, Ellen Stutman, Soheil Zendeheh  
*Squantum:* Dave Lange, Dave Larson  
*Hough's Neck:* Andrew Joslin, Michelle Parham  
*Weymouth:* Maury Hall  
*Hull:* Fred Bouchard, Job Dekker, Paul FitzGerald, Jennifer Hill

Thanks to all the participants. Apologies to anyone whose name I misspelt or inadvertently left off.

## What is TASL?

Take a Second Look (TASL) was started in the winter of 1980 by a local group of environmentally concerned birdwatchers; our primary focus has been to survey and census the bird population of Boston Harbor throughout the year, although the winter water bird censuses have been our major activity.

The initial scheme was to use five parties to census water birds from Nahant to Hull four times per winter. Initially we covered November, February, March and April. A December census was left to the Christmas Count. The January count was skipped because US Fish and Wildlife does a midwinter waterfowl census all across the country.

Over the years it has been necessary to modify the census scheme as follows:

- The five initial routes have been divided and subdivided, so that now we are fielding ten separate census parties in order to keep the total number of hours/party afield reasonable.
- Continent wide USF&WS midwinter waterfowl censuses are performed by the state agencies in charge of wildlife (e.g., Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife). Most censusing is done from the air. However, around Boston Harbor, particularly in the vicinity of Logan Airport, no small plane flights were possible. Dubious as

numbers obtained from the air might be, the Boston numbers obtained by one observer during a ground-based sampling run simply were going to overlook a lot of birds.

As it turns out, the Massachusetts wildlife biologist in charge of the winter census, Mr Heusman, now formally requests our numbers for the January count.

- From 1985 to 1988 we only censused in January.
- In fall of 1988 we went back to a multi-census format. Maury scheduled 9 censuses that winter! Maury Hall, wildlife biologist with Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), asked me in summer of 1988 if we would like TASL censuses to be part of the larger Harbor monitoring project of MAS. I welcomed the suggestion. MAS's involvement pulled in large numbers of volunteers. Maury subsequently left MAS to work for Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and stayed on as census coordinator and data compiler for TASL.

## Useful URLs, email addresses and phone numbers

Five years ago we began posting census result to volunteers and other interested parties via email. If you know someone who does not receive email but would like to receive the data, please provide them with a copy of this.

The data is also available at the TASL OnLine web site: <http://www.szgraphics.com/tasl.htm>. Additional data sheets and (some) route maps can also be downloaded from the site.

Please mail winter census results to:  
Maury Hall  
661 East 5th St.  
South Boston, MA 02127.

TASL (Take Second Look) is organized and staffed entirely by volunteers. TASL winter data is compiled by Maury Hall. TASL email and TASL OnLine are produced by Soheil Zendeheh.

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