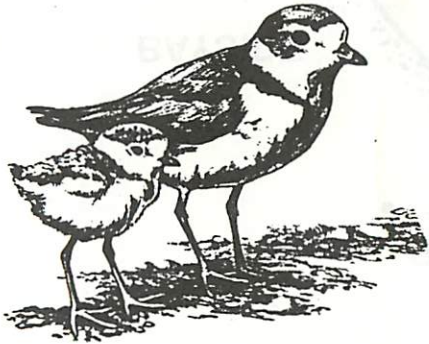


BOATERS...

ENDANGERED SPECIES NEED YOUR HELP AT GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA!



**ENTERING CLOSED AREAS IS A
VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW!**



Gateway National Recreation Area
National Park Service



Recreational boaters have a long history of helping the National Park Service protect Gateway's natural resources. By utilizing marine sewage pump-out facilities and by avoiding illegal dumping of plastics and other trash, boaters are spearheading conservation efforts in the coastal waters as well as throughout the state.

Once again, the National Park Service needs your assistance to improve and protect the environment. As the popularity of boating and other water-related activities has grown, disturbance to wildlife and their associated habitats has become an important concern.

WHAT TYPE OF WILDLIFE ARE BEING DISTURBED?

Threatened/endangered species and colonial nesting waterbirds such as Piping Plovers, terns, skimmers, gulls, herons and ibis are under increasing pressure from human activity. There are only a few places left in New York City where these birds nest. The majority of these sites are managed by the National Park Service at Gateway National Recreation Area's Breezy Point District and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Typically, these birds nest in isolated areas on small islands and beaches such as those found throughout Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway Inlet.

Some of these areas are also popular with boaters and beachgoers because of the natural beauty of the setting. It is in these sensitive areas that conflicts occur.

WHERE ARE PROBLEMS MOST SEVERE?

In New York's Jamaica Bay and Rockaway Inlet, these problems are especially evident. Although a relatively small body of water, Jamaica Bay provides unique recreational opportunity for boaters from throughout the New York City and the Long Island area. These boaters sail, cruise and fish the waters of Jamaica Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

WHAT BIRDS IN JAMAICA BAY AND ROCKAWAY INLET ARE IN NEED OF PROTECTION?

Of greatest concern are birds listed as "Endangered", "Threatened" or "N.Y. State Species of Special Concern." Species designated as endangered or threatened have experienced significant decline in population and substantial habitat loss. Species designated as species of special concern are limited or declining in New York and may become threatened in the foreseeable future.

Although boaters should avoid disturbing all wildlife while visiting the park, of particular concern are the following birds which are listed as either threatened, endangered or are of special concern: Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, Foster's Tern, Common Tern, and Least Tern.

HOW ARE BOATERS DISTURBING THE BIRDS?

While it is certainly not their intention, the activities of boaters can disturb wildlife in a number of ways. Hiking or walking on the beaches or islands may scare birds from their nest, leaving the eggs unprotected and exposed to predation and the hot sun. Walking on exposed mudflats may inadvertently disturb adult birds and chicks when feeding. On occasion, boaters release pets that enter the bird's nesting and foraging areas, chasing and possibly killing chicks.

Coupled with loss of habitat and predation, these actions can so severely stress the birds that nesting failure, malnutrition and starvation can occur.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PROTECT NESTING AND FEEDING BIRDS?

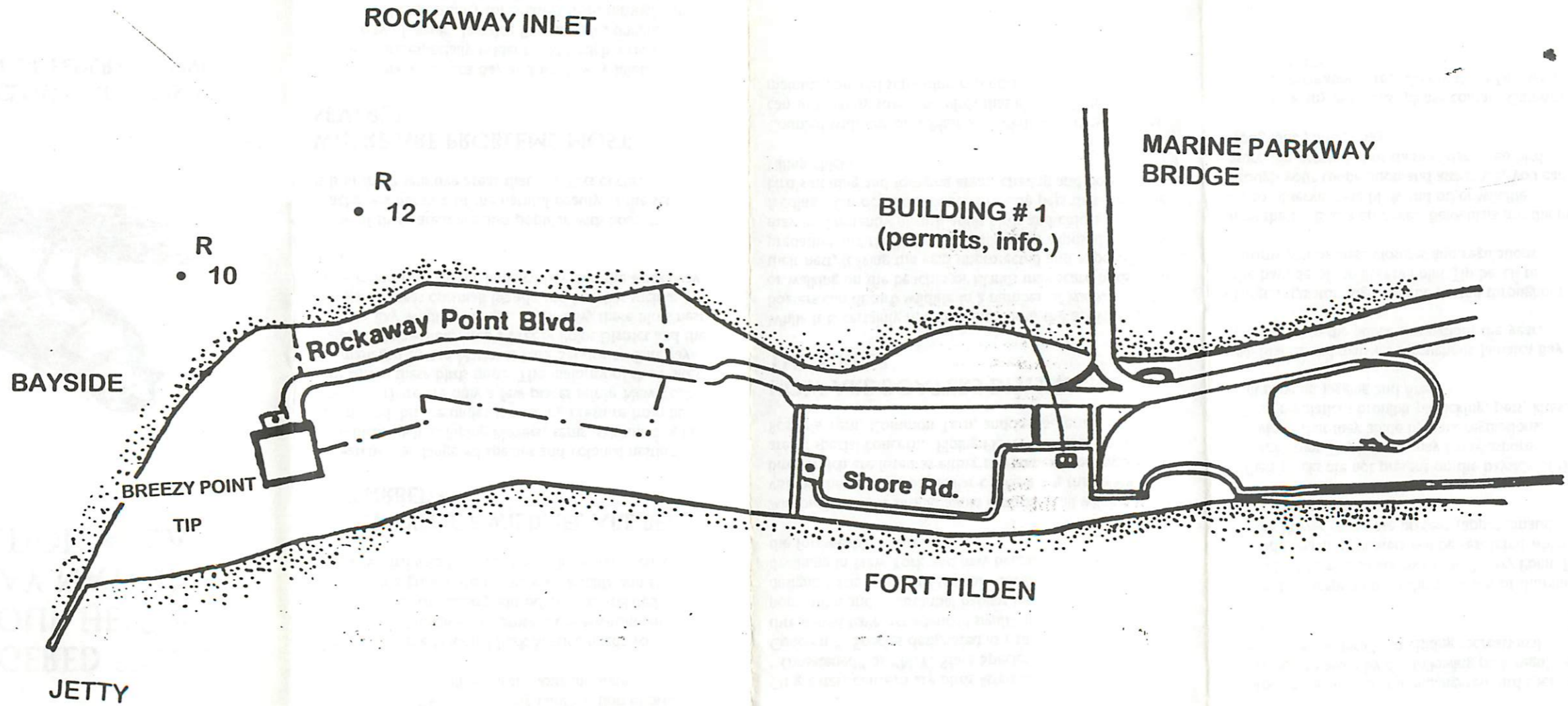
To protect threatened and endangered bird species, we ask you to abide by the following park regulations which relate specifically to visiting recreational boaters:

- ◆ With the exception of a short section of shoreline at 222nd Street, all access to the Breezy Point Tip bayside beach by boaters will be restricted while Piping Plover chicks are present (approximately May 25 through August 10).
- ◆ When chicks are not present on the bayside of the Breezy Point Tip, boaters may come ashore provided that they abide by park regulations. These regulations prohibit picnicking, pets, kites, ball playing, jogging and fires.
- ◆ All islands and marshes throughout Jamaica Bay are closed to the public throughout the year.
- ◆ Large regulatory signs will be posted throughout the bayside of the Breezy Point Tip beach to inform you of these closures and regulations.

Enjoy the birds at a distance. Binoculars are the best way to observe these birds and other wildlife. Through your cooperation and assistance, you can ensure the protection of these endangered birds throughout Jamaica Bay.

If you have any questions, please contact Gateway National Recreation Area, Breezy Point District at (718)318-4300.

MAP OF GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BREEZY POINT DISTRICT



ATLANTIC OCEAN