

# BIRDS AND BARDS

May 13-16 2010



a festival celebrating birds, poetry & nature

## May 13 - 16 at 7 am: FREE Morning Bird Walks

Explore the vital greenspaces used by migrating songbirds to rest and refuel. Guided by local experts; birders of all levels welcome. See website for meeting locations and details.



Thursday, May 13: Arnold Arboretum  
Friday, May 14: Franklin Park  
Saturday, May 15: Boston Nature Center  
Sunday, May 16: Forest Hills Cemetery

## Thursday, May 13: Festival Kick Off

8:00 – 9:30 pm: a festive evening of music, poetry & talk  
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery

Join us for a reception with refreshments at 7:30. The program starts at 8 pm with nature poetry by Susan Edwards Richmond. Next, a playful and participatory performance of improvised jazz inspired by the sounds of nature by the superb Tom Hall Quartet. Then world-renowned naturalist Peter Alden, author of 15 books on wildlife, gives an entertaining talk on his adventures around the globe and right here in Boston. Admission: \$10 donation; kids 12 and under free. Peter Alden leads a free twilight bird walk through Forest Hills at 6:30 pm!

## Friday, May 14

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Evening "Bird-a-thon" Bird Walk  
Boston Nature Center

Every year Mass Audubon volunteers conduct a state-wide bird census to count our feathered friends. Help the the Boston Nature Center's Bird-a-thon team search for both common and elusive birds to check off their list at the start of this 24-hour birding competition. You can borrow binoculars. Birders of all levels welcome. FREE!

## Saturday, May 15

10:00 am – noon: History Walk in Franklin Park

Explore Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpiece – his last large-scale urban park – with local historian and author, Julie Arrison. Hear about the glory days of Franklin Park at the turn of the century. See the views from School Master Hill, once home to Ralph Waldo Emerson. Meet at the Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse. FREE!

2:00–4:00 pm: Bards & Blooms: Interactive Poetry Hike  
Arnold Arboretum

What was Walt Whitman talking about when he said "...Lilac and star and bird twined with the chant of my soul"? Find out on this multi-sensory excursion into the blossom-filled landscape of the Arboretum. Bring a short piece inspired by nature to read aloud yourself – either your own writing or a favorite poem by someone else (less than 2 minutes, please). Meet at Visitor Center. FREE!

## Saturday, May 15 (continued)

4:30 – 6:00 pm: Family Bird Walk in Franklin Park  
Stroll with local birder and children's performer, Stephen Baird, from the Emerald Necklace Bird Club. We'll see song birds, water birds, and maybe even the Great Blue Heron! Birders of all levels welcome. Meet at the Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse. FREE!

## Sunday, May 16

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Family Concert: Peter & the Wolf  
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery

Enjoy a narrated performance of this childhood favorite performed by the master musicians of the Solar Winds Quintet. A humorous folk tale set to music by Sergei Prokofiev features the adventures of a bird, duck, cat and wolf playfully portrayed by the flute, oboe, clarinet and French horn. \$12/\$10 members; kids 12 and under free!

2:00 – 4:00 pm: Walking Tour, Forest Hills Cemetery

Discover the horticulturists of 19th century Boston – men who developed many of the fruits, flowers and trees that we enjoy today – during a tour led by historian Anthony Sammarco. Sample some of their edible creations, such as Bartlett's Pear and Downer's Late Cherry, along the way. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Meet at Main Gate. \$9

2:00 – 3:30 pm: Poetry Reading, Forest Hills Cemetery

Find out why *The Boston Globe* calls Forsyth Chapel the "coolest place to hear poetry in Boston" when Michael Casey, Danielle Legros Georges, Elizabeth McKim, and Lainie Senechal read their work. \$5

1:30 – 2:30 pm: Meet and Greet with the Birds  
Boston Nature Center

Meet some of the avian residents from Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum. This live bird demonstration allows you to see these majestic creatures up close and learn how they live in the wild. FREE!

2:30 – 3:30 pm: Bird Olympics  
Boston Nature Center

Hummingbirds can fly backwards. Ostriches can run as fast as a car. The peregrine falcon is the fastest living creature, reaching speeds of at least 124 mph. Birds can accomplish amazing feats! Join us for bird relay races, beak seed pick-up, and other fun activities inspired by the bird world. FREE!

4:00 – 5:30 pm: Birds & Bards Closing Reception  
Boston Nature Center

Gerry Wright presents "Flying free, no fences for you or me," a one person performance as Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect who designed the Emerald Necklace, and Walt Whitman, America's most influential poet and the father of "free verse." Plus refreshments! FREE!



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Map courtesy of the Boston Redevelopment Authority

- Arnold Arboretum • 617.524.1718
- Boston Nature Center • 617.983.8500
- Forest Hills Educational Trust • 617.524.3354
- Franklin Park Coalition • 617.442.4141
- Franklin Park Zoo • 617.541.5466

FREE PARKING at all sites!  
 Accessible by Orange Line T  
 (Forest Hills Station)  
 and bus: #16 for Franklin Park,  
 #21 or #31 for Boston Nature Center  
 Visit [www.massaudubon.org/boston](http://www.massaudubon.org/boston)  
 for more information.



discover, explore, enjoy...  
 1,000 acres of greenspace at  
 the end of the Emerald Necklace

Illustrations by Cheryl Warrick



Presented by the Arnold Arboretum, Boston Nature Center, Forest Hills Educational Trust, Franklin Park Coalition, and Franklin Park Zoo

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