

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, October 5, 2013

Hello to All,

Today maybe the last day of 80 degree weather for several seasons. Would that we could, bottle this weather, to uncork in the wicket days of winter that await us.

Each week brings new arrivals and new departures. As the sparrows come, the flycatchers and swifts go.

Mark Webster scoured the Island and Meadow until after noon, and added more species to our list.

### Possible Hawkwatch:

Hal Cohen has tentative plans to organize a *hawkwatch* next Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Based on wind conditions, Hal will make a decision on Friday. The location for the hawkwatch is just north of Milwaukee, on the campus of Concordia University. I have been there for a hawkwatch and the location is ideal. There is a cliff along the lakefront. The raptors are almost at eyelevel.

To quote Hal, "It is possible to see over 100 Merlins in a day and hundreds of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and other raptors including Bald and Golden Eagles. But the weather has to cooperate for a good day. Strong northwest; west and southwest winds at least 15mph make for a perfect day."

Traffic will be lightest on Sunday. It is a two hour drive. First a decision must be made about whether to venture up to Concordia, or not, on Friday. I will send out a message to the group of Wooded Island Regulars. Hopefully, those who want to go and those with transport, can be matched up for the trip.

Hal is well known as the "Hawk Guy"; just check his license plate. Hal started the hawkwatch in DuPage County that continues to this day. It will be worth the time and effort to stand beside Hal on the cliffs on Lake Michigan and identify and count raptors in migration.

Hal asked that I also mention the biannual auction sponsored by the DuPage Birding Clubs that will be held on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Cantigny, 1S151 S. Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL. It starts at 7 p.m. Admission to Cantigny Park will be free. There will be lots of birding related items up for auction and sale.

BIRDERS: 21. Karin C., Jennette, Mark W., Jennie, Jerry and Patricia, birders new to Wooded Island, Will, a Hyde Parker birder by way of Tucson, Arizona, Leo, Sally, Al L., Maddie, Eileen from Colorado on her second W.I. Walk, Susan and Sarah from Massachusetts,

Nathaniel, Karin D., Raman, Renate, Hal and Joanne Cohen, soon to depart for the winter to the warm winds of Southern California, and Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Partly cloudy. Damp earth from the heavy rains of last night and early morning. Temperature 56 – 80 F. Winds from the South 5 – 10 mph.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 46 + 2 Possible

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

This is a group report, with many birders contributing to the list. Most of the birds were seen by a least several or all the birders. Mark Webster provided his personal list for this report.

1. Canada Goose – X.
2. Wood Duck – 2.
3. Mallard – X. Many were gathered on the south steps of the Museum, including the partial albino duck.
4. Double-crested Cormorant – 2. Juveniles.
5. Great Blue Heron – 1. Reported by Mark Webster.
6. Black-crowned Night Heron – 1. One adult and the ascetic juvenile on station at the base of the Moon Bridge in the Japanese Garden. The juvenile has acquired the black crown and grey mantle of an adult. Aging in place before our eyes.
7. Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1. Seen over the East Lagoon, with crows in chase. Called by Hal as a good sized female, but the wing beats helped in the identification as a Sharp-shinned.
8. Red-tailed Hawk – 1. Immature. Seen at the start of our Walk.
9. Ring-billed Gull – X.
10. Belted Kingfisher – 1. Male. East Lagoon.
11. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – 2.
12. Downy Woodpecker – 2.
13. HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1. Male. Perched on tall snag west of the entrance to the Japanese Garden.
14. Northern Flicker – 1.
15. Red-eyed Vireo – 1. Reported by Mark.

16. BLUE JAY – 2. Calling.
17. American Crow – 8.
18. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1. Just inside the entrance to the Japanese Garden on the north side. Great views and seen by most of the birders.
19. BROWN CREEPER – 4. Working the lampposts as well as the tree trunks for bugs. Love this curved billed creature! A mascot for Druids.
20. WINTER WREN – 4.
21. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – 1. Reported by Mark.
22. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – 1. Reported by Mark.
23. Hermit Thrush – X.
24. American Robin – X.
25. Gray Catbird – 3. One gave us great views in the Japanese Garden.
26. Brown Thrasher – 1. Reported by Mark.
27. European Starling – X. A flock was reported by Mark.
28. Tennessee Warbler – X.
29. Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1. Immature. Reported by Mark.
30. Magnolia Warbler – 6. Reported by Mark.
31. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – 2. A male and female. Seen by Mark.
32. Yellow-rumped Warbler – 3+.
33. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – 1. Male. Reported by Mark.
34. PINE WARBLER – 1. Seen in the Japanese Garden.
35. Palm Warbler – X. Small flocks.
36. Blackpoll – 1. Reported by Mark.
37. CONNECTICUT WARBLER – 1. Mark had excellent views.
38. Common Yellowthroat – X. Hal found one southwest of the Rose Garden.
39. Song Sparrow – 1.
40. Swamp Sparrow – 2.
41. White-throated Sparrow – X.
42. White-crowned Sparrow – 1.
43. DARK-EYED JUNCO – 2. They're back! Two were foraging in front of the entrance to the Japanese Garden.

44. Northern Cardinal – 1+
45. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – 1. Female. Japanese Garden.
46. American Goldfinch – X. Three were together in Bobolink Meadow, chowing down seeds from tops of plants.

Possible reported by Mark:

Orange-crowned Warbler

Lincoln Sparrow

For twice a week pictorial reports on birds, bugs and plants, as well as the disturbance and change in habitat on and near Wooded Island, please visit a blog maintained by Hal Cohen, retired college professor of ecology and biological sciences. Hal visits Wooded Island several times in the week has a lot of information to share. Look for **woodedisland.blogspot.com**

Corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

This report will be recorded on eBird as a group report for the Wooded Island Bird Walks.

The Walks are free and open to one and all. They are held year round. Birders always show up on Darrow Bridge at the start times. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

The Walks start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, and at 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday.

Birders gather on Darrow Bridge, which is located south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Ample parking is available east of Darrow Bridge and is accessible from South Lake Shore Drive at 58<sup>th</sup> Street (labeled Science Drive on a small blue street sign). There is a Stop Light at 58<sup>th</sup> Street. Make a turn at the Stop Light towards the Museum. Turn Left (south) at the intersection of Science Drive and Columbia Drive. Go through the parking lot to the west end near Darrow Bridge.

Best of Birding to All,

Patricia Durkin

Chicago Audubon Society Representative

Wooded Island Bird Walks