

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, December 14, 2013

Three hardy birders braved the snow today for what turned out to be a lovely walk through the park. The weather was cloudy with constant snow, but the temperature was about 30 degrees so, relatively speaking, it wasn't too cold. The snow was the light fluffy kind that delicately coats the trees and plants as it falls, making for a beautiful wintery scene.

Three birders: Eric, Jennie and a new visitor, Paula from Uptown. We applaud Paula for making her first walk with us on such a challenging weather day.

And yes, we actually saw a few birds, including the Snowy Owl at 63rd street! We walked through the island without seeing very much, and then decided to walk over to the 63rd street pier and the south end of the outer harbor. As we crossed the soccer field we saw Doug and Copper the golden retriever walking through the other end of the field. Copper was bounding along looking like he was having a great time. From the south end of the outer harbor we saw lots and lots of Canada Geese, and another birder who we're pretty sure was Randy. We also had Bufflehead, 2 kinds of Mergansers, Goldeneye and 3 Mute Swans. We then walked over to the 63rd street pier to look for our resident Snowy Owl. As we were heading out to the pier we saw several crows in attack mode, and then we saw the Snowy flying north. It was a little hard to see her in the snow, but based upon it's shape and huge wingspan we were sure it was the Snowy! This made the walk through the snow completely worthwhile!

Here's today's list:

- Cardinal
- Chickadee
- Goldfinch
- Tree Sparrows (flock near the 63rd street pier)
- Junco
- Ring Billed Gull flyovers
- American Crow
- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Goldeneye
- Red-Breasted Merganser

Hooded Merganser (2 female in the outer harbor)

Red-Tailed Hawk (on Wooded Island)

Mystery Hawk -- sitting in a tree on Heron Island. We couldn't get a good enough look to ID it. It had a white breast, seemed to have a short tail, and it also seemed to be mostly grey on the back, but with the weather conditions as they were we could be wrong.

Mute Swans (3)

Snowy Owl

Good birding everyone!

Jennie