

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, January 19, 2013

Hello to All,

We had a good morning of birding, considering the season and the changing weather expected this evening. The RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER and her companion DOWNY WOODPECKERS, are still around the south end of Wooded Island. A BROWN-CREEPER was seen in the Meadow. The male RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS are in their best plumage and displaying for the females nearby. A pair of HOODED MERGANSERS was seen in the Marina and another pair was in the Outer Harbor.

BIRDERS: 9. Phil Drake, a new Hyde Parker, and recent Hawaiian resident, Mark, Karin D., Leo, Carol, Jennette, Jennie, Karin C. and Pat.

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow and 66th St. Outer Harbor.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Temperature in the upper 20's and low 30's F. Wind gusts from the WSW. There is a thin layer of ice over most of the lagoons. The Outer Harbor was mostly ice free.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 22

Canada Goose – X. Large concentration on the grass along the north side of the 59th Marina.

Mallard – X. In the Marina, and Outer Harbor, and any remaining open water in the lagoons.

Redhead – X. At least two males and females in the Outer Harbor.

Greater Scaup – X. Outnumbered the Lesser Scaup in the Outer Harbor. With a scope, the fine spectaclled feathering on their back, can be appreciated. They are indeed a beautiful bird.

Lesser Scaup – X Outer Harbor.

Bufflehead – 2. Outer Harbor.

Common Goldeneye – 2 in the Marina and a few in the Outer Harbor.

HOODED MERGANSER – 4. A male/female pair in the Marina and another pair in the Outer Harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser – 9. Five males and two females in the Outer Harbor. Two females in the Marina, who likely needed a break from the displaying males.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK – 1. Identified by Mark, and it made a low pass over Wooded Island, southwest to northeast.

RED-TAILED HAWK – 1. Flew over the Outer Harbor and disturbed the gulls.

Herring Gull – 2. Outer Harbor.

Ring-billed Gull – X

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – 1. Female. Seen hanging upside down from a last sprig of red berries in the thin sticks of sumac, southwest of the Rose Garden.

Downy Woodpecker – 2. A male & female near the Red-bellied Woodpecker.

American Crow – A few were about Jackson Park. A couple was savaging a fish carcass on the sandy beach that has formed along the east side of the Outer Harbor.

Black-capped Chickadee – 5. One on Wooded Island and four in the Meadow.

BROWN CREEPER – 1. Climbing on the trio of tree trunks, near the fence, at the south end of the Meadow.

American Tree Sparrow – 10. South end of the Meadow.

Dark-eyed Junco – 6. A flock south of the Rose Garden on Wooded Island.

Northern Cardinal – 1.

American Goldfinch – 2.

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 58th Street (labeled Science Drive on a small blue street sign). There is a Stop Light at 58th 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