

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, January 26, 2013

Hello to All,

There was a report of a Great Horned Owl on Wooded Island yesterday. The owl was in the Japanese Garden. It flew across the East Lagoon while being harassed by crows. We did not see an owl today.

We did see a golfer hitting balls on the frozen East Lagoon.

Phil located the FEMALE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. She was along the east shore of Wooded Island. She flew along the low branches near the water's edge from the east gate of the Rose Garden south. This section of the Island held the most birds. There were a flock of NORTHERN CARDINALS in the same area.

Eric convinced Mark, Phil and I to join him and Tobias on the 63d St. Beach. We used scopes to view the Common Goldeneye, Common Mergansers, and a Herring Gull on an ice float. The nearby dune yielded three AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS.

On my drive north along Lake Shore Drive I clocked a flock of CANADA GEESE flying low over the Lake at 48 MPH, a tad over the speed limit.

Another birder and I made a search of Northerly Island, where one and perhaps two SNOWY OWLS were reported this morning, but we did not find an owl. A photo was taken of the owl along the rocky beach south of the Adler Planetarium. It was harassed by crows and flew south. Hopefully the owl will stay along the lakefront for a while.

BIRDERS: 11. Phil, Mark, Maddie, Jennie, Karin C., Leo, Carol, Jennette, Eric, Tobias, and Pat.

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, 66th Outer Harbor, Lakefront from LaRabida to 63rd St. Beach and Dune.

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 18- 29 F. Wind mild from the NW 5- 10 MPH.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 22

Canada Goose – X. 9 in a flock that flew over the East Lagoon. 20 in the remaining open water on the west side of the Music Bridge. Others were in the Outer Harbor and close to shore in the Lake.

Mallard – 24 at the north end of the Outer Harbor.

Scaup? – 1. I think Mark mentioned one in the Outer Harbor.

Common Goldeneye -X. 5 in the Outer Harbor with more along the Lakefront.

Common Merganser – X. Small flocks out on the Lake.

Red-breasted Merganser – 1 female Outer Harbor.

RED-TAILED HAWK – 1. Flew over the Outer Harbor and landed in a tree NW of LaRabida. It stayed a couple of minutes to check out the birders, then flew south.

FALCON SPECIES - a large dark falcon like bird flew from the lakefront across Heron Island on its way SSW. It was possibly a Peregrine Falcon.

American Coot – 1. Outer Harbor.

Ring-billed Gull – X.

Herring Gull – 2. One was in the Outer Harbor and the other was on an ice float in the Lake.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – 1. Female. Wooded Island.

Downy Woodpecker – 2. One was heard and the other seen near Wooded Island.

American Crow – 3.

Black-capped Chickadee – 1.

BROWN CREEPER – 1. Mark may have spotted in the small trees near the shore, in the soccer field section. I did not confirm sighting with Mark.

European Starling – 1. Wooded Island.

American Tree Sparrow – 3. 63rd St. Dune.

Dark-eyed Junco – 4. Wooded Island.

Northern Cardinal – 9. 5 near the Red-bellied Woodpecker on Wooded Island and 4 more near the south shore of the East Lagoon.

American Goldfinch – 3. Wooded Island.

House Sparrow – 1. Wooded Island.

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