

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

Hello to All,

The “Big Find” of the day was a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Mark saw it climbing the trunk of an oak tree, southwest of the Rose Garden. Two DOWNY WOODPECKERS were nearby, as were several NORTHERN CARDINALS. I clearly heard the “small tin horn” call, the Roger Tory Peterson description, that is embedded in the brains of many a birder. I consulted Paul Clyne about the sighting. It is indeed a rare find for Jackson Park post migration. Paul found one at the Music Bridge on December 7, 2007. The latest previous date for that year was October 23<sup>rd</sup> which is within the normal migration period. Paul wrote, “Yesterday’s datum is thus the second post October date that I know of for Jackson Park, even though the species is variably widespread in winter in northern Illinois.” Fantastic! Congratulations to Mark Webster!

The placid IMMATURE RED-TAILED HAWK was perched on the same tree as last week, south of the Japanese Garden. It has a faint speckled belly band. The chest is mostly white. I am becoming increasingly convinced that this is the One Eyed Red-tailed Hawk that was first noticed in Jackson Park in the late summer of 2011. The Right eye is now healed from its infection and inflammation. It was on the mend, but took months. There is something about this hawk’s general appearance and behavior that makes me think our gal recovered and has learned to survive as a Hyde Parker.

BIRDERS: 6. Karin C., Jennette, Mark, Karin D., Raman, Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow and 66<sup>th</sup> St. Outer Harbor

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature in the middle 20’s F. Wind from the WNW. All lagoons and the 59<sup>th</sup> St. Marina are frozen. Most of the Outer Harbor is frozen, with remaining open water at the lake entrance.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 18

Canada Goose – 11 at the start of our walk. Several hundred flew into the Outer Harbor, in aerial disarray and vocal disturbance, following the sound of a small propane cannon shot heard from the direction of the golf course. The source of the sound was not confirmed.

Mallard – X. Outer Harbor.

Redhead – X. Outer Harbor.

Greater/Lesser Scaup – X. Outer Harbor.

Bufflehead – X. Outer Harbor.

RED-TAILED HAWK – 1, possibly 2. The first was on Wooded Island and a second sighting was over the Outer Harbor. It may be the same hawk. It was confirmed by Randy Shonkwiler later that two Red-tailed Hawks banded together to fend off crows on Wooded Island. Could this be the beginning of a local tale of “Red-tails in Love” story?

American Coot ~ 4. Outer Harbor.

Ring-billed Gull – X. Occasional fly overs of Wooded Island and a flock on the ice in the Outer Harbor.

Herring Gull ~ 5. Outer Harbor.

Downy Woodpecker – 3. Wooded Island.

American Crow – 8.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1. Wooded Island.

American Robin – 3. Wooded Island near the North Bridge.

European Starling – 3. South end of Bobolink Meadow.

American Tree Sparrow – 14. 10 on Wooded Island spotted by Mark. 4 in Bobolink Meadow.

Dark-eyed Junco – 2.

Northern Cardinal – 7.

American Goldfinch – 6. Wooded Island, southwest of the Rose Garden.

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