

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, January 7, 2012

Hello to All,

We came dangerously close to tying Doug Anderson's infamous record of seeing zero birds on Wooded Island. Actually, this fact was always a comfort to me. How could I go lower than zero? One day I was telling Rosemary Snow, the lady who likes to wear purple, and who argued like a Philadelphia lawyer, on the morning the Rose Garden fence was saved. I told Rosemary about Doug's record of zero birds on Wooded Island, in the dead of winter, and how I could not get any lower than that figure. Rosemary thought a moment, then said, "Well, you could find a dead bird, and that would be sort of a minus number." What could I say? Bested by Rosemary once again. **OUR SINGLE BIRD ON WOODDED ISLAND WAS THE AMERICAN CROW.**

We noted that two of the three PURPLE MARTIN HOUSES were missing, along with their poles. The wooden house and pole remained. During the week, I corresponded with Zhanna Yermakov, the manager for the Chicago Park District's Department of Natural Resources. Zhanna informed me that the poles and houses were removed by Chicago Park District employees. The Houses were deemed to be in a state of disrepair. New poles and houses are expected to be replaced in the coming weeks.

Zhanna did encourage birders to report any concerns and abnormal conditions and findings to the CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT HOTLINE: (312) 742-PLAY(7529). It would be a good idea to keep this number on your cell phone directory.

BIRDERS: 11. Karin C. Rick, Sally, Jennette, Leo, Carol, Jennie, Ron from Pennsylvania, Gary and Lynn from LaGrange, IL, and Pat.

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

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

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 20's to low 30's F. West winds. Lagoons were frozen over with a coat of thin ice.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 14.

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose – X

Mallard – 3. Males in the 66th St. Outer Harbor.

CANVASBACK – 1. 66th St. Outer Harbor.

Redhead – x. 66th St. Outer Harbor. 6 males with females.

Greater Scaup – X. 66th St. Outer Harbor. Mostly females.

Lesser Scaup – 1. 59th St. Marina.

Bufflehead –1. 66th St. Outer Harbor. Male.

Common Goldeneye – . 59th St. Marina. Several in the 66th St. Outer Harbor.

Hooded Merganser – 2. 59th St. Marina. A male and female. FOY bird for Ron.

Red-breasted Merganser – 2. 59th St. Marina.

American Coot – 1. 59th St. Marina.

Ring-billed Gull – x. Few flyovers.

Herring Gull – 1. On the edge of the frozen North Lagoon, near Darrow Bridge.

AMERICAN CROW – 2. Our savior on Wooded Island. Another was seen in the parking lot of the 66th St. Outer Harbor.

This report has been recorded on eBird. As always, corrections, additions and comments are welcome. Please note that the Wooded Island Walks are on Wednesday will start later, at 7:15 a.m. due to the later sunrise. The Saturday walks start at 8 a.m.

The group gathers on Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, south end of the Columbia Basin (North Lagoon); south side of the Museum of Science & Industry.

Good Birding!

Patricia Durkin  
Chicago Audubon Society Representative  
Wooded Island Bird Walks