

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, February 25, 2012

Hello to All,

The Rose Garden floor has been stripped and burned and now resembles a ballroom. There are a few back bench logs along the fence. Chicago Park District is reported to be preparing to plant over 22,000 plants. The Wooded Island steward is planning a survey of all the remaining trees on the Island over several Saturdays in March. The three Purple Martin houses have been replaced by brand new structures. All is being readied for spring, and birders are anticipating migration.

The WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was very active in the Inner Harbor. He was diving and swallowing down mussels whole. This was a Lifer for Eric and Jennie. And a very handsome young male he was. I say was, because on Tuesday, Paul C. discovered the bird dead on a thin ice float in the Inner Harbor. The body was not recovered so that a necropsy could be done in hopes of discovering the cause of death, or at least to rule out possible causes. He was a celebrity in the local birding community, and many birders came to Jackson Park to see him. We were very saddened by his death.

While we were watching the White-winged Scoter snacking away, a group of COMMON GOLDENEYES were swimming nearby. Three males tilted their heads back in unison and displayed for the females, who reacted like Alice Kramden (Audrey Meadows) on The Honeymooners with a slightly bored swim by.

We also saw the two sleeping CANVASBACKS in the Outer Harbor. It's too bad that we could not see their fine Roman nebs.

BIRDERS: 7. Karin C., Leo, Carol, Eric, Jennie, Jennette and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

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

WEATHER: Sunny. Cold. Temperature in the 20's F. Winds NW 8 - 18, changing later to SW.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 17

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose - X

Mallard - 6. Male/Female pairs in the East and West Lagoons & Marina.

CANVASBACK - 2. Males. Outer Harbor.

Greater Scaup - X 66th St. Harbors.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - 1. Immature Male. Inner Harbor . RIP

Bufflehead - 3. Outer Harbor.

Common Goldeneye - 2 Males in East Lagoon. Male/Female pair in Marina. Pairs in Harbors.

Common Merganser - Small flock. Lakefront off of 66th St. Harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser - 1 Male in Marina. 6 Males & 1 Female in East Lagoon.

Ring-billed Gull - X

Herring Gull - x

Monk Parakeet - Heard.

Downy Woodpecker - Heard.

American Crow - 3.

Black-capped Chickadee - Heard.

American Tree Sparrow - 2. West of Rose Garden.

Northern Cardinal - Heard.

As always, additions, corrections and comments are welcome.

This report will be filed on eBird.

The Wooded Island Bird Walks begin each Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. and on Wednesday morning at 7:15 a.m. from Darrow Bridge.

All are welcome.

Best of Birding,

Patricia Durkin

Chicago Audubon Society Representative

Wooded Island Bird Walks