

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, March 16, 2013

Hello to All,

The major sighting of the morning was the young MALE HARLEQUIN DUCK swimming solo along the south side of the 63rd Street pier. Karin Cassel and Jane Masterson discovered this duck while walking out on the pier Thursday morning of this week. All winter long, birders have been scouring the lakefront, hoping for the sight of a Harlequin Duck. When the news was posted on IBET, all the “chasers” made their way to 63rd Street pier to find this one duck. Congratulations to Karin and Jane. With the Northeast wind at our back, on the day of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, we spent some time with the Jackson Park Harlequin. He came close to the pier so that the chestnut border down the center of his head was visible.

A flock of 23 NORTHER SHOVELERS rested overnight in the East Lagoon. I counted 13 males and 10 females. This is a high count, although not a record breaking count for Jackson Park.

This has been an outstanding year for WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS all along the lakefront and nearby waters. Three were near the Outer Harbor.

What added to the fun of birding Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow this morning was the company of young John and his father Dan. John brought along his first ever field guide, which was the exact same first field guide that I owned, and still have: “Golden Guide BIRDS”, Copyright 1949, Published edition 1956. It sold for \$2.95. I got mine for \$1 when I purchased my first bird feeder at Gee Lumber Company on West 79th St. I have my copy with me as I type this report. Young John asked me a question that I found hard to answer: Do certain birds like to build a nest in certain trees?

BIRDERS: 13. Dan and his young son John, Karin C., Jennette, Leo, Phil, Jennie, Henry, Eric, Al, Sally, Maddie, and Pat

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, 63rd St. Pier, and Outer Harbor

WEATHER: Cloudy. Temperature steady at 36 F. Winds NNE 10 – 20 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 26

Canada Goose – X

GADWALL – 2. East Lagoon

Mallard – 5

NORTHERN SHOVELER – 23. Lagoons.

Redhead – X. Outer Harbor

Greater Scaup – X

Lesser Scaup – x

HARLEQUIN DUCK – 1. Male. 63rd St. Pier

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – 3. Outer Harbor.

Bufflehead – X

Common Goldeneye – X

Hooded Merganser – 4. Lagoons

Red-breasted Merganser – X. Lagoons and Harbor.

HORNED GREBE – 1. Outer Harbor.

American Coot – 1

Ring-billed Gull – X

Herring Gull – 3. Outer Harbor.

MOURNING DOVE – 2. Japanese Garden. Not a regular sighting on Wooded Island.

Monk Parakeet – 4

Downy Woodpecker – 2.

American Crow – 3.

American Tree Sparrow – 3

SONG SPARROW – 2.

Northern Cardinal – 9

Red-winged Blackbird – Heard

Common Grackle – 1.

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