

## Wooded Island Bird Report for Saturday, March 30, 2013

Hello to All,

The weather is warmer and the birds and birders are returning to Wooded Island.

Sid, our photographer, was with us today. Some of his pictures are attached.

The NORTHERN SHOVELERS have remained in the lagoons in good numbers. SONG SPARROWS were seen and heard. EASTERN PHOEBES were seen, and a couple of FOX SPARROWS. COMMON REDPOLLS were reported by Phil along the northwest edge of Wooded Island. They were there, and then they were gone. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were seen and heard, although only a few.

A JUVENILE RED-TAILED HAWK seemed to be birding the birders. The Hawk followed the group from the Rose Garden, and kept an eye on us as we crossed the soccer field. It beat us into Bobolink Meadow and perched low and within close range as we passed. Sid's photos are attached of this hawk. By its placid behavior, and tameness, I believe that it is our One-eyed Hawk from the past two years. The right eye is completely healed as shown in the photos.

The *Purple Martin* monitors were inspecting the three houses near Darrow Bridge, in anticipation for the return of this wonderful swallow, that bring spring upon its wings.

In the 66<sup>th</sup> St. Outer Harbor, FOUR CANVASBACKS were actively diving.

BIRDERS: 20. Karin C., Sally, Jennette, Rick, Jennie, Leo, Carol, Phil, Sid, Renate, Shawn, Caryn, Marilyn, Laurie, Eric, Emily and young John our newest birder returned, Maddie, Randy and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

WEATHER: Mostly Sunny. Temperature 38 to 54 F. Winds from the South 10 to 20 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 33

Canada Goose – X.

Wood Duck – 1. Male. He flew in quickly and touched down only a second or two in the East Lagoon. He may have spotted the Red-tailed Hawk perched high on a snag at the southeast corner of Wooded Island and changed his mind about staying around.

Mallard – 8+. Pairs were in all lagoons and in the Harbor.

NORTHERN SHOVELER – 20. Lagoons. (Photo)

CANVASBACK – 4. 2 Males/2 Females – 66<sup>th</sup> St. Outer Harbor.

Redhead – X 66<sup>th</sup> St. Outer Harbor.

Lesser Scaup – 6+ 66<sup>th</sup> St. Outer Harbor.

Bufflehead – 2 in Lagoon. Several in the Outer Harbor. (Photo)

Common Goldeneye – 2. In Lagoon. Others in the Outer Harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser – 16. Mostly in male/female pairs in the lagoons. Others in Outer Harbor. (Photo)

HORNED GREBE – 3. 1 in the East Lagoon and 2 in the Outer Harbor.

RED-TAILED HAWK – 1. Juvenile. Our Mascot for today. (Photos)

American Coot – 2. In the Marina. Over a dozen in the Outer Harbor.

KILLDEER – 4. Golf driving range.

Ring-billed Gull – X

Monk Parakeet – 2. (Photo)

HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1. North Woods of Bobolink Meadow.

EASTERN PHOEBE – 2 (Photo)

American Crow – 3. Not many around today. Found a decapitated bird northeast of the Music Bridge. Peregrines favor decapitation.

Black-capped Chickadee – 1.

Brown Creeper – 1. On Wooded Island.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – 2.

American Robin – 70+ Large flock on the soccer field. Small numbers on land and small flocks in flight overhead.

European Starling – 1. Changing to summer plumage (Photo)

FOX SPARROW – 2.

SONG SPARROW – 13.

Dark-eyed Junco – 2.

Northern Cardinal – 5.

Red-winged Blackbird – 7. (Photo)

Common Grackle – 2. (Photo)

Brown-headed Cowbird – 6.

House Finch – 1.

COMMON REDPOLL – 2.

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