

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, April 20, 2013

Hello to All,

Snow coated the landscape at dawn and we were dressed for winter weather in the middle of spring. But the birds are returning and we had a great morning of birding.

After leaving the Japanese Garden, Mark walked close to the shore and called out an OSPREY! Mark noticed the silhouette in flight. Soon we were all scanning the sky and saw the raptor having an exchange with a pair of crows over the south end of the East Lagoon. This Osprey was not intimidated one bit by the crows. It circled back towards us, then looped around to the south end of the lagoons. We thought it left, but not so fast...it flew across the center of Wooded Island, with a shiny white fish in its talons, and headed north.

Nine species of sparrows were seen. White-throated and Song sparrows held the highest numbers.

It was great to see that the GREEN HERONS have returned. They were checking out the branches over the water for potential nesting sites.

The female RUDDY DUCK and female GREEN-WINGED TEAL in the East Lagoon stayed all morning and we were able to see them from various viewing spots.

A SANDPIPER skirted the southeast shore of Wooded Island.

BIRDERS: 11 Jennie, Jennette, Al, Leo, Carol, Rick, Phil, Mark, Karin D., Ron, and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

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

WEATHER: Sunny. Cold. Temperature in the low 30's F. Winds: W NW 10 – 15 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 59

Canada Goose – X. Observed a goose turning eggs in the nest.

Wood Duck – 2. A male/female pair. East Lagoon

Mallard – 6+

Northern Shoveler - 10. East Lagoon

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – 1. Female. East Lagoon. Identified by Mark.

Greater Scaup – 10. Outer Harbor

Lesser Scaup – 4. Outer Harbor

Bufflehead – 8. Outer Harbor

Hooded Merganser – 1. Male. Outer Harbor

Red-breasted Merganser – 50. Lagoons and Outer Harbor.

RUDDY DUCK – 1. East Lagoon. Spotted by Mark.

Pied-billed Grebe – 10. 8 in the lagoons and 2 in the Outer Harbor

HORNED GREBE – 1. In breeding ear plumage. West Lagoon.

Double-crested – 5. Fly overs of lagoons.

GREEN HERON – 3. First noticed by Karin D. and Carol along the shores of the East Lagoon.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON – 9. Seven were perched on Heron Island, and two along the south shore of Wooded Island.

OSPREY – 1. Spotted by Mark. Hunting over the lagoons. Caught a fish.

Red-tailed Hawk - 1. Fly over of Wooded Island

Hawk, Accipiter species – 1. Reported by Mark in flight near Wooded Island.

American Coot – 19. Lagoons and Outer Harbor.

SANDPIPER SPECIES – 1. East Lagoon. Likely a Spotted Sandpiper.

Ring-billed Gull – X.

Herring Gull – 3. Two near Wooded Island in flight and one in the Outer Harbor on a dock.

Caspian Tern – 1. Lagoons

Mourning Dove – 1. Wooded Island, near Japanese Garden.

Monk Parakeet – 2. One was perched on light fixture near the golf driving range.

BELTED KINGFISHER – 3. A male/female pair around the lagoons, and a surprise to have another female fly low over the Outer Harbor and perch briefly on a dock post.

RED-BELLED WOODPECKER – 1. Spotted by Carol in the Rose Garden.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 6. Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow.

Downy Woodpecker – 4. Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow.

Northern Flicker – 4. Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

Eastern Phoebe – 1. Many more last week.

American Crow – 4.

Purple Martin – 8. Around the white houses near Darrow Bridge.

N. Rough-winged Swallow – 1.

Barn Swallow – 2. A close up view on a bird in flight near the Music Bridge.

Brown Creeper – 4. Wooded Island.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 10.

Hermit Thrush – 15.

American Robin – X. Nest building near entrance to Japanese Garden.

Brown Thrasher -1. South of Japanese Garden. Spotted by Al

European Starling – 3. Plus fly overs

Yellow-rumped Warbler - 10

PALM WARBLER - 2

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH – 1. Found along the Meadow fence near a puddle.

Eastern Towhee – 1. Male. Rose Garden. NE corner. Spotted by Karin D.

Chipping Sparrow – 1.

Field Sparrow – 2.

Fox Sparrow – 2.

Song Sparrow – 5.

Lincoln's Sparrow – 1. Near the Meadow. Reported by Al.

Swamp Sparrow – 6. Most in the Meadow near the fence.

White-throated Sparrow – 8.

Dark-eyed Junco – 1.

Northern Cardinal – 3.

Red-winged Black-bird – 3+.

Common Grackle – 6.

Brown-headed Cowbird – 5. Wooded Island.

American Goldfinch – 4.

Muskrat – 1. Going into its burrow along the south shore of Wooded Island. Noticed by Jennie.

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