

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, April 27, 2013

Hello to All,

It is amazing that so many birders were in one place, at one time, and everyone had a really great time! It was fun to be part of the group that would break off into subsets, and then form again into larger groups; some lingering to study a discovered bird and to photograph it, and then regrouping again with other birders. Birders helped each other “get on” a bird, and conversations were suspended by mutual understanding, when a bird of interest perched out in the open for us to admire.

Hal Cohen took the attached photographs during our Walk this morning for our enjoyment.

The OSPREY made a repeat visit to Jackson Park. At the end of our walk the raptor was spotted over the North Lagoon, flying twenty feet above the water. The Osprey has been seen over the lagoons during the past week, as reported by other birders and fishermen.

Our CASPIAN TERN showed us how he catches a fish, and can swallow it, whole, in flight, and in one gulp. Birders stood only a few feet away to witness the dramatic low flight and then quick plunge of the tern that came up with a large dark colored fish. I heard a birder call the fish a Round Goby, which is an invasive fish that was introduced into the Great Lakes around 1990.

Some birders saw a SORA north of the Japanese Garden. This bird has been seen in the same area this past week by Karin Cassel and Jane Masterson.

We saw two dinner plate size turtles and one salad plate size turtle. Two were climbing onto a log near Turtle Island, in the southeast corner of the East Lagoon. A dinner plate size turtle was seen on a log along the western shore of Wooded Island, in the West Lagoon. Names mentioned for the turtles were Painted and Sliders.

Next Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, it's “All Hands on Deck” for the 39th Annual Illinois Spring Bird Count. This is a very exciting event. Everyone can contribute to this citizen science project. The Illinois Natural History Survey provides a website to allow both the thousands of volunteers, and other interested parties with the ability to view the data collected. The data generated from the Spring Bird Count can be used to estimate changes in populations of species throughout the State.

**BIRDERS:** 34! Liz, Maddie, Andre, Raman, Hal and Joanne, summer Hyde Park residents, Karin C., Jennie, Rick, Carol, Leo, Jennette, Marilyn, Laurie and their Michigan friends Monte and Kris, Al, Eric G. and son Tobias, Mark W., Mariam from Indiana, Renate, Betsy D., Kim, Phil, Kurt, Niels, Bill, Barbara, Mary M. and Eric, Mary and daughter Lisa, and Pat.

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

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

WEATHER: Sunny with steadily warming temperatures in the middle 40's to upper 50's F. Winds were mild from the southeast at 5 to 10 mph.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 61

Canada Goose – Common. A family unit was seen along the south bank of the West Lagoon caring for four goslings.

Wood Duck – 4. Two male/female pairs in the lagoons.

Mallard – Common. In pairs.

Blue-winged Teal – 6.

Northern Shoveler – 5.

Lesser Scaup – 2. A male/female pair in the North Lagoon.

Bufflehead – Outer Harbor.

Hooded Merganser – 1. Female. Outer Harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser – 3.

Pied-billed Grebe – 4.

Double-crested Cormorant – 5.

Green Heron – 5.

Black-crowned Night Heron – 10.

OSPREY – 1.

Cooper's Hawk – 1.

SORA – 1. Wooded Island. North of the Japanese Garden.

American Coot – Common

Spotted Sandpiper – 2.

Ring-billed Gull – Common. Fly overs in Outer Harbor.

Herring Gull – 3. Fly over and Outer Harbor.

Caspian Tern – 1, possibly 2.

Monk Parakeet – 12.

Chimney Swift – 2.

Belted Kingfisher – 1.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 2.

Downy Woodpecker – 4.

Northern Flicker – 5.

Eastern Phoebe – 1.

BLUE JAY – 1. Seen and heard near Rose Garden. Uncommon for Jackson Park. Occasional sightings during migration.

American Crow – 5.

Purple Martin – 4.

Tree Swallow – 1+.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 5.

Barn Swallow – 8+.

Black-capped Chickadee – 5. Discovered an active nesting tree hole.

Brown Creeper – 2.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Common.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 3.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – 1. Male. Tree on the east side of the north end of the golf driving range. We stood at the fence to see him.

Hermit Thrush – 3.

American Robin – Common.

GRAY CATBIRD – 1. Along the shore of the Meadow between Heron Island and the Music Bridge, was reported by several birders.

Brown Thrasher – 2. One beautiful rustic bird was on the grass near the Eastern Bluebird.

Orange-crowned Warbler – 1.

Yellow Warbler – 11.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 17.

Palm Warbler – 7.

Waterthrush species – 1. Likely a Northern but not observed well or long to confirm. Was located by AI along the north bank of the Meadow, northeast of Heron Island and southwest of the Music Bridge.

Chipping Sparrow – 2.

Field Sparrow – 4.

Savannah Sparrow – 1.

Song Sparrow – 2.

Lincoln Sparrow – 1.

Swamp Sparrow – 3.

White-throated Sparrow – 3.

Northern Cardinal – 4.

Red-winged Blackbird – 3.

Common Grackle – 3.

Brown-headed Cowbird – 4.

American Goldfinch – 2.

House Sparrow – 3. Outer Harbor.

Outer Harbor:

Pied-billed Grebe – 1.

Double-crested Cormorant – 2.

Canada Goose ~ 10.

Mallard – 3.

Blue-winged Teal – 1. Male.

Lesser Scaup – 10.

Bufflehead – 10. 2 Males & 8 Females.

Red-breasted Merganser – 2.

Hooded Merganser – 1 Female.

American Coot – 15

Spotted Sandpiper – 1.

Ring-billed Gull – Common.

Herring Gull – 2.

Barn Swallow – Common. Often perched on docks for easy viewing.

House Sparrow – 3.

Special thanks to Mark Webster and Al Legzdins for sharing their personal list of sightings with me for this report.

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