

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, July 13, 2013

Hello to All,

This was just a nice bird walk with no celebrities; humans, birds or whatever. A quiet walk minus the thirty thousand concert goers from last week. The Soccer Fields appear in good condition.

“No Fishing” signs are posted on the two entrances to the Japanese Garden. The signs may be the proverbial closing of the barn door after the horse left. The big orange Koi fish was not seen in the pond. Blue Gills have replaced the Bullhead Catfish fingerlings.

Eric was into bugs today. He identified a *female Widow Skimmer*. Later the identity of a *Grapevine Beetle* was confirmed.

BIRDERS: 10. Hal, Sally, Eric, Leo, Mark, Kurt, Terra, Raman, Karin C. and Pat

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

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 68 – 83 F. Winds east 5 – 10 mph. Humidity 68%

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 44

Mark Webster shared his list of sightings for this report.

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X. A flock of 17 were on the grass in the Japanese Garden, near the pine trees.
2. Mallard – X. In eclipse molt. One adult mallard had white patches on its head and back of its neck. It was a member of a flotilla of seven mallards in the East Lagoon.
3. Double-crested Cormorant – 4. Occupied the high snag at the southeast end of Wooded Island. One would occasionally take a swim in the East Lagoon.
4. Great Blue Heron – 3. One fly over. One in the East Lagoon and one in the West Lagoon, seen from the South Bridge.
5. Green Heron – 3. One adult was on the nest near the North Bridge. Another adult was in the East Lagoon near Turtle Island and the other adult was in the West Lagoon.

6. Black-crowned Night Heron – 1. A juvenile was waiting for us near the Moon Bridge in the Japanese Garden. It perched on the walking stones.
7. Spotted Sandpiper – 1. East Lagoon.
8. Ring-billed Gull – X. Fly overs.
9. Caspian Tern – 1. On aerial patrol of the lagoons.
10. ROCK PIGEON – 7. A flock flew over Wooded Island. We do not regularly see them on our walks.
11. Monk Parakeet – 2. On the light covers at their stick nest near the golf shack.
12. Chimney Swift – X
13. Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1. A quick buzz by on Wooded Island.
14. Downy Woodpecker – 3
15. Eastern Phoebe – 1
16. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – 2. Near shore of Soccer Fields
17. Eastern Kingbird – 4
18. Warbling Vireo – 2.
19. Red-eyed Vireo – 1 Heard.
20. American Crow – 2. Others heard.
21. Purple Martin – X
22. N. Rough-winged Swallow – X
23. Cliff Swallow – X. Near the Music Bridge.
24. Barn Swallow – X
25. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1, possibly 2. Wooded Island.
26. House Wren – 2
27. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Heard. Nest intact but no one home.
28. EASTERN BLUEBIRD – 1. In the trees south of the parking lot and around the Marina.
29. American Robin – X
30. Gray Catbird – X
31. European Starling – X. Three good sized flocks were seen.
32. Cedar Waxwing 2. Heard. We have not found a nest this summer.
33. Yellow Warbler – 3. Others heard. An adult was flying around with a juvenile near the shore of the Soccer Fields.

34. Common Yellowthroat – Heard.
35. Song Sparrow – 3
36. Northern Cardinal – 3. Others heard.
37. Indigo Bunting – 4.
38. Red-winged Blackbird – X
39. Common Grackle – 2
40. Brown-headed Cowbird – X
41. Baltimore Oriole – Heard. Observed a juvenile near the shore of the Soccer Fields.
42. House Finch – 2. A male and a female/immature. Near the Rose Garden.
43. American Goldfinch – X
44. House Sparrow – 2

For twice a week pictorial reports on birds, bugs and plants, as well as the disturbance and change in habitat on and near Wooded Island, please visit a blog maintained by Hal Cohen, retired college professor of ecology and biological sciences. Hal visits Wooded Island several times in the week has a lot of information to share. Look for **woodedisland.blogspot.com**

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

