

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, July 27, 2013

Hello to All,

During the past week, the pond in the Japanese Garden was restocked with two dozen Koi fish. A *juvenile Great Blue Heron* was affixed to the Pond. It even chose to perch in the crown of a bordering tree rather than flying away, if its space was violated by humans. *Twenty mallards* were also in the pond, and may have sought shelter there during the night. A surprise was to find two just fledged *Green Herons* perched on a pine tree branch over the water. There likely was undetected nest nearby, so these birds were a week or two older than the fuzzy heads seen in the nest north of the Japanese Garden.

Occasionally we will see the *partial leucistic young Mallard* with a group of other Mallards. It was in the East Lagoon this morning. There are white patches on the head and neck of this duck and the bill is orange in color.

Another occasional sighting was seen in the East Lagoon: an *immature or female Hooded Merganser*. She has remained a summer resident in the harbors and lagoon.

BIRDERS: 9. Karin C., Kurt, Rick, Jennie, Mark, Leo, Carol, Raman and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Partly Sunny. Temperature 53 – 67 F. Winds NW 10 – 20 mph. Relative Humidity 64%

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 36

Mark Webster shared his list of sightings for this report.

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X
2. Wood Duck – 8. Three were in the lagoons and five were seen in flight over Wooded Island.
3. Mallard – X
4. HOODED MERGANSER – 1. Female. East Lagoon.
5. Double-crested Cormorant – 4.
6. Great Blue Heron – 2.
7. Green Heron – 3.

8. Black-crowned Night Heron – 4.
9. Ring-billed Gull – X
10. Caspian Tern – 2.
11. Chimney Swift – X
12. Downy Woodpecker – 2.
13. Eastern Kingbird – 6. Adults feeding at nest on south end of Heron Island.
14. Warbling Vireo – 1.
15. American Crow – 5.
16. Purple Martin – X.
17. N. Rough-winged Swallow – X
18. Barn Swallow – X
19. Black-capped Chickadee – 2.
20. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1. Snap west of entrance to Japanese Garden.
21. House Wren – 1.
22. American Robin – X
23. Gray Catbird – 2.
24. European Starling – X. Large flock flights, aerial ballet formation.
25. Cedar Waxwing – 3.
26. Yellow Warbler – 2.
27. CHIPPING SPARROW – 1. Heard by Randy Shonkwiler.
28. Song Sparrow – 4.
29. Indigo Bunting – 1.
30. Red-winged Blackbird – 1.
31. Common Grackle – 1.
32. Brown-headed Cowbird – 1.
33. Baltimore Oriole – 2. Juveniles.
34. House Wren – 1.
35. American Goldfinch – 1.
36. House Sparrow – 1.

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