

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, July 6, 2013

Hello to All,

The inconvenience caused last Saturday by the George Lucas and bride Mellody Hobson affair, was nothing in comparison with what awaited the birders this Saturday. The Park District allowed an all day and evening concert to be held on the Soccer Field, by the “Chosen Few” musicians. The gates opened at 7 a.m. Family set up tents and shelters. Smoke from grills hung in the air. Police were at every intersection, plus private armed security guards. The entire parking lot south of the Museum was under the control of the event hosts who were charging \$20/car. 30,000 people were expected to attend. Thousands were present by 8 a.m. A TURKEY VULTURE was seen circling the area. This is an annual event. Access was strictly controlled this year and the crowd was much larger. Fencing was all around the perimeter of the Park and blocked crossing the South Bridge.

The nearest parking was on Harper Ave. We stayed on Wooded Island. Eric, Chelle and Mark gained access to the Meadow area. The Island has never been so secured.

In the Japanese Garden, *a single orange Koi* was seen. The fish is growing with each passing week. Randy Shonkwiler said that the small schools of fish in the pond are *Bullhead Catfish fingerlings*.

Randy found a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH on Wooded Island earlier in the week, and it stayed around for us to see today.

As we were leaving Wooded Island by the North Bridge, we met *Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle*. She and a companion were enjoying a stroll and doing some birding on Wooded Island. I told Toni that I was a big fan of hers. Jennie voiced agreement and asked when she would run for Mayor. She chuckled and said that she is only running for her present job.

BIRDERS: 9. Karin C., Jennie, Mark, Pat, Eric and his mother Chelle from Maryland, Karin D., Raman, in arm sling, and his mother Varsha from Houston.

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

PLACES: Wooded Island

WEATHER: Partly Sunny. Temperature 71 – 83 F. Humidity 64%, Winds South 5 – 10 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 39

Carol and Leo Herzenberg, and Mark Webster shared their lists of sightings for this report.

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X
2. Wood Duck – 4. East Lagoon.
3. Mallard – 18+ young
4. Double-crested Cormorant – 2
5. Great Blue Heron – 5
6. Green Heron – 2. Adult on nest.
7. Black-crowned Night Heron – 2
8. TURKEY VULTURE – 1
9. Ring-billed Gull – X. Fly overs.
10. HERRING GULL – 1. 59th St. Marina
11. Caspian Tern – 2
12. Mourning Dove – 1
13. Chimney Swift – X
14. Downy Woodpecker – 4. All female.
15. Eastern Kingbird – 5
16. Warbling Vireo – 2
17. Red-eyed Vireo – 2
18. American Crow – 2
19. Purple Martin – X
20. N. Rough-winged Swallow – 3
21. Cliff Swallow – X
22. Barn Swallow – X
23. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1, possibly 2. East and later West paths in the center of Wooded Island. Randy Shonkwiler reported a sighting earlier in the week.
24. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Heard.
25. American Robin – X. Young are out and about on their own.
26. Gray Catbird – X
27. European Starling – X. Flocks of up to 20 perched together on snags.
28. Cedar Waxwing – 3
29. Yellow Warbler – X
30. Common Yellowthroat – 1 male and other heard.

31. Song Sparrow – 2
32. Northern Cardinal – X
33. Indigo Bunting – 1 male perched in Rose Garden. 3 heard in Japanese Garden.
34. Red-winged Blackbird – X
35. Common Grackle – 4
36. Brown-headed Cowbird – 4
37. Baltimore Oriole – 6
38. American Goldfinch – X
39. 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