

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, August 10, 2013

Hello to All,

It was a nice morning for birding, and our visitors from afar added to the enjoyment and fun of seeing some of our resident birds. Randy Shonkwiler birded and bug-searched solo this morning and reported hearing a GREATER YELLOWLEGS and a WILLOW FLYCATCHER in Bobolink Meadow.

Randy also caught sight of the “night watchman” in the Japanese Garden: a juvenile BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, perched on a rock, near the Koi-filled pond. The pond was restocked with two dozen Koi a couple of weeks ago. The submerged algae are providing a place to hide for the fish. But the herons are very patient hunters, with great concentration.

BIRDERS: 16. Karin C., Mark W., Jennie, Rick, Carol, Leo, Kurt, Karin D., Raman, Hal, Joanne, Jennette, Mark from West Miami, FL, an active member of Tropical Audubon, Eileen from Grand Junction, CO, an avid birder and her son Nathaniel, a resident of the South Loop, and Pat.

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

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: A perfect summer morning! Sunny. Temperature 72 – 78 F., Mild winds from the North, 5- 10 mph. Relative Humidity: 58%.

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 – 1. Female. Fly over.
3. Mallard – X.
4. Double-crested Cormorant – 4. Perched on tall snag at the SE end of Wooded Island.
5. Great Blue Heron – 2.
6. Green Heron – 4. Three adults and one juvenile.
7. COOPER’S HAWK – 1. Chased by crows over the west side of the Museum. Headed in a NW direction, possibly to the friendlier confines of Hyde Park’s Nichols Park.

8. SPOTTED SANDPIPER – 1. Great views as it toured the East Lagoon, starting from the North Bridge.
9. Ring-billed Gull – X.
10. Caspian Tern – 1.
11. Monk Parakeet – Heard near golf driving range nest. We really would have liked to show them off to our visitors. Unpredictable characters.
12. Chimney Swift – X.
13. Downy Woodpecker – 2.
14. EASTERN PHOEBE – 2. Chasing one another SE of Darrow Bridge.
15. Eastern Kingbird – 3 +.
16. Warbling Vireo – 1.
17. Red-eyed Vireo – 2.
18. BLUE JAY – 1. Fly over. Spotted by Mark Webster.
19. American Crow – X. Increasing numbers with each passing week.
20. Purple Martin – X. Houses abandoned for the season. A few flying about.
21. N. Rough-winged Swallow – 3.
22. Barn Swallow – X.
23. Black-capped Chickadee – Heard by Mark Webster.
24. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1. Very busy in the trees west of the entrance to the Japanese Garden.
25. American Robin – X. Young and adults.
26. Gray Catbird – 1. Others heard.
27. European Starling – X. Flocks always around. Perches on a snag like tree ornaments.
28. Cedar Waxwing – 5+. We never did find a nest this summer.
29. Yellow Warbler- 1. Others heard.
30. Song Sparrow – X.
31. Northern Cardinal – 3. Others heard.
32. Indigo Bunting – 2. A male and a female. Wooded Island.
33. Red-winged Blackbird – Heard.
34. Baltimore Oriole – 1. Female. Reported by Mark Webster.
35. American Goldfinch – X.

36. House Sparrow – 4. On Wooded Island.

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