

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, September 14, 2013

Hello to All,

Fall weather was felt at the beginning of the Walk, but by the end we had returned to summer. Some warblers are around, but the lament is that the number per species is scant.

One of the headliners of today's Walk, was a fly-by, ADULT WHITE SNOW GOOSE. A Canada Goose provided an escort on each of its' wingtips, as the trio flew low over the East Lagoon, in a south to north direction, passing over Darrow Bridge. The birders on the North Bridge were just a few feet lower than the geese. Hope it stays in the area for a while longer.

An ADULT MALE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBER stayed just above the birders for all to see. It was south of the Japanese Garden.

The woodpeckers were well represented. An ADULT RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, and a JUVENILE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER were on Wooded Island. The Adult favored the snag on the east side of the Island, near the center. It was the same snag that the bird was seen perched on last week. The juvenile was in the interior of the Island. A YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was seen on the Island. A number of DOWNY WOODPECKERS and NORTHERN FLICKERS were seen, along with the single female HAIRY WOODPECKER.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS zoomed just above the heads of the young soccer players.

A fight broke out. A COOPER'S HAWK and a pair of BELTED KINGFISHERS got in it. There was a lot of darting and dashing about in the air, and much exchange of name calling and "signifying" language. Fortunately, when all was said and done, there was still one Cooper's Hawk and two Belted Kingfishers on the East shore of Wooded Island.

Another tree has fallen on Wooded Island. A large Cottonwood that once stood on the center of the Island, in the northwest area, split and crashed over the center foot path. The trunk had multiple compound fractures. The birds will miss this mighty tree. It provided many a nesting site, and a place to rest and hide.

Sid, our birder/photographer was with us today. Some of his photos are attached. I greet Sid at the beginning of the Walk. Then he just blends into the birders and seldom is heard from again; until he shares his wonderful photos with us.

We are a lucky group of birders to have so much skill, expertise, and talent with us on these Walks.

BIRDERS: 18. Karin C., Mark W., Sid, our photographer, Kurt, Jennie, Chris, local boy of Brooklyn and Prospect Park therein, Phil, Hal and Joanne C., Kelly and George and docile canine companion "Maverick", Leo, Eric and Tobias, Maddie, Karin D., and Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 52 – 74 F. Wind SSW 5-10mph. Relative Humidity 50%

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 45

Mark Webster, Hal Cohen and Eric Ginsburg shared their list of sightings for this report.

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X
2. SNOW GOOSE – 1.
3. Mallard – X. The partial cephalic albino duck was with Mallards in the North Lagoon.
4. Double-crested Cormorant – 7. The number on the snag at the southeast end of Wooded Island increases throughout the morning. One cormorant attempted a landing twice on the cormorant snag. It circled the East Lagoon like a plane coming in to land, but both attempts were aborted at the last second. It finally found a perch of its own, north of the cormorant snag. What are the internal workings of that group dynamics?
5. Great Blue Heron – 1. (Photos)
6. Green Heron – 2.
7. Black-crowned Night Heron – 2. The fearless juvenile held to its post on a rock near the Moon Bridge in the Japanese Garden. It will not flush as people pass close by. Its Zen like composure is becoming a source of concern. (Photos)
8. Cooper's Hawk – 1.
9. Ring-billed Gull – X.
10. Chimney Swift – X.
11. Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2. (Photo)
12. Belted Kingfisher – 2. (Photo)
13. Red-headed Woodpecker – 1. One adult and a juvenile. (Photo)
14. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – 1.
15. Downy Woodpecker – 5.

16. HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1. Female. Confirmed by several birders.
17. Northern Flicker – 5.
18. Eastern Wood Pewee – 1. Possible. Reported by Mark.
19. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – 1.
20. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – 1. Possible. Reported by Pat D. It was seen on the northeast side of the Rose Garden. That yellow throat is a striking contrast to the pearl white belly and under the tail covert feathers. Wing bars present. Yellowish face. Could not clearly see the yellow spectacles though. But a warbler it was not.
21. Warbling Vireo – 1+
22. American Crow – 1 +
23. Black-capped Chickadee – 2 + others heard.
24. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1.
25. Wren Species – 1. Possible Marsh. Quick glimpse along water's edge of soccer field. The head cap was dark.
26. Swainson's Thrush – 4. (Photo)
27. American Robin – X.
28. Gray Catbird – 1 +.
29. Brown Thrasher – 1. Outside the west fence of the Japanese Garden.
30. European Starling – 1.
31. Cedar Waxwing – 8. In a single flock, seen by Mark and Maddie.
32. NORTHERN PARULA – 1. Adult. (Photo) Note how lower yellow mandible blends into the yellow throat. Sibley notes that this marking is unique to Parulas.
33. Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1. Immature. Reported by Mark.
34. Magnolia Warbler – 2. (Photos)
35. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – 1. Adult Male. Seen close up by all birders. Location was on Wooded Island, south of the Japanese Garden. The warbler flew a few times across the birders on the paved path. (Photos)
36. Black-throated Green Warbler – 1. Adult. Male. Seen near the South Bridge, on the southeast path. (Photo)
37. Palm Warbler – 1 possibly 2. Reported by Mark.
38. Bay-breasted Warbler – 2.

39. American Redstart Warbler – 2.
40. Song Sparrow – 1.
41. Lincoln's Sparrow – 1. Reported by Mark. (Photos)
42. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – 1. Reported by Mark.
43. Northern Cardinal – 2.
44. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – 1. Female. Southwest corner of Wooded Island.
45. American Goldfinch – X.

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