

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, September 21, 2013

Hello to All,

I grew up in the Auburn Park/Gresham neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. That would be St. Leo Parish for those who are familiar with that manner of identifying home base. There was a clan named Cummings and another clan named Goings. Believe it or not, they were first cousins. During migration seasons, I recall those two families and how we experience Comings and Goings with the bird life in Jackson Park. The swallows are gone. The Red-headed Woodpeckers stayed for their usual two to three weeks, and then moved on. The family of warblers is arriving in their predicted order. We are waiting for the Druid like Creepers and Kinglets to appear any day. We cling to our heron sightings each week, and have developed a particular fondness for the Zen student Black-crowned Night Heron that guards the path to the Moon Bridge.

We did well as a group of birders to come up with a total species count of 40. Hal Cohen and Mark Webster were not with us this week. They usually deploy themselves in search of birds into the interior of Wooded Island and into the nooks and crannies along the shore and our usual route. Our count would have been a bit higher were they with us.

The Canada Geese flocks are enlarging. They are practicing water landings.

There is a special looking Northern Cardinal hanging around the east side of the Rose Garden. It appears to be a juvenile. The body is pale gray. The beak is coral and it has rhubarb colored tail. Perhaps a change in diet will brighten it up a bit.

BIRDERS: 21. Karin C., Liz, Al, Jennie, Kurt, Sally, Mark, Sandra, Melanie, Cheryl, Carole, Judy, Leo, Phil, Diana, Erica, Raman, Eric, Rick, Berthold, and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 60 – 64 F. Winds NNE/NW 10 – 15 mph. Relative Humidity 60%.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 40

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

This is a group report, with many birders contributing to the list. Most of the birds were seen by a least several or all the birders.

1. Canada Goose – X.

2. Mallard – X. The partial cephalic albino duck was alone in the East Lagoon near Heron Island.
3. Double-crested Cormorant – 9. One still perches on the “penalty” branch away from the rest of the group that claims the snag on the southeast side of Wooded Island as their own. They can be viewed up close from the Rose Garden by looking east and up.
4. Great Blue Heron – 2. West Lagoon.
5. Green Heron – 2. West Lagoon.
6. Black-crowned Night Heron – 1. Juvenile. The student of Zen at the foot of the Moon Bridge in the Japanese Garden.
7. Cooper’s Hawk – 1. Juvenile. Perched on snag southwest of the Rose Garden. Glided into the interior of Wooded Island.
8. Ring-billed Gull – X. Fly overs.
9. Chimney Swifts – X. Fly overs. Still with good numbers to see.
10. BELTED KINGFISHER – 2. A male and female that can squawk and fly at the same time.
11. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – 2.
12. Downy Woodpecker – 2.
13. HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1. Male. Reported by Phil. Located on the southwest corner of Wooded Island.
14. Northern Flicker – 1 to 2. Very vocal on Wooded Island. Unafraid of the Cooper’s Hawk. Perched out in the open.
15. LEAST FLYCATHER – 1. Eye-ring noted by Al. At the South Bridge.
16. Eastern Phoebe – 2. Eric reported one of them.
17. Warbling Vireo – 1.
18. Red-eyed Vireo – 1. Seen close up by several birders. It was near the shore southeast of the South Bridge.
19. American Crow – 8+.
20. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – 1. Seen by all the birders. On a dead trunk along the east path of Wooded Island. Karin C. was delighted to see it so close. It seemed not to care that almost two dozen sets of eyes were gazing upon it.
21. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – 1. Reported by Al near the Music Bridge.

22. Swainson's Thrush – 1.
23. American Robin – X.
24. Gray Catbird – 3.
25. European Starling – X. A flock of a dozen birds.
26. Cedar Waxwing – X. A small flock flew over Wooded Island.
27. NORTHERN PARULA – 1. First Winter Female. Overhead of birders. No doubt on this call. On east side of Wooded Island.
28. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – 1. Spotted by Pat on east side of Wooded Island.
29. BLACK-THROATED BLUE – 1. Male. Seen by Al at along the path, near the north fence of Bobolink Meadow.
30. Yellow-rumped Warbler – 7.
31. Palm Warbler – 1. On ground and in short trees along the soccer field.
32. Black-and-white Warbler – 3.
33. American Redstart – 3.
34. Northern Waterthrush – 1.
35. Wilson's Warbler – 1.
36. Song Sparrow – 1.
37. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – 4. West fence of Rose Garden.
38. Northern Cardinal – 5.
39. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – 1. Female. Spotted by Phil along the east side of Wooded Island.
40. 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