

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, September 28, 2013

Hello to All,

The weather was ideal for a morning of birding. Still, the variety and number per species, remain low. But with an enthusiastic group of birders, what was on the Island was found. The Meadow continues to be rather bird less.

The *tame juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron* is now a local celebrity. It had its own cadre of seven paparazzi photographers, clicking away, with tripod anchored cameras. He maintained his stance and poise throughout the morning photo shoot; stationed at the north base of the Moon Bridge. Although darling, this fearless behavior is a concern for its survival.

The *male Belted Kingfisher* stayed around the East Lagoon all morning. As we stood on the Music Bridge, he was perched on the horizontal branch, with a Double-crested Cormorant at the end. Suddenly the Kingfisher flew straight up in the air; hovered a second, then plunged into the water. He was able to take flight from under the water, with a little silver fish in its bill. This great show won the cheers of the birders who saw the action.

Also on the Music Bridge we met Sid Padgaonkar, our official photographer, and his parents, who listened politely to all the praise that we heaped on Sid.

BIRDERS: 22. Karin C., Sally, Mark W., Hal, Fran A. (first time birder to Wooded Island), Kurt, Al L., Carlos and Joan (first time birders to Wooded Island) Tom, John (NYC Central Park birder), Rick, Berthold, Phil, Diana, Jennie, Eric, Tobias, Mary M and Eric, Betsy, and Pat. We met Al Stokie and Randy Shonkwiler on Wooded Island and exchanged sightings.

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

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature 57 – 82 F. Wind South 10 – 15 mph.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 43

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. Mark Webster, who birded until 11:30 a.m., shared his list.

1. Canada Goose – X.
2. Wood Duck – 2.
3. Mallard – X.

4. Double-crested Cormorant – 7. Five soccer parents wanted to know the name of this bird.
5. Great Blue Heron – 1.
6. Black-crowned Night Heron – 2. Our “star” juvenile in the Japanese Garden. Mark located the other one.
7. Cooper’s Hawk – 2. One flew over the birders southwest of the Rose Garden.
8. Ring-billed Gull – X.
9. Mourning Dove – 1. Reported by Mark.
10. Chimney Swift – X. Numerous and low flying.
11. BELTED KINGFISHER – 2. Males.
12. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – 2.
13. Downy Woodpecker – 1.
14. Northern Flicker – 5.
15. Emp Species – 1.
16. Eastern Wood Pewee – 1.
17. Eastern Phoebe – 2.
18. Eastern Kingbird – 1. Juvenile.
19. PHILADELPHIA VIREO – 1. Seen by Mark and a few other birders.
20. BLUE JAY – 2.
21. American Crow – X.
22. Black-capped Chickadee – X.
23. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -1.
24. House Wren – 2.
25. WINTER WREN – 1. Reported by Al Stokie.
26. Swainson’s Thrush – 1.
27. American Robin – X.
28. Gray Catbird – 2.
29. Brown Thrasher – 1.
30. European Starling – X.
31. Magnolia Warbler – 2.
32. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBER – 1. Male. Reported by Mark and Randy.
33. Yellow-rumped Warbler – 6.

34. Palm Warbler – 1.
35. Bay-breasted Warbler – 1. Spotted by Hal in the Japanese Garden, and seen by other birders, thanks to Hal.
36. Blackpoll - 7.
37. Song Sparrow – 5.
38. Lincoln's Sparrow – 1. Reported by Mark.
39. Swamp Sparrow – 1. Rose Garden. Reported by Al Stokie.
40. White-throated Sparrow – 5.
41. White-crowned Sparrow – 1. Immature. Reported by Al Stokie.
42. Northern Cardinal – 5.
43. American Goldfinch – 4.

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

