

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, October 8, 2011

Hello to All,

Today was picture-taking day with our local celebrity, Randy Shonkwiler, the Discoverer of last week's Green-tailed Towhee. I have written an article for the Chicago Audubon Society's newsletter "Compass." Markus's fine photo of the Towhee will accompany the article. Randy agreed to some picture taking. To accommodate schedules, we reversed the direction of our walk, and started in Bobolink Meadow. Randy and Hal found two BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS in the trees along the east shore of the East Lagoon, that is, southeast of Darrow Bridge. A single handsome BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was found by Randy in the wooded area at the north end of Bobolink Meadow.

We proceeded to the south end of Bobolink Meadow where Randy pointed out the spot where he first caught sight of the Green-tailed Towhee. There are two small trees along the Lagoon side of the Meadow. On one of these stunted trees Randy saw a rufous-crowned towhee with a white throat and greenish back, perched in the morning sun. We stopped to hear the tale and asked questions of Randy. Photos were taken of Randy near the Place of Discovery. We moved on to Turtle Island. Photos were taken of Randy and Marcus together, as Marcus pointed out to Randy where our birding group had a clear view of the now-famous Towhee.

The bird count was far less than last week's count. We are losing our summer residents and the migration is entering a later phase. After our bird report I have some more words to say about migration and traveling visitors of the human kind.

BIRDERS: 21. Randy, Hal, Joanne, Karin C., Sally, Leo, Caroline, Rick, Matthew, Linda, Jennette, Rosemary, Dick, Jennie, Marcus, Berthold, Eric, Tobias, Betty, David, Pat.

PLACES: Bobolink Meadow, Soccer Field, and Wooded Island.

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature in the 60's F. Winds from the south 12-18mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 25

Now for the Birds:

Canada Goose - X.

Mallard – 1.

Double-crested Cormorant – 1.

Great Blue Heron – 2.

Red-tailed Hawk – 1. Wooded Island.

Ring-billed Gull – X.

Monk Parakeet – 20. Flyover.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 3. Rose Garden.

Downy Woodpecker – 1.

Northern Flicker – 4.

Red-eyed Vireo – 1.

American Crow – 4.

Hermit Thrush – 3. Reported by Randy.

American Robin – 1.

Northern Waterthrush – 1. Reported by Randy.

Nashville Warbler – 1.

Magnolia Warbler – 1. Reported by Eric.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – 1. Reported by Randy.

Palm Warbler – 1.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – X (most common)

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – 2.

Savannah Sparrow – 1. Found by Randy at the south end of the Meadow.

Song Sparrow – 1. Reported by Hal.

White-throated Sparrow – X. Seen and heard.

American Goldfinch – 5. A small flock at the south end of the Meadow. Young still seeking food from parents.

As for human migration there are a few to report. Next week we are expecting the arrival of a birder from Arizona named Terry to join us. The following week, Timo, a world-wide birder from Finland, will be with us. On a migratory departure announcement, Hal and Joanne will be leaving for their home in California. They will be sorely missed by the Wooded Island Birders. Both have added so very much to our lives, and our Life Lists. Their friendship and camaraderie are gifts that we cherish. Our only solace will be to anticipate their return to Wooded Island come Spring.

This report has been recorded on eBird.

As always, corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

The Wooded Island Walks are on Wednesday at 7 a.m. and on Saturday at 8 a.m.

The group gathers on Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, south of the Museum of Science & Industry.

Good Birding!

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Wooded Island Bird Walks

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