

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, November 5, 2011

Hello to All,

A sunny but chilly morning for birding. The boats are out of the harbors and we will soon begin adding our extension trip to the 67th Street Outer Harbor, at the end of our normal walk. We car pool it over there. We are looking forward to the return of our wintering waterfowl found in the Harbor. The visit gives us a chance to bring out our scopes for closer views.

To start the show of winter avian visitors, a SINGLE MALE HOODED MERGANSER gave a solo appearance in the East Lagoon. No Great Blue Herons were found. There was an abundance of AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES seen today, in generous sized flocks. They were busy eating seeds from the heads of the prairie plants and grasses in Bobolink Meadow. Large flocks were in flight over Wooded Island. The CANADA GEESE have reclaimed the golf driving range in good numbers.

Some of us were looking forward to a trip this afternoon to Jasper-Pulaski Wild Life Refuge near Medaryville, Indiana to see the gathering of Sandhill Cranes. Although the numbers are far from the usual peak of 25,000–35,000, the weather will be pleasant, and the thrill of seeing and hearing the cranes return in the late afternoon to the pasture where they hold their social hour is a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

BIRDERS: 9. Karin C., Al, Sally, Jennie, Betty, Carol, Leo, Jerome, and Pat

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Bobolink Meadow.

WEATHER: Sunny. Chilly. Temperature in the lower to middle 50 's F. Wind from the S 5 to 10 MPH.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 23

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose – X.

Wood Duck – 1 female.

Mallard – 2. 1 male/1 female. 59th St. Marina.

HOODED MERGANSER – 1. Male. East Lagoon.

Double-crested Cormorant – 2.

Cooper's Hawk – 2. Together over Wooded Island – south end.

American Coot – 2. 59th St. Marina.

Ring-billed Gull – single flyovers.

Monk Parakeet – 1. Alone and at home on the nest at the driving range. Where were they when we needed to show them off to our visitors from Finland and Arizona? A flock flew near the south end of Wooded Island and set off the alarm when the Cooper's pair showed up.

Belted Kingfisher – 1. Worked the lagoons all morning.

Downy Woodpecker – 1. Drumming away on a large dead tree trunk on Wooded Island.

American Crow – 6.

Black-capped Chickadee – 1. On the fence of the Japanese Garden.

Winter Wren – 3. Like little brown low flying mice in the grasses. Their favorite game with birders is "Hide & Seek."

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1.

Hermit Thrush – 2.

Savannah Sparrow – 1. Seen by Al.

Song Sparrow – 3.

White-throated Sparrow – 6 +. Small flocks were found on the Island and in the Meadow.

Dark-eyed Junco – 17.

Northern Cardinal – 3.

American Goldfinch – 50. Flocks flew over Wooded Island. Large groups were in the Meadow on the prairie plants and grasses.

This report has been recorded on eBird.

As always, corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

Please note that the Wooded Island Walks are on Wednesday will start later, at 7:15 a.m. due to the later sunrise.

The Saturday walks start at 8 a.m.

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

Good Birding!

Patricia Durkin  
Chicago Audubon Society Representative  
Wooded Island Bird Walks