

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, December 3, 2011

Hello to All,

The light rain stopped just before 8 a.m. The wind was strong upon the bridges, but the Island, even in its withered and burned attire, afforded some calmness and protection.

A check beneath the Meadow pines did not yield any evidence of owl roosting.

We transported ourselves over to the 66th St. Outer Harbor, where Mark easily added a Lifer: Redhead Duck.

Liz reported seeing a Red-tailed Hawk near Darrow Bridge with a eye injury. That prompted follow up reports during the evening, which resulted in an early alert to the Wooded Island Regulars. Dawn Keller, founder of the Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation, joined in on our group's concern for the Hawk's well being, and offered advice and assistance, if a rescue was feasible. Paul C. may have seen the same troubled Hawk on Sunday.

The domestic white Muscovy Duck was swimming alone along the south shore of Wooded Island. A coyote was spotted later in the day near the boardwalk which is where this creature usually finds shelter. The Duck has been seen for the past several weeks in or near the East Lagoon, and it can fly.

BIRDERS: 10. Karin C., Jennette, Leo, Carol, Jennie, Mark, Liz, Raman, Jean and Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Wooded Island & Bobolink Meadow.
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. 66th St. Outer Harbor.

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, and 66th St. Outer Harbor.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Windy from the SSW, Temperature in the low 50's F.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 21

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose – X. 2 were in the 59th St. Marina. Large flocks came landed in the Outer Harbor after grazing on the golf course.

Mallard – 3. A male/female pair were in the East Lagoon. 1 was found in the Outer Harbor.

Redhead – 17. Outer Harbor.

Greater Scaup – 6. females. Outer Harbor.

Bufflehead ~ 6. Outer Harbor.

Common Goldeneye – 1. East Lagoon. Reported by Jennie.

Hooded Merganser – 3. 1 male leading 2 females across the East Lagoon.

Red-breasted Merganser ~16. 6 in East Lagoon. 2 in the south end of the West Lagoon. ~ 8 in Outer Harbor.

Pied-billed Grebe – 1. East Lagoon.

Red-tailed Hawk – 2, possibly 3. 1 flew over the East Lagoon from Wooded Island to the Meadow, with crows in close aerial pursuit. 1 flew over the Outer Harbor from the south. 1, possibly the same one seen flying over the East Lagoon earlier, was observed by Liz near Darrow Bridge with a eye injury.

American Coot – 1. 59th St. Marina.

Ring-billed Gull – 2 flyovers Wooded Island. Note, no gulls were on the docks at the Outer Harbor.

Herring Gull – 1 fly over Wooded Island, positively identified by Mark.

Downy Woodpecker – 3. A male/female pair were working on a horizontal tree trunk across from the south end of Wooded Island. Another was heard by Mark on Wooded Island, south end.

American Crow – 19. 12 around Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow. 7 around the Outer Harbor.

Black-capped Chickadee – 1. Working the same horizontal tree trunk along with the pair of Downy Woodpeckers.

Hermit Thrush ? – 2. A distinct eye ring was seen by Pat, but the tail was not so obvious in its perched position. The two thrushes were with a flock of Northern Cardinals that burst into flight from the shore across from the south end of Wooded Island, to Wooded Island.

American Robin – 1.

American Tree Sparrow – 1+. Wooded Island.

Northern Cardinal – 10.

American Goldfinch – 14.

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