

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, January 28, 2012

Hello to All,

The weather was a major factor in our walk this morning. From 5 to 7 a.m. a sleety snow fell. The temperature remained below freezing and that meant that the bridges and walks would be icy. We all concentrated on safety as we ventured onto the Island. Once again, we were spared a zero bird count on Wooded Island by the flight of a single CANADA GOOSE that called out on its way.

The lagoons were all frozen, although the ice is not thick enough for safe trespass. The 59th St. Marina had open areas near the docks, tunnel and walls. We found our pair of HOODED MERGANSERS in the Marina. The 66th St. Outer Harbor was a haven for CANADA GEESSE and we found our only gulls there on a dock, bunched together. They were mostly RING-BILLED GULLS. The lakefront south of La Rabida Hospital were mostly devoid of birds.

On my way home I stopped at Burnham Harbor and Northerly Island. The highlight was the discovery of a large female SNOWY OWL on the open ground, and in a very short distance from a kite flyer. Even a jogger did not displace her. She was regal and gorgeous. In the terminal building on Northerly Island, a children's area has been created in the northeast corner on the first floor. There are little tables and chairs. On one of the tables was a full size stuffed animal of a Snowy Owl. Fifty yards outside was the real thing. Everyone is aware and talking about our special winter visitors to Chicago.

BIRDERS: 7. Karin C., Sally, Jennie, Jennette, Carol, Leo and Pat.

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

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

WEATHER: Sunny. Cold. Windy and icy. Temperature 27 – 30 degrees F. Strong and gusty west winds. The sleety snow that fell in the pre-dawn hours made a baby swiss cheese pattern on the snow underfoot.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 9

Canada Goose: 1 flyover at Wooded Island. 20 in flight over the South Bridge. 5 in the Meadow. 65+ in the Marina. 100+ in and coming into the 66th St. Outer Harbor.

Mallard – 1 male. Outer Harbor.

Redhead – 1 male in 66th St. Outer Harbor. Likely others.

Scaup sp. – several in the 66th St. Outer Harbor.

Common Goldeneye – 2. Males in the Marina.

Red-breasted Merganser – 1 male Outer Harbor.

Hooded Merganser – 2. A male and female in the Marina.

Ring-billed Gull ~ 24 on a single dock in the Outer Harbor.

American Crow: 3 in the east parking lot.

This report has been recorded on eBird.

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, which is located at the south end of the Columbia Basin (North Lagoon); south of the Museum of Science and Industry.

Good Birding!

Patricia Durkin  
Chicago Audubon Society Representative  
Wooded Island Bird Walks