

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, February 11, 2012.

Hello to All,

There's no stopping these Bird Walks. They have a life of their own. Just when most of the Regulars decided that the bitter cold, ice and snow was enough to stay home, MARK WEBSTER shows up on Darrow Bridge at the usual time. After a while he figured out that we all wimped out, so he did the walk himself and produced the following report.

Never fear. Come Saturday morning at 8 a.m. someone will show up on Darrow Bridge for the Walk. It's been happening for the past 37 years.

Here is Mark's Report:

For the first time in a few weeks I was able to escape family duties and get to Jackson Park this morning. Nobody else had shown up by 8:15, so I did some solo birding. It was very cold (7 degrees according to the thermometer on the bank on 55th Street) but worthwhile. Highlights included a fine view of a male hairy woodpecker that approached along a branch to within about six feet of my head, plus a male pine siskin perched on a weed. The southern tip of Wooded Isle and the soccer fields were by far the most productive area. The full list (12 species) is given below. Feel free to distribute as you see fit.

Canada Goose

Mallard [at least 5; 2 males, 3 females]

Common Goldeneye [1 male in marina]

Gull sp. [3 single flyovers]

Hairy Woodpecker [male at south end of soccer fields]

American Crow [3]

Black-capped Chickadee [1]

Northern Cardinal [at least 6 birds, probably more]

Pine Siskin [1 male feeding with goldfinches in weeds at edge of soccer fields]

American Goldfinch [two flocks; at least 8 birds, probably more]

Northern Junco [1]

White-throated Sparrow [1]

A second woodpecker (either Downy or Hairy) was heard on Wooded Isle.

Mark Webster

Assistant Professor

Department of the Geophysical Sciences

University of Chicago