

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, April 30, 2011

Hello to All,

What a great morning for birding! Even with rather harsh conditions, the birds came and showed themselves in all their spring glory. Paul Doughty shared his sightings, as did Peter Page, and that pushed the count to a Paul Clyne range. The species count this morning was over one-third of the total number of species recorded for Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow. That is a great achievement, and the result of the combined efforts of the birders on the Island this morning.

We were also blessed to have two human migrants return to Wooded Island and Hyde Park for the summer. Hal and Joanne Cohen will be with us on our walks as often as they can. When Hal and Joanne are with us, our count will be higher and we will sharpen our skills.

Many First of Years were added today. And there were some very special birds in our report. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were everywhere. All the Woodpeckers we can see in Jackson Park showed up, as did many of the sparrows.

Raccoon Update: Latest rumor is that the raccoons ate rat poison (warfarin) from the garbage cans near Stony Island. None were seen on the Island. Richard reported that carcasses were picked up during the week by a CPD sub-contractor.

Birders: 12 +, Caroline, Hal and Joanne, Liz M., Karin C., Peter P., Paul D., Rick, Sally, Jeanette, Meeralee, Pat D.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (Paul D., Karin C. and Peter P. started earlier)

Places: Wooded Island, Soccer Field, Bobolink Meadow

Weather: Cool. Cloudy. Windy. Temperature in low to middle 50 degrees F, SSE 14 - 28 MPH

Total Species: (drum roll please) 82!

Now for the birds:

Double-crested Cormorant - 6, flying over the lakefront, south of Promontory Point

Great Blue Heron – 1

Green Heron – 1

Black-crowned Night Heron – 6, Heron Island

Canada Goose – X nesting pairs. There was a report that the some eggs were oiled last Wednesday.

Mallard ~ 6, and a few flyovers.

Blue-winged Teal – 2, 1 male & 1 female, SW corner of West Lagoon.

Northern Shoveler – 1 male, in the company of the Teal pair.

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1, SW corner of Darrow Bridge. ID by Hal C.

American Coot – 2, East Lagoon

Killdeer – 1, seen by Paul D.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – 1, in breeding plumage. East Lagoon. Flew around the East Lagoon Islands on the east side. Finally took a perched rest at the northern tip of Heron Island. It was perched on a sunken snag and seen best from the Music Bridge. Another thank you to Hal.

Ring-billed Gull – flyovers.

Caspian Tern – 2, East Lagoon.

FORSTER'S TERN – 1, East Lagoon. ID by Hal.

Monk Parakeet – at nest near golf driving range.

Mourning Dove – 2, reported by Paul D.

Chimney Swift – 1

Belted Kingfisher – 1, male, West Lagoon.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – 1, North Woods of Bobolink Meadow. Paul D and Pat D. saw it.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER – 1, North Woods of Bobolink Meadow, Hal, Liz, Joanne, & Jennette caught sight of this one.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1, Wooded Island, on the east side of the paved path, east entrance to Rose Garden.

Downy Woodpecker – on Wooded Island.

Hairy Woodpecker – 1 male, Wooded Island, East Central area.

Northern Flicker – 1, NE grassy area by Darrow Bridge, on the ground, spotted by Rick.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – 1, SW on Wooded Island, near lamp post 12, seen by Hal. Paul D also reported a Least Flycatcher today.

empidonax sp. – 1

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER ~ 5 on Wooded Island + 1 North Woods of Bobolink Meadow, spotted by Liz M. This last one was low on a shrub.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – 1, Wooded Island, near lamp post 12. Spotted by Hal C.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – 1, Soccer field shoreline, nearly to the South Bridge.

WARBLING VIREO – 1 heard by Hal C. SW corner of Wooded Island.

American Crow ~ 4, took off after the Sharp-shinned at the start of our walk. Quiet on Wooded Island but there.

Purple Martin – 8, 7 males & 1 female, on the western most white house, NE of Darrow Bridge.

Tree Swallow – southeast end of East Lagoon.

N. Rough-winged Swallow – southeast end of East Lagoon and near the North Bridge.

CLIFF SWALLOW – reported by Paul D.

Barn Swallow – X

Black-capped Chickadee – 1, east of paved path, east entrance of Rose Garden.

Brown Creeper – 6, between Darrow Bridge and North Bridge, in the Japanese Garden (3), on Wooded Island.

House Wren – 1, Wooded Island, seen and heard. Found by Hal C.

Winter Wren – 1, reported by Paul D.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet ~ 70, everywhere. small flocks, up close. Big Day for them.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ~ 5 on Wooded Island.

Swainson's Thrush – 3, reported by Paul D.

Hermit Thrush – 1, Wooded Island

WOOD THRUSH – 1, on Wooded Island, East Central area. Reported by Paul D. and seen by Meeralee flying across the paved path to the center of the Island.

American Robin – Common sighting on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

GRAY CATBIRD – on Wooded Island. Reported by Peter P. and Karin C.

Brown Thrasher – 1, seen thrashing on the ground, North Woods of Bobolink Meadow.

European Starling – X

TENNESSEE WARBLER – Reported by Paul D.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – Reported by Paul D.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – Reported by Paul D.

YELLOW WARBLER – Reported by Paul D. and Hal C. Hal saw this warbler SW of Darrow Bridge.

Yellow-rumped Warbler ~ 6 on Wooded Island.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – 1, male, southwest corner, South Bridge. Thanks, Hal. Liz and I had wonderful close up looks.

Pine Warbler – 1, Reported by Hal C. SW of Darrow Bridge.

Palm Warbler – 1, Soccer Field, tree area.

CERULEAN WARBLER – 1, reported by Paul D. on Turtle Island, west of golf shack. Lucky Paul.

Black-and-White Warbler – 1, reported by Peter P., on Wooded Island, I think.

Northern Waterthrush – 1, heard by Hal, southeast tip of Wooded Island.

Common Yellowthroat – reported by Paul D.

Eastern Towhee – Reported by Paul D. probably in Towhee Heaven, i.e., North Woods of Meadow.

American Tree Sparrow – Wooded island and reported by Paul D.

Chipping Sparrow – SW corner Wooded Island. Confirmed by Hal C. Reported by Paul D.

Song Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow – along the path, south end of Bobolink Meadow.

Fox Sparrow – 1, north end of Japanese Garden. Tracked down by Hal C.

Lincoln Sparrow – 2+, SW corner Wooded Island. Found by Hal C.

Swamp Sparrow – Reported by Paul D. and Peter P.

White-throated Sparrow – pockets on Wooded Island and in the North Woods of Meadow.

White-crowned Sparrow – SW corner of Wooded Island and North Woods of Meadow.

Northern Cardinal – 2, males, risking their lives, calling at the top of their lungs and perched in the open, on Wooded Island and North Woods of Bobolink Meadow.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – Reported by Paul D.

Red-winged Blackbird – on Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow.

Common Grackle – 1, south end of Bobolink Meadow.

Brown-headed Cowbird– On Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – 2 males, reported by Peter P. and Karin C.

PURPLE FINCH – Reported by Paul D.

House Finch – Reported by Paul D

American Goldfinch – small flocks on Wooded Island and south end of Meadow.

House Sparrow – east of Darrow Bridge

As always, additions, corrections and comments are most welcome.

Next Saturday, May 7th, will be the 36th Annual Spring Bird Count held in Illinois. Birders will be out and about counting species and numbers for each species. You can expect to find Jennie and I and others with tally sheets and clip boards in hand. We will corral as many of you in the effort as we can. Our tallies will be reported to Paul Clyne, who must collate and analyze the data from all the counters for Jackson Park. Paul will give the data to Alan Anderson, who is responsible for Cook County count.

Check out the web site for the Illinois Natural History Survey. Click on Database. On the left column is a heading SBC Database, Make a Query. That contains the most specific county and year details. The data from 1975 to 2007 is available. You can sort the data for each species by year and county. It contributes to the analysis of what is happening to each species.

Have a great week birding as often as you can.

Pat Durkin