

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, April 9, 2011

Hello to All,

Although the wind off the Lake kept us cold for most of the morning, the Total Species Count took a jump up and there were nine First of Year (FOY) species for our group. Most were reported earlier this past week by other birders in the area. As we noted the departure of some of our winter visitors, we welcomed our spring and summer residents back to Jackson Park.

Small flocks of blackbirds were frequently seen flying from the north to the southeast. We has many EASTERN PHOEBES and FOX SPARROWS. A OSPREY was photographed this past week perched in a tree in Bobolink Meadow. Our group did not locate the HAIRY WOODPECKERS that were reported on Wooded Island but, then again, they may still be in on the Island. I did hear very loud tree knocking southeast of the Rose Garden.

Observers: 9 birders, including Eric, Tobias, Bruce M., Meera Lee, Jennette, Caroline, Jennie, Raman, and Pat Durkin.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Places: Wooded Island, Soccer Field, Bobolink Meadow, 59th St. Marina and 67th Outer Harbor

Weather: Cloudy, Cold easterly breeze off the Lake, Temperature low 40's F. until mid-morning.

Total Species Count: 36

Pied-billed Grebe – Marina and Outer Harbor.

Canada Goose – nesting on shorelines.

Mallard – mating pairs in all the Lagoons. Tobias spotted a female Mallard perched on a limb, twenty feet above ground, across from the east entrance to the Rose Garden, acting like a Wood Duck want-to-be. Incidentally, we did not see a Wood Duck this morning.

Blue-winged Teal – 3 males, North Lagoon, observed from Darrow Bridge.

Scaup – 6, 4 males & 2 females, Outer Harbor

Bufflehead – 13, Outer Harbor

Common Goldeneye – 1 male, in 59th St. Marina.

Red-breasted Merganser – a mated pair in the East Lagoon.

American Coot – 3 at the south end of the East Lagoon. Several in the Marina and 67th St. Outer Harbor.

KILLDEER – 1, FOY, seen and heard near the 59th St. Marina.

Ring-billed Gull – most were on the docks in the Outer Harbor and the Marina.

CASPIAN TERN – 1, FOY Yes, the Supreme Patroller of All Lagoons has returned.

Monk Parakeet – 2 heard over the Soccer Field.

BELTED KINGFISHER – 1, FOY, a male was perched on a limb over the water of the North Lagoon. At the end of our walk he was seen and heard flying over the east parking lot, apparently taking a short cut from the East Lagoon to the North Lagoon. We all hope that a mate will join him and we will once again have a noisy chattering pair with us this summer.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – FOY– the first was seen in a tree northwest of Darrow Bridge. Several more were seen on the Island.

Downy Woodpecker – heard by Eric on Wooded Island.

Northern Flicker – 2 spotted south of the Japanese Garden. Another 2 were flying from the Soccer Field to the Island.

EASTERN PHOEBE – FOY, The first one was spotted by Raman in the Japanese Garden. Several more were found on the trees bordering the Soccer Field and at water's edge.

American Crow – Wooded Island.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – FOY

BARN SWALLOW – FOY, 1 flying over the Soccer Field, spotted by Eric/ 2 more were seen by the Marina.

BROWN CREEPER – FOY, 2, northwest of the North Bridge.

Hermit Thrush – the first was spotted by Jennette and Eric in the Japanese Garden. Another was seen on the Soccer Field.

American Robin – +++, a flock of approximately 30 were on the Soccer Field. They were on the Island and in the Meadow too, and calling.

European Starling – 3 were perched on the lowered Purple Martin Houses, ready to do battle with our beloved Purple Martins. But our P.M.'s have developed an urban attitude. This should be interesting.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER – FOY, the first of many greeted us from the northwest side of the North Bridge. He was a fine looking fellow, in his best spring wear. 2 more were near the Rose Garden.

Chipping Sparrow – heard by Eric near the Japanese Garden.

Fox Sparrow – 2 north of the Rose Garden on a central foot path, across from lamp post 40.

Song Sparrow – several in the Japanese Garden.

White-throated Sparrow – heard near the Rose Garden.

Dark-eyed Junco – 6 were northwest of the North Bridge and a few more were on the Island, north of the Rose Garden, near the Fox Sparrows.

Northern Cardinal – heard on Wooded Island by Eric. Later 1 male was seen south of the Japanese Garden.

Red-winged Blackbird – first heard by Eric, Northwest of North Bridge.

Brown-headed Cowbird – 7 on Wooded Island. The male bowed and sang for the female. They should be reported to Bird Protective Services for egg abandonment.

House Finch –1, male, in the small grove south of the boardwalk, near the golf shack.

American Goldfinch – 3 on Wooded Island.

Birds on or above the Soccer Field: Eastern Phoebe (4), American Robin, Song Sparrow, Northern Flicker (6), Mallard, Fox Sparrow (4) Northern Cardinal, Barn Swallow, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Monk Parakeet (2), Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Another pocket of birds were in the small grove south of the boardwalk, just west of the golf shack: Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Hermit Thrush and House Finch.

Birds seen in or near the 59th St. Marina: Common Goldeneye, Killdeer, Pied-billed Grebe (4), American Coot, Red-breasted Merganser (1 male), Barn Swallow (2).

Birds seen in the 67th St. Outer Harbor: Bufflehead (13), Mallard, Ring-billed Gull, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Scaup, Lesser or Greater? 4 males, 2 females, American Coot.

After birding Bobolink Meadow, Eric, Jennie, Jennette and I found a GEOCACHE on one of the two remaining structures from the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

The raccoon was asleep in the large tree hole, facing east, near the center of Wooded Island.

As always, additions, corrections, and comments are welcome. Time for birders to come out to greet our spring arrivals.

Good Birding.

Pat Durkin