

## Wooded Island Bird Report for Saturday, May 28, 2011

Hello to All,

The bird walk started off with a bang. As an early group of birders gathered near the Purple Martin Houses, I spotted an adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. The bird was first seen on the ground on the narrow strip of grass between the western sidewalk and the shore of the East Lagoon. There is a strand of trees near the water. This is southeast of Darrow Bridge. Two American Robins stood on the grass, and stopped worm hunting activity to look at this handsome, large, and bold colored woodpecker. The woodpecker flew from ground to tree trunk, and back and forth. It was working its way from tree to tree towards the Music Bridge. Along the lakefront, such a find is a real treat. Already the walk could be declared a success.

Although the weather conditions were far from ideal, a good number of birders came out to join the effort to find birds and share their sightings. Our summer residents have produced young (Canada Goose), or are gathering nesting material (Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Orioles, Yellow and Common Yellowthroat Warblers), or on nests (American Crow, Green Heron, Purple Martins and other swallows.) This is only a partial list of Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow nesters.

Our group saw thirteen species of warblers. Randy Shonkwiler reported an additional two warbler species (Black-throated Blue and Tennessee). Randy reported more thrushes too (Veery, Gray-Cheeked, and Swainson's) plus two more sparrows (White-crowned and White-throated.)

As I walking along the eastern paved path on Wooded Island with another sometime birder, we saw a dark small bird dart across the path in front of us. I said quickly, "Name that Bird!" He responded just as quickly, "George!" Had to laugh. Everyone's a comedian.

Observers in our group: 17, including Leo H. (Welcome back!), Caroline H., Karin C., Eric, Jennie, Raman, Jean, Steve (the comedian), Al, Sally, Jennette, Liz, and myself. Four more birders made the effort to join the walk and recalled the days of Doug Anderson as the leader. Also remembered was Dale Pontius who will be 105 years old this July! Dale road his bike to the walks from Harper Avenue well into his 80's. He, like Doug, was a former President of the Chicago Ornithological Society and Doug was also a past President of the Chicago Audubon Society.

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

Places: Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Bobolink Meadow

Weather: Cloudy. Rain earlier. Cool, Temperature in the middle 50's F.  
Wind from the south, later changed to the north.

Total Species Count from our group: 54

Now for the birds:

Double-crested Cormorant – 1 fly over of Wooded Island

Great Blue Heron – 1, standing sentry during our entire walk on a snag in the East Lagoon, across from the Japanese Garden.

Green Heron – on nest near Darrow Bridge.

Black-crowned Night Heron – 1 well hidden on Heron Island. Another flew to the eastern shore of Wooded Island. Later, this same bird flew to the Rose Garden, seemingly following the birders. The heron perched twenty feet above ground in a tree at the south end of the Rose Garden! Even Pea Pod cannot deliver crayfish up there.

Canada Goose – 5 goslings were escorted by adults, front and back, under the South Bridge and into the West Lagoon. Parents, aunts and uncles, looked serene and proud. Molting seems to be starting.

Mallard – 1, adult male in the East Lagoon. Several flyovers.

American Kestrel – 1 fly over of Wooded Island.

Ring-billed Gull – flyovers and two have claimed their own neighboring lamp lights in the east parking lot.

Caspian Tern – 1, working the Lagoons.

Monk Parakeets – 3, leaving home near the golf shack.

Chimney Swifts – numerous in the skies.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1, near the boardwalk, west of the golf shack. May be attracted to the red flowering Columbine.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – 1, East Parking Lot border.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – on Wooded Island.

Eastern Wood Pewee – near the Purple Martin Houses, reported by Al.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

Willow Flycatcher – in the Meadow.

Least Flycatcher – on Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Meadow.

Eastern Kingbird – on Wooded Island.

Warbling Vireo – Japanese Garden, Wooded Island.

American Crow – possible on nest in the Sycamore tree near the South Bridge. Mob action near the Music Bridge. Cause remained unknown. Liz suggested that it may be another case of Crow-on-Crow Violence.

Purple Martin – real estate swap with Starlings. Martins now have the wooden house and one white house.

Tree Swallow – flying over the south end of the East Lagoon and over the Soccer Field.

N. Rough-winged Swallow – ditto

Cliff Swallow – North Bridge and East Lagoon.

Barn Swallow – over all waters.

House Wren – heard on Wooded Island near the Rose Garden.

American Robin – common

Gray Catbird – common. More silent than previous weeks. Nesting?

European Starling – common

Cedar Waxwing – on Island west of Japanese Garden. Quiet. Another nester.

Yellow Warbler – common. Nester.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1 reported on Wooded Island. Many of us saw one at the north end of Bobolink Meadow, near the gate, that was spotted by Jennie.

Magnolia Warbler – several on Wooded Island, east of Rose Garden.

Black-throated Green – 1, male, in the Black-throated Green section of the Soccer Field, just in from the shore.

Blackburnian Warbler – spotted by Eric near the Rose Garden and south end of Wooded Island.

Palm Warbler – near Music Bridge reported by Al.

Blackpoll Warbler – 1, near north gate of Bobolink Meadow, found by Eric.

American Redstart – more females than males seen, fairly common.

Northern Waterthrush – on south end of Island, reported by Al and Liz.

Mourning Warbler – south end of Wooded Island.

Common Yellowthroat – on Wooded Island and in Bobolink Meadow.

Wilson's Warbler – on Wooded Island.

Canada Warbler – on Wooded Island, east of the Rose Garden, found by Eric.

SCARLET TANAGER – 1, male, Rose Garden, heading south. Seen by Eric and Karin. Lucky pair.

Song Sparrow – Rose Garden and Bobolink Meadow (singing)

Lincoln Sparrow – Rose Garden, perched on the east side of "Paul's Fence".

Northern Cardinal – mostly males seen and heard on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

Red-winged Blackbird – the females were very visible today. One was carrying nesting material in the Rose Garden.

Common Grackle – west of Darrow Bridge and elsewhere.

Brown-headed Cowbird – 6 in a group on Wooded Island.

Baltimore Oriole – common. Still heard, but call changed. Nest building east of Rose Garden.

House Finch – Wooded Island

American Goldfinch – common in Rose Garden.

As always, it was an interesting and fun walk. Comments, corrections and additions are welcome.

Best of birding to all.

Pat Durkin