

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday June 25, 2011

Hello to All,

It was a pleasant cool morning for our walk. We found some nests and met our usual summer residents, some only by their voice. The vegetation has filled in on the Island. Mother Nature, in the end, usually has her way, despite the efforts of humans to remake the land.

A surprise sighting was a pair of HAIRY WOODPECKERS checking out a hole on the tall snag at the south end of the Rose Garden. They seemed very focused in their inspection of possible home sites. Off they went to the northwest. We hope that they will return and make the Rose Garden a home. WOOD DUCKS were in good numbers in the East Lagoon. CEDAR WAXWINGS are quiet but a common sighting near the center north portion of the Island. There is an active nest site there and it seems every one in their extended family is involved in feeding and protecting the nest.

Birders: 10, including Hal, Eric, Jennie, Sally, Steve, Joe, Jennette, Karin, Caroline, Pat.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Places: Wooded Island, Soccer Field (quiet), Bobolink Meadow

Weather: Sunny, Temperature in the upper 60's F., Winds calm.

Total Species: 36

Now for the birds:

Great Blue Heron – 1, spotted by Eric flying over the East Lagoon.

Green Heron – ? There maybe a youngster hiding among the leaves and branches of a Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus Altissima) located on Turtle Island. The best viewing is from the parking lot of the golf shack.

Canada Goose – X, Large group on the south steps of the Museum, their favored overnight roosting place.

Wood Duck – 7, East Lagoon. At least two were adult males. The young are maturing and changing plumage.

Mallard – 14, 1 female with 6 young near the Japanese Garden. 1 near the South Bridge. A male/female pair in the West Lagoon. 4 more in the East Lagoon

Cooper's Hawk – 1, spotted by Hal south of the Rose Garden. Crows voicing their complaint.

American Kestrel –1, seen by Eric making a pass over the Rose Garden.

Ring-billed Gull – occasional flyovers.

Caspian Tern – 2, hunting the lagoons.

Chimney Swift – 5

HAIRY WOODPECKER – 2

Eastern Wood-Pewee – several heard and a few seen.

Eastern Kingbird – Center of Bobolink Meadow near the shore.

Warbling Vireo – SW of Darrow Bridge.

Red-eyed Vireo – SW of Darrow Bridge.

American Crow – on Wooded Island. Went into defensive mode when the Cooper's Hawk flew by.

Purple Martin – most near the Houses, NE of Darrow Bridge.

N. Rough-winged Swallow – 1, at North Bridge, noted by Hal.

Cliff Swallow – 7, counted by Hal at North Bridge. Nesting under the Bridge.

Barn Swallow – X, seen gathering nesting material from around the east parking lot.

Black-capped Chickadee – heard on Wooded Island by Eric.

House Wren – 2, heard at lamp post # 38, seen on the fine sturdy fence of the Rose Garden, on the right side of the east gate.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – heard by Eric near lamp post # 38. (Eric also thought that he heard the call of a Nuthatch nearby)

American Robin – X, stuffing themselves with worms. Hal saw a robin with three worms in its bill.

Gray Catbird – X, on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

European Starling – a few about.

Cedar Waxwing – 9, on Wooded Island, Nesting.

Yellow Warbler – X, seen and heard throughout our walk.

Common Yellowthroat – heard on Wooded Island

Song Sparrow – 1, reported by Jennie along the shore of the soccer field.

Indigo Bunting – 3+, on Wooded Island. One was on an open branch at the south end of the Rose Garden.

Red-winged Blackbird – X, on Wooded Island and at the south end of the Meadow. The beautiful female perched again in open on small tree in the Rose Garden to observe us.

Common Grackle – X

Brown-headed Cowbird – males noticed on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

Baltimore Orioles – X, several nests were found.

American Goldfinch – a small number were seen west of the Rose Garden and on the west side of the paved path.

#### OTHER CREATURES AND SIGHTINGS:

Band-winged Meadowhawk Dragonfly – spotted and identified by Eric in the Rose Garden.

Frog – heard, East Lagoon.

Salad plate sized Turtles – 2, sunny themselves on logs at the southern tip of Wooded Island.

A male Oriole on a dirt pile near the golf shack. Insect hunting?

As always, additions, corrections and comments are welcome.

Good Birding!

Pat Durkin