

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, July 23, 2011

Hello to All,

The highlight of this morning's walk was the discovery of one, and most likely two BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS, and a single HAIRY WOODPECKER.

Hal heard the clear song of the cuckoo while the birders walked along the east path on Wooded Island. The clear strong po po po sound was heard across the center of the Island, and seemed to originate along the west path. The second Black-billed Cuckoo was spotted by Jennie at the north end of the prairie section, in Bobolink Meadow. The bird was quietly sitting in a tree along the lagoon shore line. There was no calling this time. Hal, Jennie and I had a very good close look at the bird. The red circle around the iris was evident. This bird then moved to the next tree, its favorite, a Willow.

Hal also heard and saw a single HAIRY WOODPECKER in the stand of oaks at the southwest section of Wooded Island. As noted last week, the snag in the Rose Garden that a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers were seen occupying fell down in a storm. This snag was near the oak grove.

A BEAVER was seen swimming east of the South Bridge.

The CEDAR WAXWING nest appeared empty. None were seen or heard today.

BIRDERS: 9 – Karin C., Jennie, Hal, Joanne, Jennette, Caroline, Leo, Berthold, Pat

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Bobolink Meadow.

WEATHER: Hazy. Hot. Humid. Thunderstorms during the night. Temperature middle 80 degrees F. Slight NE breeze.

TOTAL SPECIES: 40

Double-crested Cormorant – 2, One was a fly over the East Lagoon. Another was seen perched high on a Wooded Island snag that faces the East Lagoon. The snag is on the SE part of the Island.

Great Blue Heron – 2, East Lagoon.

Green Heron – 2, East Lagoon. One was found perched on the cement lantern in the Japanese Garden near the Moon Bridge.

Black-crowned Night Heron – 1. One flew low over Darrow Bridge south to north, as we gathered at the start of our walk.

Canada Goose – Hal counted 101 on the Soccer Field alone. They were others in the water and around the Park. A single goose with a white head and nape was seen with the Soccer Field flock.

Wood Duck – 4, One adult female with three young were seen along the southeast shore of Wooded Island.

Mallard – Good year for the offspring. An adult female with seven young, and an adult female with 10 ducklings were seen at the south end of the East Lagoon.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – 4, swimming in the middle of the East Lagoon.

KILLDEER – 1, heard by Hal on the Soccer Field, and seen in flight at the south end of the Field.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – 1, reported by Caroline.

Ring-billed Gull – occasional flyovers and lamp post sitters.

Caspian Tern – 1, East Lagoon.

Monk Parakeet – 2, heard one near the golf shack and another over the Meadow.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO –2, as reported above.

Chimney Swift – 48 counted by Hal before the start of our walk. Many seen flying over the top of the 1700 E. 56th St. Building.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1, seen near the South Bridge.

Downy Woodpecker – 1, the Woods at the north end of Bobolink Meadow, reported by Hal.

HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1, as reported above.

Northern Flicker – 1, perched in a tree in the Woods of Bobolink Meadow.

Eastern Kingbird – 6+, seen on the Island, Meadow and at the Music Bridge.

Warbling Vireo – 2

Red-eyed Vireo – 4, heard by Hal on Wooded Island. Another was heard near the South Bridge, and Music Bridge. Jennie saw one near the north end of the Meadow.

American Crow – near Darrow Bridge.

Purple Martin – XX. 3 baby birds were on the grass below the Houses, begging for food. Hope they are scheduled for flying lessons today.

N. Rough-winged Swallow – 6, at South Bridge.

Cliff Swallow – seen flying under South Bridge and the Music Bridge (3).

Barn Swallow – X.

House Wren – greeted us as usual from the NE corner of the Rose Garden.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1, spotted by Hal in the Meadow.

American Robin – 7, counted by Hal before the start of our walk. Young and adult were seen on the Island and in the Meadow.

Gray Catbird – 3, on Wooded Island.

BROWN THRASHER – 1, out in the open on a little dead oak, west of the Rose Garden.

European Starling – flocks are gathering.

YELLOW WARBLER – 1 juvenile perched to see us, with its little white lower belly. It was in the undergrowth along the West Lagoon, opposite the entrance to the Japanese Garden.

Song Sparrow – 1, seen and heard on Wooded Island.

Northern Cardinal – 5

Red-winged Blackbird – a female chased some swallows off a perch at the south end of the Meadow.

Baltimore Oriole – 5, all young birds found near the Soccer Field (3) and the Music Bridge (2).

American Goldfinch – south end of Bobolink Meadow.

House Sparrow – Bobolink Meadow.

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

Hope to see you next Saturday at 8 a.m. The Wednesday walk begins at 7 a.m.

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