

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, August 27, 2011

Hello to All,

The weather was near perfect for our walk. Some of our summer avian companions were absent or present in much reduced numbers. The warblers have arrived to indicate a change in season. The delicate SWAINSON'S THRUSH was found on Wooded Island. A rare MERLIN was discovered by Hal C. in the wooded area southwest of Darrow Bridge.

In the area being restored on the Island, south of the Japanese Garden, nearly a hundred pounds of oat seed was scattered during the week. Some seed has already germinated. We found a dozen Mallards, mostly fully grown youngsters, feasting on the seed. A flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds and House Sparrows joined them, along with House Finches and an early Yellow-rumped Warbler.

On a tall snag along the shore, east of the Rose Garden on Wooded Island, an odd mix of birds shared the same branches: a pair of Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Blue Heron and a COOPER'S HAWK, escaping the wrath of a few vocal American Crows. None seemed disturbed by the presence of the others. Randy S. walked with us for a while and help to pad our warbler species count. Randy witnessed combat between a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a Wilson's Warbler in the Rose Garden. The Mighty Hummers won!

This is our second report to be recorded on eBird. During the week, Paul Clyne helped us by creating a new location, "Wooded Island & Bobolink Meadow". This is our usual walk circuit. The recordings are attributed to "Wooded Island Bird Walk" and credit is given to the Chicago Audubon Society for sponsoring the walks for the past 35 years. Doug Anderson was the renowned leader for the first 33 years.

BIRDERS: 15. Karin C., Sally, Yolanda, Caroline, Berthold, Marcus, Eric, Tobias, Randy S., Hal, Joanne, Jennette, Gail (local Chicagoan) and Martha from Boston, who discovered our walks on the Chicago Audubon web site, and Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Sunny. Temperature in the upper 70's to low 80's degree F.

Moderate NE breeze.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 35

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose - 19.

Mallard - 12.

Double-crested Cormorant - 2.

Great Blue Heron - 4.

COOPER'S HAWK - 1.

MERLIN - 1.

Ring-billed Gull - X.

Monk Parakeet - X. Heard near the golf shack.

Chimney Swift - X

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 3. Two were on Wooded Island. One was near the plants along the shore of the soccer field, closer to the South Bridge.

American Crow - 3

Purple Martin - 3.

Barn Swallow - 6.

Black-capped Chickadee - 1. Heard on the west side of the Rose Garden.

Swainson's Thrush - 3. On Wooded Island.

American Robin - X. Fewer numbers than last week.

Gray Catbird - 3.

Brown Thrasher - 1. Reported by Eric and Tobias on Wooded Island.

European Starling - 1.

Cedar Waxwing - 22. Flocks in flight and on berry tree in Rose Garden.

Tennessee Warbler - 1

Mourning Warbler - 2.

American Redstart - 2.

Magnolia Warbler - 1. Reported by Randy S. on Wooded Island.

Blackpoll Warbler - 2. In grove a trees at the north end of Bobolink Meadow.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - 1. Reported by Randy S. on Wooded Island. Early migrant. Juvenile.

Wilson's Warbler - Wooded Island. Rose Garden Reported by Randy S.

Song Sparrow - 2. Wooded Island.

Northern Cardinal - 2.

Brown-headed Cowbird - 6. Juveniles. Wooded Island.

Baltimore Oriole - 3.

House Finch - 2.

American Goldfinch - 4.

House Sparrow - 3.

As always, corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

The Wooded Island Walks are on Wednesday at 7 a.m. and on Saturday at 8 a.m. The group gathers on Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, south of the Museum of Science & Industry.

Good Birding!

Patricia Durkin  
Chicago Audubon Representative  
Wooded Island Bird Walks  
pat.durkin@comcast.net