

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, August 6, 2011

Hello Everyone,

After a soft steady rain overnight, we caught a break in the precipitation for our scheduled walk.

Purple Martins are still at home. The youngsters are occupying the snags, but somehow appear more self confident. Wednesday's group reported Indigo Buntings, but they have been a miss for the Saturday birders for several weeks. Karin C. proudly directed our gaze to the four fuzzy headed GREEN HERONS in the company of a parent near the North Bridge. We did catch sight of a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD west of the Rose Garden.

The best find of the morning, was not a bird. At the east entrance to the Rose Garden, Karin C. found a soggy fat wallet, with many credit cards, a driver's license, pictures, but sans \$\$\$. After the walk Jennie and I took the wallet to the police station. A little more on that adventure will be shared at the end of the bird report.

BIRDERS: 5. Leo, Caroline, Karin C., Jennie and Pat

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

PLACE: Wooded Island, Soccer Field and Bobolink Meadow.

WEATHER: Overcast. Warm. Humid. Eyeglass fogging weather. Temperature middle 80's F. No wind. A light rain began to fall at the end of our walk.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 26

Now for the birds:

Great Blue Heron – 1, East Lagoon. Spotted by Karin C.

Green Heron – 5, 4 young plus an adult. Wooded Island.

Canada Goose – on land and water in small flocks.

Wood Duck – 12. 4 adults and 8 young, along the southeast tip of Wooded Island, in the water.

Those little babies can quickly scramble up the bank. Maybe they have toenails already.

Mallard – 6.

SANDPIPER – 2, Possible Solitary per Karin C. based on flight pattern. They were in flight together along the south edge of Wooded Island.

Ring-billed Gull – more on the ground than in flight.

Caspian Tern – 2, East Lagoon.

Chimney Swift – a few in flight.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1, Perched on a newly planted tree west of the Rose Garden fence.

Eastern Kingbird – 3. 1 on Wooded Island. 2 together, like last week, on a tree in the Meadow near the water.

American Crow – 2.

Purple Martin – X. 16 were seen on a single branch of snag on Wooded Island. Many young and adult birds were in the white metal houses. The wooden house looked unoccupied.

Barn Swallow – a few. Numbers are down.

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

House Wren – 2. Caroline observed a bird going into a nesting hole on a snag near the east entrance of the Rose Garden.

American Robin – Galore. Found on Wooded Island and in the Meadow. Many young.

Gray Catbird – 5+ on Wooded Island.

European Starling – flocks of 40 or more were in flight and perched on snags.

Yellow Warbler – 2. Seen and heard on Wooded Island.

Song Sparrow – 7. Seen and heard on Wooded Island and in the Meadow.

Northern Cardinal – 4. On Wooded Island and Meadow.

Red-winged Blackbird – 2, female or young. Bobolink Meadow.

Baltimore Oriole – 1. Adult male. On a snag west of the Rose Garden. Seen by Pat.

American Goldfinch – 2. On Wooded Island.

House Sparrow – near Darrow Bridge.

A steady rain started to fall when we reached the Music Bridge. Karin C. and Jennie agreed to a ride home. Jennie said that she would come to the police station with me to drop the wallet off.

After leaving Karin at her place, I checked the car navigation system for the local police stations. Area 2 Headquarters at 51st and Wentworth seemed like the easiest to reach. Jennie did not go for the idea of me dropping her off and waiting outside in the "get away" car. So we parked the car and proceeded to an entrance on the south side of the building where a group of officers were standing. We tried to open the doors but found them locked. One of the officers informed us that this was the door for prisoners. He kindly offered to arrest us, but we declined, although it would surely have been a day to remember.

The officer directed us to the front entrance which is actually on the corner of 52nd and Wentworth. We went inside and found two female officers at a hockey stick shaped counter, and three more officers at desks behind the counter. The ambiance of the place screamed out for an interior designer/decorator in the worst way. We waited our turn. An officer instructed me to write down my name (which would be withheld) and the location of the wallet discovery ("Wooded Island. Rose Garden. Jackson Park. 59th and Cornell") She said that it would be kept in the Lost and Found. That was it.

Jennie and I decided to check out the barren entrance area before we left. There was a trophy case along the south hall. The trophies seemed for sports accomplishments. On the east wall were photos of former Mayor Daley, Police Chief Jody Weiss, and his subordinates. Rahm and McCarthy have not arrived.

The most interesting photos were along the north wall. A picture of all the police officers killed in the line of duty that were assigned to this police station were hung on the wall. In the lower right hand corner of each photo was the date the officer was killed, the exact street address where it happened, and, if the officer died later from his wounds, the date of death. The dates began in the 1920's. There were about a dozen photos. One officer was killed in WWII and his photo was included. I found this very interesting. In

such a stripped down, austere environment, these photos and trophies, but mainly these photos, of officers killed in the line of duty, were what the current Force seemed to value and honor the most.

As always, additions, corrections and comments are welcome.

Hope to see you next Saturday at 8 a.m. or on Wednesday at 7 a.m.

Good Birding to All!

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