

Wooded Island Bird Walk Reports for Saturday, September 24, 2011

Hello to All,

At the start, it seemed that we would luck out with the threatened rain. Patches of blue were in the sky among the bellowing clouds. Twenty minutes into our walk there was a steady downpour. Our group had just made it onto the north tip of the Island. At the start of the rain, a cloud of birds flew from the more openly spaced trees, north of the Japanese Garden, to the more densely spaced trees in the patch of land between Darrow Bridge and the northeast corner of the North Bridge. Hal estimated that there was at least one hundred and fifty birds that made the brief flight. Now the challenge would be not just to identify fall warblers, but to identify soggy fall warblers.

After a half hour of standing under umbrellas and trees for protection, the rain let up and we proceeded to the Japanese Garden. In short order, a magnificent rainbow appeared over the Vista Homes to the west. Sunshine had returned, although only for brief periods during the rest of our walk. But the warblers were with us, and it turned out to be our highest count thus far for warbler species during their fall migration.

Randy S. reported some sightings that our group missed. The best was his sighting of an OSPREY perched on the northeast side of Wooded Island when he arrived very early this morning. It may have rested overnight on the Island. Randy also reported a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, Lincoln Sparrows, Ovenbird, and a female NORTHERN PARULA during his survey this morning.

BIRDERS: 8. Hal, Joanne, Caroline, Leo, Jennie, Jennette, Sally and Pat

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Soccer Field with players, and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Rain with a thirty minute downpour. Sun breaks with rainbows. Temperature in the middle 60'sF. Winds were calm.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 46

Now for the birds:

Canada Goose – X

Wood Duck – 2. East Lagoon, reported by Jennie.

Mallard – X

Double-crested Cormorant – 5.

Great Blue Heron – 2.

Cooper's Hawk – 1. Around the Rose Garden. Hal thinks that the crows maybe getting use to this hawk hanging around their turf. We observed the hawk land on a branch occupied by two crows There was no trash talk or chase from the crows.

Ring-billed Gull – X.

Monk Parakeet – X.

Chimney Swift – 6.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER – 1, juvenile, spotted by Hal at the south end of Wooded Island.

Downy Woodpecker – 2.

Northern Flicker – 1.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – 1. Wooded Island, seen by Hal, Jennie and Randy.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE – 1. Reported by Hal.

Red-eyed Vireo – 2.

American Crow – X.

House Wren – 1. North of Rose Garden. Calling.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – 3. Reported by Hal.

Swainson's Thrush – 1.

American Robin – 2.

Gray Catbird – 1.

European Starling – 1.

Northern Waterthrush – 1.

Black-and-White Warbler – 3. On Wooded Island, center east side.

Tennessee Warbler – X.

Orange-crowned Warbler – 1.

Nashville Warbler – X.

Mourning Warbler – 1.

Common Yellowthroat – X.

American Redstart –X.

Cape May Warbler – 1.

Magnolia Warbler – X

Bay-breasted Warbler – 1

Blackburnian Warbler – 1.

Yellow Warbler – 1.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1.

Blackpoll Warbler – X

Palm Warbler – X.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – X

Black-throated Green Warbler – 1.

Wilson's Warbler – 1.

Song Sparrow – 1.

White-throated Sparrow – 1 (heard)

Northern Cardinal – X.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 4. Reported by Hal.

American Goldfinch – X.

This report has been recorded on eBird

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!

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Wooded Island Bird Walks

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