Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, March 8, 2014

Hello to All,

Many of us opted to stay home this morning. But there are a few brave and determined souls among our ranks that made it their business to walk the circuit and check the lakefront. The above freezing temperatures of yesterday did nothing to change the frozen landscape. A more sustained thaw is needed.

Mark and Raman covered Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow where a pair of *Hairy Woodpeckers* was found. A *Brown Creeper* is surviving the winter in Jackson Park.

Jennie and Eric checked the lakefront and Outer Harbor. There was one small spot of open water in the Harbor. A *male Bufflehead* was sharing the space with a *female Red-breasted Merganser. American Tree Sparrows* were seen along the lakefront near LaRabida and on Wooded Island.

Winter, Be Gone!!! Birds and birders have had more than enough of your harsh winds, frigid temperatures, ice and snow. Exit now! Spring is waiting in the wings. There…that should do it.

BIRDERS: 4. Mark Webster, Eric Ginsburg, Jennie Strable and Raman Shah

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

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, Outer Harbor and Lakefront

WEATHER: Snowing with less than an inch accumulation. Temperature 18 – 28 F. Wind NNE 15 – 25mph. Lake, lagoons and harbors remain frozen, with a small hole of open water in the Harbor.

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 12

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

This is a group report, with many birders contributing to the list. Most of the birds were seen by a least several or all the birders.

Mark Webster, Jennie Strable and Eric Ginsburg provided sighting for this report.

1. Canada Goose – 4. Fly overs of Wooded Island/Bobolink Meadow.
2. Bufflehead – 1. Male. Outer Harbor.
3. Red-breasted Merganser – 1. Female. Outer Harbor.
4. Gull Species ~ 50 Outer Harbor. Likely most were Ring-billed. 2 fly over of Wooded Island.

5. Downy Woodpecker – 1. Female. Wooded Island.
6. HAIRY WOODPECKER – 2. Male & Female. Wooded Island.
7. American Crow – 4.
8. Black-capped Chickadee – 2. Wooded Island.
9. BROWN CREEPER – 1. Wooded Island.
10. American Robin – 6. Near South Bridge of Wooded Island.
11. American Tree Sparrow – 3. Two near LaRabida and one on Wooded Island.
12. Northern Cardinal – 2.

Corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

Recordings are not used to attract birds.

This report will be recorded on eBird as a group report for the Wooded Island Bird Walks.

The Walks are free and open to one and all. They are held year round. Birders always show up on Darrow Bridge at the start times. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

The Walks start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, and at 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday.

Birders gather on Darrow Bridge, which is located south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Ample parking is available east of Darrow Bridge and is accessible from South Lake Shore Drive at 58th Street (labeled Science Drive on a small blue street sign). There is a Stop Light at 58th Street. Make a turn at the Stop Light towards the Museum. Turn Left (south) at the intersection of Science Drive and Columbia Drive. Go through the parking lot to the west end near Darrow Bridge.

Best of Birding to All,

Patricia Durkin

Chicago Audubon Society Representative

Wooded Island Bird Walks