

## Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, August 30, 2014

Hello to All,

Migration was marked by exits than entrances. The *Purple Martins and other swallows* have left. The late summer *Great Egret* was a nice consolation. All our heron species are still with us. Butterflies, wasps and other bugs are enjoying the prairie flowers in full bloom in the Rose Garden and in Bobolink Meadow. The number of *Cedar Waxwings* has increased. Warblers are beginning to come through along the lakefront.

BIRDERS: 12. Jennette, Mark N., Sandra N., Kurt, Al, Karin C., Roger, Leo, Caroline, Eric G., Tobias and Pat

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow

WEATHER: Partly Cloudy. Temperature 70 – 75 F., Winds SSW 10 – 15 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 28

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X. Mother Goose (C126) and her mate (C136) plus the two youngsters were seen at their favorite hangout: the south side of the 59<sup>th</sup> St. Marina.
2. Wood Duck – 6. Three in a row; all facing east, perched on a log along the south end of Wooded Island. All were light brown with blue primary tips, and distinctive white area surrounding the eye. Males are molting into their bold primary colors.
3. Mallard – 25 +. A group of 25 have claimed the puddle on the south side of Science Drive as their own. I park and make the count as I drive toward Darrow Bridge. Acorns abound in the grove of oaks that towers over the shallow water.
4. HOODED MERGANSER – 1. Female. Our summer resident. She was swimming and diving in the West Lagoon near the South Bridge. She now sports two white lines of feathers on her back.
5. Double-crested Cormorant – 3. On their snag at the south east side of Wooded Island.

6. Great Blue Heron – 1.
7. GREAT EGRET – 1, possibly 2. A single egret was seen along the southwest shore of the North Lagoon. A church picnic may have prompted the egret to relocate to the East Lagoon, where we saw her later.
8. Green Heron – 3. One was definitely a young bird.
9. Black-crowned Night Heron – 4. Two adults and two juveniles. No Zen Master/Lincoln Park refugee was found in the Japanese Garden. BTW, an underground sprinkler system was laid last week beneath the foot paths in the Japanese Garden. The contractor did a good job of protecting the plants.
10. Cooper's Hawk – 1. This small-sized juvenile Cooper's has really perfected its stealth hunting skills. He was first observed in the willow tree at the northeast corner of the Rose Garden. He did not move, even as the birders stood almost directly beneath him. He finally took a low flight to the northwest side of the Rose Garden and hid in the tree. Then he glided low over the prairie flowers to a low tree on the south side of the Garden, and slowly climbed a limb out of sight. Goldfinches perched above him in the nearby bare tree.
11. PEREGRINE FALCON – 1. The falcon buzzed the waterfowl at the south end of the East Lagoon, causing the birds to take flight in panic. The falcon was just messing with them. Life quickly returned to normal.
12. Ring-billed Gull – X. A few were on the south steps of the Museum.
13. Chimney Swift – X. A few were in flight.
14. BELTED KINGFISHER – 1. Male. Quiet. Perched around the East Lagoon.

15. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – 1. I heard its loud call. Shortly thereafter, it perched in the bare tree at the southwest corner of the Rose Garden, above the hidden Cooper's Hawk.
16. Eastern Kingbird – 1. Reported by Karin C. Spotted at the south end of Wooded Island.
17. American Crow – 2. Both were near the Cooper's Hawk when it perched in the Willow Tree, but did not make a commotion over its presence.
18. Black-capped Chickadee – 1. South of the Rose Garden.
19. SWAINSON'S THRUSH – 2. Found by Al on the southeast side of Wooded Island.
20. American Robin – X. Not so many as in previous weeks.
21. Gray Catbird – X. Heard. Reported by Leo.
22. Cedar Waxwing – X. Eleven perched in a tree on the eastside of the Japanese Garden. Several flocks were in flight and seen throughout the morning.
23. MAGNOLIA WARBLER – 1. Reported by Eric G. and Tobias north of the Music Bridge.
24. Common Yellowthroat – 1.
25. Song Sparrow – 1.
26. Northern Cardinal – X. Heard.
27. Brown-headed Cowbird – 1. Juvenile. It happens every year. A single juvenile will be seen, and birders have to sort through what species it might be, finally realizing it is a Cowbird. Seen near Darrow Bridge. The youngster gave us all ample opportunity to observe.

28. American Goldfinch – X. Feeding their young. Late season nesters.

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.

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 near Darrow Bridge at the start times. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

*Note:* Darrow Bridge has been barricaded by the Department of Transportation but there are openings at each end that allows for foot traffic. The Bridge has been deemed unsafe. Birders continue to meet on Darrow Bridge and scan the lagoons and trees while the group comes together.

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 57<sup>th</sup> Street (labeled Science Drive on a small blue street sign). There is a Stop Light at 57<sup>th</sup> 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