

Wooded Island Bird Walk report for Saturday September 13, 2014

Greetings fellow birders! I'm filling in for Pat who couldn't be with us this week. There was quite a chill in the air but it was a beautiful fall morning nonetheless. We had a group of 10; Jennette, Leo, Caroline, Roger, Rick, Tobias, Eric, Jennie and new members Bob and Claire.

Time and place: 8:00am to 10:30am, Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow.

Weather: Sunny, although some clouds moved in as the morning progressed. Temperatures in the mid-40s, rising into the low 50s. Rather breezy in spots.

We had one good pocket of warblers in the trees just west of the Darrow Bridge, but the rest of the Island was fairly quiet. I'm afraid I didn't keep a count of the number of each species that we saw, most of the time, but we also saw Randy Shonkwiler and I expect that he will post his tallies to IBET, for those who want to know the numbers.

The birds:

1. Double-crested Cormorant
2. Nashville Warbler
3. American Redstart
4. Magnolia Warbler
5. Blackpoll Warbler
6. Black and White Warbler
7. Northern Waterthrush or Ovenbird (I thought I saw the orange stripe on the head so I said Ovenbird, but Tobias thought it was a Waterthrush. It didn't sit still long enough to get a positive ID.)
8. Bay-breasted Warbler
9. Palm Warbler
10. Swainson's Thrush
11. Empid Flycatcher
12. Probable Least Flycatcher
13. Downy Woodpecker
14. American Crow
15. Canada Goose
16. Ring-billed Gull
17. Chimney Swifts (many flying about overhead)
18. Pied-billed Grebes (2)
19. Female Hooded Merganser, hanging out with the Grebes
20. Goldfinch
21. White-breasted Nuthatch
22. Black Crowned Night Heron (5; 4 juveniles and one adult)
23. Great Blue Heron
24. Gray Catbird

25. American Cardinal
26. Red-eyed Vireo
27. Song Sparrow

The mammals

1. Rat. I saw it scurry across the Darrow Bridge.
2. Vole. Eric saw it walking around in circles and took a video. It was very strange behavior, and we presume it was probably sick.

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.

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

Good birding everyone!

Jennie