Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, April 5, 2014

Hello to All,

The sunny skies made us feel warmer than the actual temperature. We met a couple of other birders along our route, and stopped to share sightings and tips on good locations to find birds.

A controlled burn has been done in Bobolink Meadow that encompassed the main body of the Meadow on the east side of the foot path.

Snowdrops have pushed forth from underground and the scilla are beginning to emerge in the Japanese Garden. (Photos attached)

Al spotted a coyote on Wooded Island.

We were warmly greeted by our canine friends Kim, Princess and Copper, who never forget that I carry treats at all times.

BIRDERS: 12. Mark Nunnery, Sandra, Mark’s father Dave from Seattle. Linda from Alaska, near Denali, who is vacationing in Chicago for the winter. Her Alaskan home lawn ornaments are living, breathing and braying moose and caribou. Helena, a birder, photographer, and intrepid world traveler, from southern Brazil who was thrilled at the sight of a Northern Cardinal. Jennette, Rick, Raman, Al, Eric and Tobias and Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, 66th St. Outer Harbor


TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 43

X = commonly seen and/or not counted.

1. Canada Goose – X.
3. Mallard – X
12. COMMON MERGANSER – 1. Female. East Lagoon. Rested on a log for a while close to Bobolink Meadow shore.
17. Hawk species – Accipiter. 1 possibly 2. Flying over center of Wooded Island.
20. Ring-billed Gull – X.
21. Herring Gull – 2. One on Darrow Bridge and one in the Outer Harbor.
22. CASPIAN TERN – 1. Spotted by Al over soccer field.
23. MONK PARAKEET – 2. Flew over us, squawking. Above the Rose Garden. Flying SE to NW. May be using the nest near the golf driving range building.
27. HAIRY WOODPECKER – 1. Female. Wooded Island.
29. Eastern Phoebe – 2. One was in the Japanese Garden and the other was southeast of the South Bridge.
32. BROWN CREEPER – 1. Seen by Al.
34. American Robin – 6.
35. FIELD SPARROW – 1. Wooded Island.
42. American Goldfinch – 2.
43. House Sparrow – 1.

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 openings on both sides are big enough to easily walk through. The Bridge has been deemed unsafe. Birders continue to meet on Darrow Bridge. If barricades are impassible, the group will walk around the North Lagoon to reach Wooded Island.

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