

Bobolink Meadow and Woods

Bobolink Meadow and Woods, visible across the East lagoon of Wooded Island, are just a few minutes walk from either the north or south bridge of Wooded Island. A fence that runs the length of the meadow encloses a golf driving range. This area has evolved from marshland, to grounds for the 1893's World Fair, to a golf course, to a U.S. Army NIKE missile base (1956-1971) to its current state as a tall grass prairie. The meadow derives its name from discovery of Bobolinks nesting there in the 1970's.

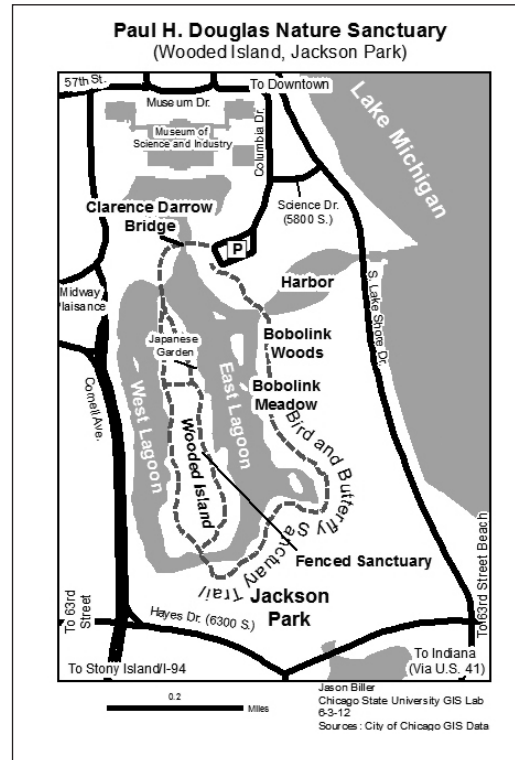
63rd Street Beach and Harbors

Most of the records of shorebirds, gulls, terns, American Pipits, and Snow buntings come from the beach at 63rd through 64th Streets. From November through March, the greatest waterfowl diversity is found off the breakwater and in the Jackson Park Inner and Outer Harbors, which straddle Coast Guard Drive from 63rd to 66th Streets.

Bird walks. Wooded Island weekly bird walks are organized by Patricia Durkin (pat.durkin@comcast.net). Walks are year round every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m. and free to the public. Birders meet at the 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 5800 South Lake Shore Drive. Wooded Island bird reports are available at www.chicagoaudubon.org.



Birders meet on Darrow Bridge by Jennie Strable. Birders left to right: Sally Etz, Carol Herzenberger, Jennette Rader, Joanne Cohen, Patricia Durkin, Mark Webster, Hal Cohen



Funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society.

Project manager, Carolyn A. Marsh, Chicago Audubon Society. Contributors: Jason Biller, Chicago State University GIS Lab; Michael Cabonce, Paul R. Clyne and Sharon Parmet. Photo permission from Markus Hoeckner, Eliot Pontius and Jennie Strable.

For more information, contact:

Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057
Phone: 773-539-6793

www.chicagoaudubon.org

Chicago's Jackson Park

Audubon Important Bird Area



Green-tailed Towhee by Markus Hoeckner



Markus Hoeckner and Randy Shonkwiler by Jennie Strable

Important Bird Area

Jackson Park is a vital component of Chicago's magnificent lakefront public park system. It is located on the south side of Chicago, from 56th through 67th Streets, in the Hyde Park and Woodlawn neighborhoods. The Museum of Science and Industry is housed at the north end of Jackson Park, just a few blocks east of the prestigious University of Chicago. This 543-acre park features Wooded Island, the Osaka Japanese Garden, Bobolink Meadow and Woods, the 63rd Street Beach, boat harbors and the Jackson Park Golf Course.

The renowned landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux laid the first plans for Jackson Park in 1869, and the plans were greatly accelerated when Chicago won the bid for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Daniel H. Burnham employed Olmstead to design the waterways and Wooded Island as a nature sanctuary for the Exposition.

National Register of Historic Places and Paul Douglas Nature Sanctuary

Douglas C. Anderson, a former president of the Chicago Ornithological and Chicago Audubon Societies, was instrumental in adding Jackson Park to the National Register of Historic Places in the early 1970s. In addition, in 1977, Anderson played a key role in bestowing the eponym of "Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary" on Wooded Island to commemorate his friend Senator Douglas (1892-1976) who championed the foundation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Anderson led weekly Chicago Audubon Society bird walks through Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow from 1974 until his retirement in 2009. The walks continue to this day, starting from the Clarence Darrow Memorial Bridge, which overlooks the lagoon south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Darrow – a legendary criminal lawyer, lover of nature, and Hyde Park resident – defended Leopold and Loeb from the death penalty for the murder of a boy in 1924. Ironically, Nathan Leopold was a keen birder and published on the local birds in *The Auk*.

Significant migratory bird stopover

Jackson Park plays a significant role in the National Audubon Society's recognition of the *Chicago Lakefront Important Bird Area*. The expanse of Lake Michigan is a major obstacle for birds in migration, and Chicago's lakefront parks serve as vital refuges. Jackson Park is also part of the *Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide*.

Over 300 species of birds have been recorded in Jackson Park including the first Illinois records for Lesser Black-backed Gull, Townsend's Warbler and Brewer's Sparrow. Further rarities include Magnificent Frigatebird, Northern Gannet, Sandwich Tern, Swainson's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, and many others. The bird list was compiled by Paul R. Clyne, a past member of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee and past seasonal compiler and editor for *Meadowlark*.

Hyde Park resident Margaret Morse Nice (1883-1974) published *Breeding Birds of Jackson Park* in 1952 (*Wilson*



Purple Martin houses/Museum of Science and Industry by Eliot Pontius

Bulletin, Vol. 82). Nice was internationally recognized for her groundbreaking bird behavior studies including the life history of the song sparrow.

Wooded Island - Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary

The 16-acre Wooded Island is primarily a showcase for Neotropical migrant songbirds. From mid-April through May, and then again from late August through mid-October, Wooded Island is generally the most fruitful site within Jackson Park for migrants. The Chicago Park District designated Wooded Island a Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary.

The Osaka Japanese Garden is the main feature at the north end of Wooded Island. This garden was a gift to the City of Chicago for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. It is landscaped with plantings in the Japanese tradition, a tea house, pool and waterfall. The openness of the garden trees makes for easy and pleasurable birding.

The fenced area towards the south end of Wooded Island was planted as a rose garden at the time of the world's fair. This space is now landscaped with native plants. The protective chain-link fence and trees around the perimeter often attract large numbers of migrants.