

# WHERE-ON-EARTH & CRAZY-AS-A-COOT BIRD WALKS

November 21, 2023

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Our Pre-Thanksgiving bird walks gave everyone a few moments to spend outside with gratitude for the earth, its beauty, and all the natural beings that surround us. See photo below.

I am so grateful for the ongoing contributions of yours, and many others, to this community endeavor of taking note and showing appreciation for earth's amazing life forms.

By the way, the November showing at Film & Soup at the Island Free Library was Earth: One Amazing Day. If you have the chance check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygwrn1xl-hl>

No matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day. Peace, Kim.

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- Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).
  - A note of caution: when counting at a bird feeder it is the most reliable/conservative to count the number of a species seen at any one time. Observations in *Gray* are deemed to be a double observation and are therefore not counted in the list. Care should be taken to not over count by tallying the cumulative number seen.
  - [Things in brackets are notes by me - kg] How I quantify: Few=3, Several=5, Many/Numerous=10, Flock = 15+

## **Block Island**

(49 species)

Canada Goose – 25

Mute Swan – 2

American Wigeon – 15

Am. Black Duck – 3

Mallard – 23

Green-winged Teal – 3

Greater/Lesser Scaup – 1

White-winged Scoter – 50

Bufflehead – 6

Hooded Merganser – 13

Red-breasted Merganser – 25

Ruddy Duck – 40

Ring-necked Pheasant – 9

Common Loon – 2

Pied-billed Grebe – 1

Northern Gannet – 1

Double-crested/Great Cormorant – 2

Am. Bittern – 1

Great Blue Heron – 1

Great Egret – 3

Northern Harrier – 10

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1  
Coopers Hawk – 1  
Red-tailed Hawk – 1  
American Coot – 1  
Herring Gull – 3  
Gull species – 5  
Rock Pigeon – 12  
Mourning Dove – 10  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1  
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker – 6  
Merlin – 2  
Blue Jay – 3  
American Crow – 13  
Black-capped Chickadee – 2  
Carolina Wren – 4  
Eastern bluebird – 5  
Wood Thrush – 2  
American Robin – 9  
Gray Catbird – 2  
European Starling – 600  
Myrtle Warbler<sup>2</sup> – 5  
Chipping Sparrow – 2  
Song Sparrow – 6  
White-throated Sparrow – 18  
Slate-colored Junco<sup>1</sup> – 15  
Northern Cardinal – 3  
American Goldfinch – 1  
House Sparrow – 8

**From Afar:** South Kingston, RI; Woodbury CT.; Malden Bridge, NY; Sarasota, FL.  
(41 species)

Canada Goose – 135  
Mallard – 6  
Greater Scaup – 30  
Wild Turkey – 36  
Wood Stork – 1  
Great Blue Heron – 1  
Little Blue Heron – 1  
Black Vulture – 3  
Turkey Vulture – 30  
Osprey – 3  
Bald Eagle – 1  
Coopers Hawk – 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2  
Red-tailed Hawk – 1  
Common Gallinule – 3  
Sandhill Crane – 3

Tern species – 2  
Mourning Dove – 3  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2  
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker – 1  
Hairy Woodpecker – 2  
Blue Jay – 4  
Scrub Jay – 5  
American Crow – 11  
Tufted Titmouse – 3  
White-breasted Nuthatch – 3  
Winter Wren – 1  
Carolina Wren – 1  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 5  
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1  
Eastern Bluebird – 3  
American Robin – 19  
Northern Mockingbird – 1  
Black-and-white Warbler – 3  
Palm Warbler – 7  
American Tree Sparrow – 1  
Song Sparrow – 20  
White-throated Sparrow – 4  
Slate-colored Junco<sup>1</sup> – 7  
Northern Cardinal – 1  
House Finch – 6

**Amy Keeler** – November 21, Out and About Mitchell Ln & Corn Neck Rd. 1 Great Blue Heron, 21 Mallard, 6 Bufflehead, 12 Pigeon(town), 7 Mourning Dove, 4 RN Pheasant(2Corn Nk), 200 + Starling, 2 Song Sparrow, 8 House Sparrow, 2 Carolina Wren, 2 Cardinal, 2 Blue jay, 8 American Crow, 2 BC Chickadee, 5 Gull (species), 2 Northern Harrier, 2 Merlin (1 Corn Neck rd).

**Chris Blane** – From his travels around the island including the following places: “old parsonage” off Beacon Hill, Georgian Swamp (Corn Neck Rd), “the old rail” adjacent to GSP, and around the home fields and yard. A beautiful day for birds. Marsh Hawk 5, Bluebirds 5, imm. Red-tailed Hawk 1, Coopers Hawk 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Canada Geese 25, Green-winged Teal 3, Hooded Merganser 11, Black Duck 2, Bittern 1, Great Egret 3, Junco 15, White-throated Sparrow 18, Wood Thrush 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1.

**Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers** – Middle Pond - Fields to dune & shore - Block Island, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Nov 21, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny (cloudy by noon), cold (37F to start), NE wind. Participants: Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Chuck McMellon, Will Young, Faye Benedict, Heather Hatfield, Kim Sheridan, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Anne & Carlos Salinas, & Kim G. 25 species (+2 other taxa). Mute Swan 2, American Wigeon 15, Mallard 2, American Black Duck 1, Greater/Lesser Scaup 1, White-winged Scoter 50, Red-breasted Merganser 25, Ruddy Duck 40, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Mourning Dove 3, American Coot 1, Herring Gull 3, Common Loon 2, Northern Gannet 1, Great/Double-crested Cormorant 2, Northern Harrier 2, Northern Flicker 6, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 5, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 2, American Robin 9, American Goldfinch 1, Chipping Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 4, Yellow-rumped Warbler 5, Northern Cardinal 1.

**Dan Kasuba** – Hi Kim. Reported bird sightings from around Sarasota over the past week include a sudden influx [7] of palm warblers, by far the most common central west Florida coast warbler, along with a smattering [5] of blue gray gnatcatchers (also very common) and some [3] black and whites. My outing

yesterday morning, much to my surprise and delight was a small flock of scrub jays. A very rare species to see anytime here.

Sarasota neighborhoods 8am - 10 am 11/21/23: 1 each of the following: bald eagle, GBH, little blue heron, wood stork, red-bellied woodpecker and red shouldered hawk. Also, 3 sandhill cranes, 6 American crows, 3 ospreys, 2 terns(? Sp), 30 turkey and 3 black vultures, and 3 common galinules.

Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**Darcy Thurrott** – Hi Kim, 38° mostly cloudy and a bit raw, wind ESE 8mph, rain coming

Not sure about tree sparrow, as it is first I've seen this year. Hope your Thanksgiving is wonderful, warm & filled with family and friends, & of course great foods! 🍗🍽️. Take care, Darcy 🙌

North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21). Nov 21, 2023, 12:40 PM, Traveling 0.73 miles, 26 minutes. All birds reported? Yes. Comments: 35 Canada Goose, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Blue Jay, 2 American Crow, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Northern Mockingbird, 3 Eastern Bluebird, 19 American Robin, 6 House Finch, 1 American Tree Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Junco



Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers, November 21, 2023. Photo by **Faye Benedict**. – “It was beautiful, and so many ducks. Happy Thanksgiving.” -FB

**Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce** – 2 hooded mergansers on Wardens, 1 harrier over the yard and 400 starlings on Cooneymus by Rodman’s. We got the last ferry yesterday—just in time! Have a great Thanksgiving

**Tom Fetherston** – Here's my list. Happy Thanksgiving!!! Hi Kim Today's list is a split once again, containing observations made early in the morning around Malden Bridge, Columbia County NY, then after I got home to Wordens Pond, around the yard and from the dock.

This week's observations:

- It was cold (18) at dawn in Malden Bridge and little was moving, only a couple of juncos in an evergreen near the house and a few crows flying overhead. an hour or so later as I was leaving, it had warmed up a bit and more birds were out and about.
- There was another flock of scaup on the pond, too far to identify the species initially but a group did close the distance enough to see they were greater scaup.
- Lots of birds around the feeders and kicking through the leaves underneath. Seems that more white-throated sparrows have arrived.

Here's the list, broken into Malden Bridge NY and Worden's Pond / my yard. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP. Estimates noted with an asterisk \* Birds in the field or at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes.

MALDEN BRIDGE NY: Dark-eyed junco (2), American crow (3), Wild turkey (36\*), Canada goose (100\*), Red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk.

WORDEN'S POND: Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay, Dark-eyed junco (2), White-breasted nuthatch (2), White-throated sparrow (4), Greater scaup (30\*) WP, Mallard (6) WP, Song sparrow (20), Golden-crowned kinglet, Hairy woodpecker, Carolina wren, Winter wren, Northern cardinal, Mourning dove (3). Cheers, Fether  
Cheers, Fether.

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- <sup>1</sup>**Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) is a species that "includes at least six recognizable populations." (The Sibley Guide to Birds). A junco seen on the east coast is Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). On the west coast, both Slate-colored and Oregon Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) can be found. So, when I am recording Junco sightings on the east coast I will list them as Slate-colored; however west coast Juncos will be recorded as Dark-eyed unless the reporter stipulates Oregon or Slate-colored. What fun it will be if we get reports of one of the other Juncos which are generally seen in limited areas "mid-country".
  - <sup>2</sup>Q. What is a <sup>2</sup>**Myrtle Warbler**? A. Yellow-rumped Warbler (YRWA), *Setophaga coronata*. The species YRWA is comprised of two subspecies, once considered separate species. The eastern population/subspecies was known as Myrtle Warbler (*coronata*), and the western population/subspecies known as Audubon's Warbler (*auduboni*). These two regional populations have been "lumped" to form Yellow-rumped Warbler.