

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

February 7, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

What a great set of observations! It is fun to hear about all the shorebirds in Florida, while sea ducks are strong in the northeast. Also fun to consider the western versions of song birds (bluebird, junco, yellow-rump, jays, towhees and thrushes/robins) in the Oregon.

A note about Yellow-rumped Warbler: Yellow-rump warbler is a species that has “lumped” two variations of the species (previously considered 2 different species). The east coast version was/is known as Myrtle Warbler, the west coast version was/is known as Audubon’s Warbler. Since the two versions can be found in some of the same location during migration and winter (for instance coastal US northwest) they are to be identified as Yellow-rumped Warbler – unless, they are specifically called out, based on plumage, especially adult plumage. Audubon’s Warbler has a yellow throat and generally stronger white wing bars, versus Myrtle Warbler with a white throat. In addition, consider that the Myrtle variety does occur in the west during winter and migration, Audubon’s rarely occur accidentally in the mid and eastern. Thus, an eastern Yellow-rumped Warbler may be called – correctly – Myrtle Warbler. Whereas a western Yellow-rumped Warbler can only be identified as Audubon’s Warbler if it’s throat is yellow, in conjunction with other plumage and age observations.

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

Peace, Kim

- Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).
- ¹**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”.
- 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. 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

(38 species)

Snow Goose – 2

Canada Goose – 35

Gadwall – 6

Mallard – 36+

Green-winged Teal – 10

Ring-necked Duck – 1

Common Eider – 9

White-winged Scoter – 6

Bufflehead – 20

Common Goldeneye – 13
Hooded Merganser – 12
Red-breasted Merganser – 7
Duck species – 6
Ring-necked Pheasant – 1
Wild Turkey (feral) – 15
Common Loon – 5
Horned Grebe – 4
Great Blue Heron – 2
Northern Harrier – 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Herring Gull – 50
Great Black-backed Gull – 5
Mourning Dove – 10
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 1
American Kestrel – 1
Blue Jay – 3
American Crow – 42
Fish Crow – 2
Black-capped Chickadee – 3
Carolina Wren – 5
Northern Mockingbird – 1
American Robin – 26
Myrtle Warbler (a.k.a. Yellow-rumped Warb.) – 22
Song Sparrow – 1
Northern Cardinal – 13
House Finch – 2

From Afar: Cumberland, Portsmouth, & South Kingston, RI; Jamesport/Peconic Bay, NY; Woodbury, CT; Sarasota Bay, FL; Creswell & Pleasant Hill, Oregon.
(68 species)

Canada Goose – 114+
Mute Swan – 2
Gadwall – 2
American Wigeon – 14
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 16
Scaup species – 5
Scoter species – 12
Long-tailed Duck – 2
Bufflehead – 18
Common Goldeneye – 1
Red-breasted Merganser – 9
Wild Turkey – 43
American White Pelican – 6
Brown Pelican – 30

Double-crested Cormorant – 11
Cormorant species – 1
Great Blue Heron – 15
Snowy Egret – 6
Cattle Egret – 10
Yellow-crowned Night Heron – 2
White Ibis – 14
Roseate Spoonbill – 3
Black Vulture – 3
Osprey – 4
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 3
Black-bellied Plover – 1
Laughing Gull – 3
Ring-billed Gull – 20
Herring Gull – 181
Tern species – 2
Rock Pigeon – 39
Mourning Dove – 29
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 1
Woodpecker species – 1
Blue Jay – 21
Stellar Jay – 20
American Crow – 81
Common Raven – 3
Black-capped Chickadee – 8
Tufted Titmouse – 9
White-breasted Nuthatch – 5
Carolina Wren – 8
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Western Bluebird – 2
American Robin – 40
Varied Thrush – 1
Gray Catbird – 4
Northern Mockingbird – 6
European Starling – 32
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's Warb.?) – 3
Spotted Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 18
White-throated Sparrow – 29
Sparrow species – 5
Slate-colored Junco – 5
Dark-eyed Junco – 22+

Northern Cardinal – 15
Red-winged Blackbird – 4
House Finch – 6
American Goldfinch – 6
House Sparrow – 20

Other noted critters: Squirrels

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim, Here is our non-Coots bird list for the day. They were seen around our yard (including Warden's Pond) and during a walk west on Cooneymus past Cooneymus Swamp to the beach. Snow Goose 2 (flying behind a small flock of Canada Geese) Canada Goose 19 Gadwall 6 Mallard 16 Green-winged Teal 10 Ring-necked Duck 1 Common Eider 1 White-winged Scoter 5 Bufflehead 2 Common Goldeneye 12 Red-breasted Merganser 5 Hooded Merganser 1 Common Loon 1 Horned Grebe 4 Great Blue Heron 1 (seen flying south near north end of Rodman's) Sharp-shinned Hawk (beautiful adult - a frequent visitor to our yard) Mourning Dove 2 Downy Woodpecker 1 American Crow 6 American Robin 11 Black-capped Chickadee 3 Song Sparrow 1 Northern Cardinal 7 House Finch 2. Thanks for a terrific walk this morning. Cathy & Nigel.

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Manisses Marker & environs, Washington, Rhode Island, US
Feb 7, 2023; 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM; Protocol: Traveling 1.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Skippers Island road to Manisses Marker to West Beach & back to Corn Neck Rd. Sunny, 28F with NNE wind. Walk started with show & tell of deceased (1/6/23) Saw-whet Owl. And, midway along the walk we picked apart an owl pellet, which had a large rodent skull (muskrat?).

Participants: Mena Hautau, Kim Bubko, Socha Cohen, Susan Matheke, Heather Hatfield, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Judy Gray, Sarah Gray & daughter Moni, John Formica, & Kim G. 17 species (+1 other taxa): Canada Goose 16, Common Eider 8, White-winged Scoter 1, Bufflehead 18, Common Goldeneye 1, Hooded Merganser 2, Red-breasted Merganser 2, duck sp. 5, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Herring Gull 50, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Common Loon 4, American Crow 12, Carolina Wren 5, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 15, Yellow-rumped Warbler 22, Northern Cardinal 6.

Corrie Heinz – I don't have Tuesday specifically - In general lots is hooded mergansers [conservatively 5] around, great blue in my marsh still and back sitting on the hummock at small pond next to town main. Building I had a female n. Harrier sitting in my yard yesterday on the picnic table A red tail hawk hanging out in my pine trees I haven't been birding except on my dog walks -

Dan Kasuba – Greetings Kim, I kayaked at the confluence of the intracoastal waterway and Sarasota Bay on 2/7/23 in the early morning. There are a number of islands there, including a series of 3 that serve as nesting/rookery sites for a number of species, and there was plenty of noise and activity as I passed by. Sightings there, and in the neighborhoods were as follows: 6 white and approximately 30 brown pelicans(nesting), 11 double crested cormorants, 14 white ibises, 15(nesting) great blue herons, 2 yellow crowned night herons, 4 Ospreys, 3 roseate spoonbills, 6 snowy and 10 cattle egrets, 1 belted kingfisher, 2 tern species, 3 laughing gulls, 9 red breasted mergansers, and 1 black bellied plover. Also, 38 rock pigeons, 7 blue jays, 4 cardinals, 2 catbirds, 1 Carolina wren, approximately 20 turkey and 3 black vultures, approximately 20 American robins, and 60 Americans crows. Thanks so much, and enjoy! Dan

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim, here's my list...from around our house & in the cemetery. So incredibly mild. Bluebirds were warbling.. Not an exciting day, but I'll enjoy whatever comes our way! You too I'm sure; hope you had a good walk. Darcy. North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21). Feb 07, 2023, 10:20 AM, Traveling 3.19 miles; 69 minutes; All birds reported? Yes; Comments: Mild, little to no breeze, mostly sunny 36°

16 Canada Goose, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4 Blue Jay, 3 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Carolina Wren, 8 European Starling, 3 Eastern Bluebird, 1 American Robin

Erica Anderson – Hi Kim, Today was overcast and a bit rainy so it's a feeder report today. There's been amazing activity at our feeders this year compared to several past years. The suet is particularly popular and has drawn in two new * (to the backyard) species. Erica - Pleasant Hill, OR

*Western Bluebird 2, Dark-eyed Junco 20+, *Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, Stellers Jay 2, House Finch 4, Varied Thrush 1, Song Sparrow 3, Spotted Towhee 1, Black Capped Chickadee 3

Faye Benedict – Hi Kim, Place: Payne Road, the Gully. Time: 8-10 a.m. Tues. Feb. 7. Birds seen (it was cold!): -1 unidentified duck headed toward Sands Pond, -3 crows, -1 harrier hawk. Faye

Judy Gray (with Sarah Gray and Manih Miller) – Kim, We saw a kestrel hovering over the field between Corn Neck Road and Cutting Cottages on our way home from the Coot walk. And about an hour later, saw 15 wild turkeys on Cooneymus. -Judy-

Kim Gaffett – Going-about-my-day. at home: Blue jay 3, A. Crow 21, mallards 20+, mourning Dove 8, Fish Crow 2. Trims Pond: kingfisher, Hooded Merganser 4.

Kim Wetzel – Hi Kim! [Creswell, OR] I finally remembered to spend some time watching birds at my house today! I put peanut suet out and it attracted so many Steller Jays! I had a hard time keeping track of them but I think my final count was 18! They are so much fun to watch and very loud! Here is the list of birds I watched around my neighborhood this afternoon: 18 Steller Jays, 9 Turkeys, 5 sparrows, 2 squirrels (trying to eat the suet I put out for the Steller Jays), 1 woodpecker. Sincerely, Kim Wetzel .

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Here ya go! On Feb 7th I swang by the eastern shore of Portsmouth for a quick count at the Weaver Cove Boat Ramp on Burma Road. There are a lot of thicket there and a small outlet stream along the Narragansett Bay shoreline. Canada Goose 2, Gadwall 2, American Wigeon 5, Mallard 16, Common Goldeneye 1, Ring-billed Gull 6, Herring Gull 70, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 2, Northern Mockingbird 1, Dark-eyed Junco 1, White-throated Sparrow 12, Song Sparrow 4, Northern Cardinal 5. Have a great wknd, Lauren.

Maggie Komosinski – Hi Kim, here's my report from the east end of Long Island for Feb. 7. I had great views of the Red-tailed hawks soaring above the fields, with sun-lit tails ... and the Raven's call was distinctive and loud! Best, Maggie. Feb. 7, 2023 S. Jamesport, Long Island, NY. Environs: neighborhoods, farm fields, horse farm and creeks off the Peconic Bay. Canada Goose 70+, Cormorant sp. 1, Mute Swan 2, A. Widgeon 9, Bufflehead 18, Scoter sp. 12, Long-tailed Duck 2, Scaup sp. 5, Wild Turkey 14, Ring-billed Gull 14, Herring Gull 11, Red-tailed Hawk 3, Mourning Dove 21, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 1, Northern Raven 1, Blue Jay 4, Tufted Titmouse 4, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Wren 2, Northern Mockingbird 5, European Starling 23, American Robin 3, House Sparrow 12, House Finch 2, American Goldfinch 4, White-throated Sparrow 16, Song Sparrow 7, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Northern Cardinal 2.

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim – A few interesting birds around the neighborhood. Thanks for reminding me. Song Sparrow – 2 (singing, which I've noticed in the past few days), House Sparrow – 8, American Goldfinch – 2, Dark-eyed Junco – 2, Tufted Titmouse – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 1, Northern Cardinal – 2 (also singing this week), American Robin – 11 (on the ground in the neighbor's yard), Mourning Dove – 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1, Blue Jay – 1, American Crow – 4, European Starling – 1, Canada Goose – 2 (flying over, honking), Rock Pigeon – 1.

Tom Fetherston – Here you go! No exotic Hawaiian birds this time 🙄 The next list will also be RI but for the first bird walk in March I'll be on the Nile River near Cairo. Perhaps some sacred ibis, Egyptian geese and crocodile birds? Cheers, Fether

07 Feb 2023. Good evening Kim! Back from Hawaii, nothing exotic in this report. Some species I saw over the past week and was hoping to list (eagles, golden crowned kinglets, a ring-billed gull) were absent today. I didn't have any mongooses cross my path either 😊. However, while out running with our hound Brownie, the local version, a long-tailed weasel, jumped out of the brush and paralleled our course for a short while before hopping into a hollow tree stump. The pond is mostly frozen across, with only a few open patches. At dawn there was a small flock of geese standing next to one, mid-day a load of gulls dropped in along with some crows, then in the afternoon the pond was empty except for a few gulls and a pair of black ducks standing on the ice near a little open water. Some interesting behavior I noted: a pair of tufted titmice were really going at it, flying after each other, making a ruckus and mixing it up. Seems a bit early for staking out territory but that's what it looked like.

Here's the list. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP. Estimates noted with an asterisk * Birds at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes.

Canada goose (24*) WP, American robin (5), American crow (12) WP & yard, Song sparrow (2), Savannah sparrow, White-throated sparrow, Slate-colored junco (4), Northern cardinal (2)/ Tufted titmouse (3) Blue jay (4), Red-bellied woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker, Carolina wren, Herring gull (100*) WP, Mourning dove (5), Common raven (2), White-breasted nuthatch, American black duck (2) WP, Cheers, Fether