

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

December 21th, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- Interesting that the two lists – Block Island and locations from afar – have the same number of species. The BI list would not have been so great if not for the non-Coot Walk reports. It really makes a big difference to get a few additional reports from different parts of the island. I am so appreciative of the “from afar” informants – having those reports add so much interest to these reports.
- 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. 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, +=10+, +++=10++.

Block Island

(38 + 1 ?species)

Canada Geese – 7

American Black Duck – 2

Mallard – 32

Common Eider – 2

White-winged Scoter – 3

Black Scoter – 3

Long-tailed Duck – 16

Bufflehead – 55

Red-breasted Merganser – 37

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Common Loon – 3

Horned Grebe – 8

Grebe species – 1

Northern Gannet – 1

Double-crested Cormorant – 2

Great Blue Heron – 1

Norther Harrier – 1

Sanderling – 13

Herring Gull – 24

Great Black-backed Gull – 8

Mourning Dove – 12

Belted Kingfisher – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Northern Flicker – 5

Merlin – 1
Blue Jay – 3
American Crow – 78
Black-capped Chickadee – 5
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 11
American Robin – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 30
Song Sparrow – 6
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Northern Cardinal – 6
House Finch – 6
House Sparrow – 9+

From Afar South Kingston, Newport & Cumberland, RI; Sarasota, FL.

(39 species)

Canada Goose – 24
Mute Swan – 3
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 21
Greater Scaup – 23
Bufflehead – 15
Wild Turkey – 30
Red-breasted Cormorant – 4
Great Egret – 2
Snowy Egret – 2
White Ibis – 10
Limpkin – 1
Anhinga – 2
Black Vulture – 4
Turkey Vulture – 10
Osprey – 2
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Common Gallinule – 3
American Coot – 17
Herring Gull – 30
Mourning Dove – 15
Eastern Screech Owl – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 71
Common Raven – 1
Tufted Titmouse – 2
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 2

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 3
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 8
Pine Warbler – 5
Song Sparrow – 2
Slate-colored Junco – 3
Northern Cardinal – 2
House Sparrow – 12

Cathy Joyce – Hello Kim, Here is the bird list for our backyard (including Warden's Pond):

On the pond: Mallard 5 (3m, 2f), Black duck 1

In the backyard (mostly around our feeders): Mourning doves 3, American crows 5 (flying around over the house/yard)
Cardinal 4 (3m, 1f), House finch - at least 6 (one of the males was orange-ish color), Chickadee 2, Red-bellied woodpecker 1, Downy woodpecker 1, Carolina wren 1, White-throated sparrow 3, Song sparrow 1, House sparrow - at least 8. Cheers, Cathy

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers eBird report: Cormorant Point & Swamp & environs, Washington, Rhode Island, US Dec 21, 2021 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling. 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny & cool, about 40F, west wind. Participants: Alex Baba-Vulic, Vicki Butlevska & Georgia, Socha Cohen, Cathy Joyce, Judy Gray, Sarah Gray, Nigel Grindley, Heather Hatfield, Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Josie Merck, & Kim Gaffett. In addition to birds there was 2 floats of Harbor Seals in Cormorant Cove.

28 species. Mallard 8, American Black Duck 1, Black Scoter 1, Bufflehead 15, Red-breasted Merganser 12, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Horned Grebe 8, Mourning Dove 9, Herring Gull 20, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Common Loon 3, Northern Gannet 1, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Great Blue Heron 1, Northern Harrier 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Northern Flicker 5, Merlin 1, American Crow 60, Black-capped Chickadee 3, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 10, European Starling 30, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 1, House Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 5, Northern Cardinal 2

Dan Kasuba – Greetings Kim, As we had downpours on the solstice I ventured out today(12/22) to Red Bug Slough in Sarasota. Sightings included 3 mallards, 2 red shouldered hawks, 3 common gallinules, 10 white ibises, Approximately 70 American crows, many turkey vultures, 4 black vultures, 2 ospreys, 1 limpkin, 2 anhingas, 2 great egrets, 2 snowy egrets, 5 pine warblers and 3 blue gray gnat catchers. Also the 2 Eastern screech owls that roost in our yard. Merry Christmas and thanks for all you do!!

Faye Benedict – Pure joy on my Sandy Pt "last day" walk today/Dec. 14 -- seals, gulls and a snowy owl!!
Happy holidays Kim, see you in the spring. Faye

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day on BI: (Home) Mallards 20, American Crow 13, Canada Geese 6, Blue Jay 3.

Megan McClellan – New York. Going Sadly didn't see any birds. Hear some from the ground, but they are all hiding out in the thickets here today - my dog even tried to flush them out, but they retreated deeper into the safety of the brush. It is so funny. I thought birds left this time of year. They are just bedded down for warmth maybe? Different birds at this time of year I assume...? The red tailed hawks are super visible right now as trees are bare, but didn't spot one today. They are so cool. Hope you had a great bird walk.

Nigel Grindley – I'm standing on Mansion Beach after checking Sandy's propane and watching about 40 bufflehead, 13 sanderling, 16 long-tailed ducks, 2 black scoters, 3 off GBBG, 4 herring gull, 15 RB mergansers, 3 white-winged scoter! And 2 common eider and a grebe and mergansers increased to 25
And a single Canada goose surrounded by ice on Sandy's pond. Heading home!

Tim Mooney – Around my yard in Cumberland, RI: Carolina Wren – 2, Northern Mockingbird - 1, whistling like a starling
European Starling - 8 Blue Jay - 2 American Crow - 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 Dark-eyed Junco - 3 Song Sparrow - 1
House Sparrow - 12 approx. Have a great day, Tim

Tom Fetherston – Good evening Kim - Here's my list for today. Most from my yard and dock. I did run an errand to the
Naval Station in Newport and kept track of birds I could see without running off the road, not sure if they count so listing
them separately. As before birds on or immediately in the vicinity of the pond will be noted with (WP).

Mallard duck (18) WP, Greater scaup (23) WP, Blue jay (3), Mourning dove (15) est*, Cardinal (2), Hairy woodpecker (1),
Song sparrow (1), Tufted titmouse (2), White breasted nuthatch (1), Mute swan (3) WP, American coot (17) WP, Raven
(1), Herring gull (30) est*

Trip to Newport: Red tailed hawk (1), Canada goose (24) est*, Bufflehead (15) est*, Red-breasted merganser (4),
American black duck (2), Wild turkey (30) est* The hawk was in a tree along 138 on Conanicut Island, the turkeys off
Tuckertown Rd. and the rest of the waterfowl around Coddington Cove.

* When birds are moving or distant and hard to count I'll make my "best biologist guess" at the approximate number.

Other interesting bird notes outside of today. – Glenn and I saw a small flock (6?) of bluebirds near the impoundment in
Great Swamp while hunting last weekend. I haven't encountered that flock of blackbirds again to check them out further
but could they be Brewer's or just rusty that hadn't displayed winter plumage yet?

Cheers, Fether

Vicki Butlevska Continuing after Coot Walk on Coast Guard Rd. to CG Station. (Added to, and included in Coot list
above: 1 Merlin, 1 RN Pheasant, 60 A. Crows, 1 Marsh Hawk). Seen later in the same area: 2 RB Merganser, 1 Hooded
Merganser