

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

March 15st, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Here are the reports from bird observations on March 15. As always it is super interesting to note the species that folks are seeing from around the country (and sometimes, the earth).

Of special note on the BI list is the high number of Common Goldeneye around the shorelines.

Many thanks all!

Peace, Kim

- 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”.
- 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

(42 species)

Canada Geese – 49

Mallard – 24

American Wigeon – 12

Common Eider – 5

Black Scoter – 4

Bufflehead – 21 + 40**

Common Goldeneye – 78+

Red-breasted Merganser – 29 + 10**

Ring-necked Pheasant – 3

Red-throated Loon – 5**

Common Loon – 22 +10**

Horned Grebe – 2

Great Cormorant – 12

Great Blue Heron – 6

Norther Harrier – 4

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Black-bellied Plover – 10

Killdeer – 8

Sanderling – 30+/-
Herring Gull – 125+ + 22**
Great Black-backed Gull – 20 + 275**
Rock Pigeon – 6
Mourning Dove – 9
Snowy Owl – 1**
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Blue Jay – 6
American Crow – 17
Fish Crow – 11
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
Carolina Wren – 6
American Robin – 75
European Starling – 30
Northern Mockingbird – 1
Myrtle Warbler – 1
Song Sparrow – 19
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Northern Cardinal – 14
Red-winged Blackbird – 139
Common Grackle – 10
House Finch – 10
American Goldfinch – 5
House Sparrow – 7

From Afar South Kingston, Little Compton, Tiverton, & Cumberland, RI; Naples, & Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA; Roseburg, OR.
(75 species)

Canada Goose – 9
Wood Duck – 8
Mottled Duck – 2
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 7
Blue-winged Teal – 3
Ring-necked Duck – 5
Hooded Merganser – 4
Common Merganser – 1
Wild Turkey – 4
American White Pelican – 5
Brown? Pelican – 18
Double-crested Cormorant – 1
Anhinga – 6
Least Bittern – 1
Great Blue Heron – 1
Great Egret – 1
Snowy Egret – 6
Little Blue Heron – 3

Glossy Ibis – 1
White Ibis – 18
Turkey Vulture – 3
Black Vulture – 2
Vulture species – 8
Osprey – 6
Bald Eagle – 1
Northern Harrier – 1
Coopers's Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Sora Rail – 3
Purple Gallinule – 6
Common Gallinule – 10
Limpkin – 1
Sanderling – 6
Herring Gull – 100+
Gull species – 50
Tern species 35+
Mourning Dove – 28
Anna's Hummingbird – 1
Acorn Woodpecker – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 4
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
Steller's Jay – 2
Blue Jay – 7
Western Scrub Jay – 2
American Crow – 27
Fish Crow – 28
Common Raven – 3
Purple Martin – 10
Black-capped Chickadee – 8
Tufted Titmouse – 7
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Brown Creeper – 2
Carolina Wren – 5
Eastern Bluebird – 1
American Robin – 7
Northern Mockingbird – 6
European Starling – 14
Cedar Waxwing – 4
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1
Amer. Tree Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 4
Golden-crowned Sparrow – 4
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 9
Oregon¹ Junco – 2
Northern Cardinal – 4

Painted Bunting – 3
Red-winged Blackbird – 40
Yellow-headed Blackbirds – 1
Common Grackle – 50
Boat-tailed Grackle – 22
Brown-headed Cowbird – 31
House Finch – 2
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 10

And, 1 medium alligator.

Amy Keeler – in Naples Florida 78 degrees: 2 Mottled Duck, 3 Osprey, 18 [Brown?] Pelican, 6 House Sparrow, 8 Vulture, 1 Cardinal (m), 4 Starling, 26 Mourning Dove, 6 Mockingbird, 12 Boat tail Grackle, 1 Great Blue Heron, 13 White Ibis, 1 Great Egret, 6 Snowy Egret, 4 Anhinga, 28 Fish Crow, 4 American Crow, 1 Northern Harrier, 4 Turkey, 6 Sanderling, 35 + Terns (gull billed terns?)

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley We have 2 bird counts from today, one from around the yard and the other from our walk from Dorries to South West Point seeking seals.

1) Home turf: Canada Goose – 2, Northern Harrier – 1, Mourning Dove – 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1, Blue Jay - 3, Chickadee – 3, Song Sparrow – 2, White-throated Sparrow – 3, Northern Cardinal – 10, Red-winged Blackbird – 9, Common Grackle – 3, House Finch – 6, House Sparrow – 3.

2) Seal walk: Seals – 0, American Wigeon – 12, Common Eider – 1, Bufflehead – 21, Common Goldeneye – 28, Red-breasted Merganser – 17, Common Loon – 13, Horned Grebe – 2, Great Cormorant – 1, Killdeer – 5, Herring Gull - 100+, Greater Black-backed Gull – 6, Song Sparrow - 3 (from shore), Yellow-rumped Warbler (aka Myrtle Warbler) - 1 (on stroll back home from South West Point). A great day (despite no seals)!

Corrie Heinz (Coordinated with time out for island-wide seal count). Birds: ~ Gulls establishing territories at north light refuge - Of the 300 plus gulls 95% were Greater black backs. 22 Herring gulls. Lots of shorebird tracks / maybe some 'early tattooing ... but prob sanderling working the beach at high tide?

~ On the drive back to west beach around 1:30 - female snowy at Mitchell farm sitting on wall

~ Walking towards Beane - More gulls. More evenly distributed - 1/2 herring 1/2 GRBB, tons of loons - I thought I could key out but didn't take enough time. I would definitely say at least 2 species - there were a few that looked soooo much bigger.... Multiple rafts of bufflehead- 10 to 20 per raft. Mergansers ..

1 female northern harrier by Skippers Island, 30 +\ - sanderling 10 black bellied plovers, 14 crows

Great Blue herons multiple locations around the island. At least 6 sighting

Last week: Snowy male at NL (Friday, 3/11), Female snowy west beach (Saturday, 3/12), Sunday (3/13)

morning red tail hawk at my house. [I did the best I can with numbers in BI list (** = Corrie H report in BI list) – in all cases I went with conservative (minimum) numbers; I did not include sightings of previous week in the list, but happy to have the record of them included here. – KG]

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers Spring House Hotel loop: shore/RoseFarm/Spring House & Environs, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Mar 15, 2022 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: 41F to start, light-moderate SW wind. Start at Spring House Hotel driveway to shore to Rose Farm via dirt road back to Spring House back field along edge of Animal Farm to Pat Campbell house. Participants: Susan Matheke, Deb Martin, Joanne Warfel, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Heather Hatfield, Socha Cohen, Judy Gray, Kim Bubko, Molly Fitzpatrick, Mena Hautau, & Kim G. 24 species: Canada Goose 27, Mallard 4, Common Eider 2, Black Scoter 4, Common Goldeneye 35, Red-breasted Merganser 6, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 6, Mourning Dove 4, Herring Gull 5, Great Black-backed Gull 6, Common Loon 1, Great Cormorant 11, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 4, Fish Crow 6, Carolina

Wren 3, European Starling 30, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 75, House Sparrow 4, Song Sparrow 12, Red-winged Blackbird 130, Common Grackle 7.

Curt Milton 3/15 I didn't get out today. Too much else going on. Next time! 3/16 Gave the [Anna's] hummer a look earlier. She's still on her nest.

Dan Kasuba – Greetings Kim, and all of the other bird watchers ! On 3/15 I spent the morning at Sarasota Audubon / celery fields from 9am-10:30 AM with the following sightings: 6 purple gallinules, 3 painted buntings, 1 Eastern bluebird, 1 glossy ibis, 5 American white pelicans, 1 yellow headed blackbird, 1 red tailed hawk, 1 least bittern and 3 soras seen by others on platform around me, many common gallinules, brown headed cowbirds, red winged blackbirds, boat tailed grackles and purple martins. Also 3 blue winged teal and 3 little blue herons, And one medium sized alligator! Additional sightings at Red Bug Slough in Sarasota [3-4 PM] included: 1 limpkin, 4 wood ducks, 3 mallards, 3 ospreys, 2 anhingas and 5 white ibises. Thanks as always and enjoy!!

Kim Gaffett – Going-about-my-day: Loop walk from Dories Cove to Gracies Cove – Common Golden-eye 15+, Common Eider 2, Herring Gull 20, GBBG 8, C. Loon 8, Red-breasted Merg. 6, Marsh Hawk 1, Carolina Wren 3, Canada G. 8, . Home feeders to town walk – Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Mallards 20, Canada G 12, House Finch 4, A Goldfinch 5, N. Cardinal 2, BC Chickadee 1, Blue Jay 2, Song Sp. 2, Mourning Dove 2, A. Crow 3, Fish Crow 5.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – On the 15th I stopped by Simmons Mills (which I believe is in **Little Compton**), in the morning to listen for birds, it was the regular assemblage of winter birds, however I was greeted by TWO Brown Creepers which is super cool. Turkey Vulture 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 2, Black-capped Chickadee 6, Tufted Titmouse 3, **Brown Creeper 2**, Carolina Wren 2, American Robin 1, House Finch 2, American Goldfinch 2, Song Sparrow 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 1. Later that day a bunch of us visited a state-management area on Lake Road in **Tiverton** and I got a few additional species including a Coopers Hawk at the last possible moment. & I'm wracking up a pretty hefty Newport County list this year! [Cool!] **Cooper's Hawk 1**, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Tufted Titmouse 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 2. Lots of Phoebe reports coming in from Bristol County, I'm waiting for mine! I also had an Osprey over Market Basket in New Bedford on the 13th and my birder friends were curious about the legitimacy of the sighting. However, since then many reports have been filing in for our region. Hope your Phoebes arrives soon, as well. Sincerely, Lauren

Penny Lapham – Around the house Roseburg Oregon: 4 Wood Ducks, 1 American Robin, 5 Canada Geese, 2 Mallards, 2 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon Race?), 2 Common Ravens, 5 Ring-necked Ducks, 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 2 Black Vultures, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Acorn Woodpeckers, 2 Western Scrub Jays, 1 Steller's Jay, 4 Cedar Waxwings, 1 Common Merganser, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows (Once again the Merganser had a fish and this time was chased by a Cormorant. Merganser 1 Cormorant 0.)

Susan Matheke – Hi Kim, I listed only the birds from my out and about with the horses that we did not see - I think- on the Coot Walk. 3 Killdeer, 1 Northern harrier with mouse in its talons, 3 Mourning Doves, 2 male pheasants circling each other. Male and Female Cardinal. Best, Susan M.

Tim Mooney –Thanks Kim! I just lose track of which Tuesday to look for birds. I should do it every week! It's great timing because I saw a Pileated Woodpecker by just looking out the window, for the first time ever. I saw one in the neighborhood around this time, I think, last year. But that was a quarter-mile or more down the road. This bird was in a yard two houses over from us, and there was no mistaking it as it went right up the trunk of an oak tree. The local crows were not pleased and didn't quite dive-bomb it, but close.

Yesterday [3/15], I was at Indian Lake in South Kingstown for bit. I looked and looked for an Osprey, but not yet. From there, I went over to the Great Swamp Management Area. No birds stood out to me (still no Ospreys), but I did hear wood frogs calling as soon as I got out of the car. That was fantastic. A little ways in, I ran into DEM herpetologist Scott Buchanan, who pointed out a spotted turtle. Painted turtles weren't out yet.

Indian Lake, South Kingstown: 50 gulls (didn't catch which species), 1 Hairy Woodpecker
Cumberland today [3/16]: 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Blue Jays, 3 American Crows, 2
Song Sparrows, 6 House Sparrows, 1 Northern Cardinal, 4 Dark-eyed Juncos, 1 Tufted Titmouse

Tom Fetherston Good evening Kim – I've been running the game camera aimed at the area under the bird feeders and it's been really interesting to see what shows up at night. This week there was the coyote, a grey fox, opossums and raccoons. I'll include some pictures.

Yesterday when Maggie and I were at the dock a beautiful adult bald eagle made a fly-by. I was hoping to see it this morning when Maggie and I crossed the pond to fish at sunrise. We saw some new birds (hooded mergansers) but no eagle. Went south to try the spot I'd caught a bass last week and there it was, perched in a tree along the shore! Watched us catch a bass and was still there when we left. The big mixed flocks of "blackbirds" from last time were greatly diminished but still around. Quite a few red-wings along the north shore of the pond staking out territory.

Another interesting note: I'd been catching glimpses of a small bird that was brownish-gray with yellow at the suet feeder the past couple of weeks. Assumed it was a goldfinch in winter clothing, but recently noticed a brilliant yellow rump. Had a good look today and yes, a yellow-rumped warbler! A new one for me 😊 As usual birds on Worden's Pond will be noted with WP and estimates with * Birds at the feeders were counted as singles unless they were different sexes or present simultaneously. Here's my list: Tufted titmouse (2), Slate-colored junco (5), Northern cardinal (2), Herring gull (100*) WP, Hooded merganser (4) WP, Canada goose (4) WP, Red-winged blackbird (30*) WP & yard, Black duck (2) WP, Common grackle (50*) WP & yard, Bald eagle WP, Mallard (2) WP, Brown-headed cowbird (20*), Starling (10*), American robin (3), American crow (20*) Wp & yard, Carolina wren (2), Blue jay (3), Hairy woodpecker, White-breasted nuthatch, Downy woodpecker, Raven, Yellow-rumped warbler 😊, Tree sparrow (2), Song sparrow, Mourning dove (2)