

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: February 16, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- 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: Several=5, Few=3, Many=10

Block Island

(36 species)

Canada Geese – 112

American Black Duck – 1

Mallard – 27

Redhead – 2

Ring-necked Duck – 3

Duck species – 30, possibly Scoter species

White-winged Scoter – 18

Bufflehead – 20+

Hooded Merganser – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2

Feral Turkey – 12

Northern Gannet – 5

Northern Harrier – 1

Coopers Hawk – 1

Killdeer – 2

Herring Gull – 18

Great Black-backed Gull – 6

Mourning Dove – 7

Barn Owl – maybe/likely 1 being harassed by A. Crows

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 2

American Crow – 55
Black-capped Chickadee – 5
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Carolina Wren – 3
American Robin – 7
Gray Catbird – 1
Brown Thrasher – 1
European Starling – 45+
Song Sparrow – 2
White-throated Sparrow – 4
Northern Cardinal – 8
Red-winged Blackbird – 5
House Finch – 6
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 10

From Afar Saunderstown, RI; Woodbury, CT; Westport and Boston, MA; Seattle, WA; Roseburg, OR; Sedbergh, England; Drangedal, Norway.

(47 species)

Goose species – 40+
Canada Goose – 20
Mallard – 9
Ring-necked Duck – 8
Wild Turkey – some
Bufflehead – 1
Hooded Merganser – 1
Northern Harrier – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1
*Buzzard – 2
*Oystercatcher – 1
Herring Gull – 10+
*Black-headed Gull – 5+
Gull species – many

Mourning Dove – 3
Short-eared Owl – 1
Anna's Hummingbird – 1
Acorn Woodpecker – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Northern Flicker – 1
*Kestrel - 2
Steller's Jay – 3
Blue Jay – 4
Western Scrub Jay – 2
American Crow – 58
Fish Crow – 3
*Crow species – many
Black-capped Chickadee – 15
Tufted Titmouse – 6
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Nuthatch species – 3 likely White-breasted
Carolina Wren – 5
*Blackbird – 1
American Robin – 49+
Eastern Bluebird – 3
European Starling – 5
Spotted Towhee – 1
Song Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Golden-crowned Sparrow – 5
Slate-colored Junco* – 4
Dark-eyed Junco* – 3
Northern Cardinal – 3
House Finch – 1
Common Redpoll – 1

American Goldfinch – 18+

Chaffinch – 2+

House Finch – 3

House Sparrow – 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.



[Catherine Campbell](#) – Saunderstown, RI

CC: What is this? KG: Hi Catherine It's a bit blurry, but I'm pretty sure it is an American Goldfinch. Winter plumage shows little yellow even in males. I'm thinking a young, winter, male A. Goldfinch. Are there others? CC: Thanks. I think I've only seen the one, and today is the first time. I get the chickadees, tufted titmouse, nuthatch, blue jays, and Carolina wrens all the time. Occasional mourning dove shows up. Later in the day – CC: Hey Kim, There were two at the feeder just now. [Recorded backyard birds, conservatively, as 3 each. – kg]

[Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley](#) – Here is our bird list. It's from watching the feeders this morning and then a walk to Dickens and Cooneymus Swamp this afternoon, when the sun peeped out. Although we could see sea ducks etc from the bluffs at Dickens, it was so windy that binoculars were useless so we did not attempt to identify anything (and we ignored the many gulls). I have pooled the data but for most birds the origin is obvious. Canada Geese 33, Mallards 2, Hooded Merganser 1, Coopers Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, American Crow 34, B-C Chickadee 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, American Robin 2, Brown Thrasher 1 (it's adopted us), Song Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 4, Northern Cardinal 8, House Finch 3, House Sparrow 9. On the walk, to our delight, we watched BIPCo erect an Osprey Platform by Nancy Ruddle's house! It looked very spiffy! [Yes, one of 4 new platforms put up by BIPCo in the last couple weeks.] Hope you got to see the Redhead. Yesterday we saw 3 Ring-billed ducks (on Cooneymus Swamp) and down on the beach: 18 White-winged Scoters and 5 N. Gannets among other sea birds (for the GBYBC).

[Curt Milton](#) – Seattle, WA. Good afternoon! I had a lovely bird walk this afternoon here in still-snowy Seattle. Temperatures were in the mid-40s and the snow has been reduced to piles and patches. Went to the Union Bay Natural Area again, which is a terrific spot for birds. It was very busy there! Here is what I saw that I could identify: American robin: Easily 2 dozen, Song sparrow, Steller's jay: 3, Canada goose: 2, Black-capped chickadee: 3, Dark-eyed junco, Crows: Probably 4 dozen or more, Anna's hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned sparrow: several, White-crowned sparrow, Mallard: 2, Bufflehead. Thanks for organizing the walk!

[Darcy Thurrott](#) – Woodbury, CT Hi Kim, It was very mild and sunny for a while today, up to 50°! Here's the list. Hope you had a great day too! Three Rivers Park – Woodbury. eBird list: Feb 16, 2021, 1:20 PM, Traveling 1.42 miles, 221 minutes. 18 Canada Goose, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 10 American Crow, 3 Fish Crow, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Tufted Titmouse, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Carolina Wren, 5 European Starling, 1 House Finch, 1 Common Redpoll, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 3 Northern Cardinal

[Faye Benedict](#) – Drangedal, Norway. My report is thin this time. It has been snowing solid and even the usual culprits at the feeder are few. Hoping to hear the fluttering, mournful call of a "kattugle" (*Strix aluco*), I hung out the bedroom window with ears perked at midnight. That's when you often hear them. But it was still snowing hard and no owl. The Eagle Owl Kim mentioned ("hubro" in Norwegian) is a red listed species in my county of Telemark, and there was only one confirmed sighting in Telemark last year, at an island ornithological station. Historically there used to be some in this area but I read that they are down to only about 1000 in all of Norway. The best chance of seeing or hearing one is on the coast. cheers!

[Keith Stover](#) – We were staying on the mainland one night late last week and were treated to an insistent and loud great horned owl. Hope you're doing well.

[Kim Gaffett](#) – Birded around the house throughout a day punctuated by Zooms. Canada Geese 47, Mallard 25+ (semi domesticated), Black Duck 1, Herring Gull, 10+, GBBG 3, A. Crow 5, Red-winged Blackbird 5, E. Starling 5+, Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 1, Gray Catbird 1, House Finch 3, A. Goldfinch 2, House Sparrow 1,

[Laura Rosenzweig](#) - Sedbergh, England. No owls, yet, maybe tonight — we usually have a tawny owl or two in our old yew tree. They're not calling yet however. This morning, two chaffinches in the garden shrubs. On the motorway driving up to the Scottish Borders (for work so I'm allowed to go across the border) -- 2 x kestrels, 2 x buzzards, crows, crows and more crows, a large skein of geese (40 or more) too high up to identify (and I was driving when I saw them) and gulls everywhere looking for newly ploughed fields — black backs. Wet and windy here today but snow and ice has all melted, for the time being. Feb. 17: More Chaffinches moving through today. A flock of Black-headed Gulls mingling with an even larger flock of Herring Gulls and a solitary Oystercatcher. And a blackbird singing in a tree. Rain has stopped, wind has died down, sun is trying to come out and all the snow and ice have melted. Feels a bit like spring today. Hope all is well.

[Lauren Miller-Donnelly](#) - Westport, MA. At the end of the day on Feb 16th in the back field of our Westport farm I was thrilled to see 25 American Robins foraging on the ground and bopping around with two male and one female Eastern bluebirds. Downy Woodpecker 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 1, Eastern Bluebird 3, American Robin 25, House Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco 2, White-throated Sparrow 1

Also the Wild turkeys that spend thier time across the street at the neighbor's feeders have started presenting in our front yard however I don't report them on Ebird with fear that hunters will target them. And we are hopeful to hear our first Woodcock this week, we usually hear them in February but we haven't yet & it's the first day of March.

[Penny Lapham](#) – Roseburg, OR. Not many birds and hard to ID. Cloudy with light rain on and off. Around the house and the river close by. 7 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 1 Acorn Woodpecker, 7 Mallards, 1 Hooded Merganser, 8 Ring-necked Ducks, 1 Spotted Towhee, 2 Western Scrub-jays, 15+ Goldfinches.

[Susan Matheke](#) – Hi Kim, The best I could do was to record birds on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon horse rides/care - hope it is OK to include Wednesday [No problem. -kg]. Best Susan. Riding from Ball Farm to Surf Hotel: 32+ Canada Geese, 2 Killdeer (we did see the 3rd over the weekend), 6 Mourning Doves, 11 American Crows, 20+ Buffleheads, 30+ Dark colored ducks - too far out in the ocean to correctly identify but a large raft [likely Scoter species. -kg], 8 herring gulls, 3 black back gulls. Riding Della down Dories cove area and Willie walking west side trails: 5 American Robins, 40+ Starlings, 2 chickadee, 2 Carolina wrens, 1 Northern harrier, 2 peahens, 12 feral turkeys, 4 Cardinals, 3 males, 1 female, 5 American Crows - harassing something - hoping for a glimpse of the Barn Owl but did not see it.

[Vicki Kikuchi](#) – Boston, MA. Hi Kim! We didn't get out today (rainy and late by the time we got up) so this doesn't count. I just wanted to tell you that last Sunday [Jan. 14] we saw a short-eared owl on the north shore of Boston, ID'd by a fellow birder for us. We were looking for snowy owls but were privileged to see this one coursing over the salt marsh, having a tiff with a harrier, and plunging to the snow for some prey (not successful). It was great- other than a distant sitting snowy and the one from the BI net a couple years ago this was our best owl sighting yet. thanks for the continuing opportunities to have some birding and nature community! Be well,