

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: November 17, 2020

~ November 17, 2020 Notes.

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”.

Townsend’s Warbler (see Curt Milton below) is a beautiful west coast warbler – mostly. Like most warblers, Townsend’s have occasionally been seen throughout continental U.S., including Block Island, as a result of wayward migrations.

Harlequin Ducks are regularly seen along the southwest coastline of Narraganset Bay, but are rarely seen from BI. This duck loves rough, rocky, near-shore waters. Harlequins probably occur along the island’s shore more often than we know – they are just not observed. Many thanks to Chris Blane for tipping me off to the young male Harlequin in the rocky nearshore below Spring Street. Photo below.

Thanks to Stephanie Baute for the great Eastern Bluebird photo at one of her feeders. Photo Below.

~ Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).

~ [Things in brackets are notes by me = kg]

Block Island

(38 species)

Canada Geese – 47

Mallard – 6

Common Eider – 3

Harlequin Duck – 1

White-winged Scoter – 1

Bufflehead – 42

Red-breasted Merganser – 5

Ring-necked Pheasant – 3

Common Loon – 1

Cormorant sp. – 4
Double-crested Cormorant – 3
Northern Harrier – 5
Herring Gull – 26
Great Black-backed Gull – 16
Mourning Dove – 6
Belted-Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Northern Flicker – 4
American Kestrel – 1
Blue Jay – 9
American Crow – 8
Fish Crow – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 6
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 3
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 4
House Wren – 3
American Robin – 19
European Starling – 287+
Myrtle Warbler (a.k.a. Yellow-rumped Warbler) – 2
Song Sparrow – 3
White-throated Sparrow – 9
Northern Cardinal – 8
Eastern Meadowlark – 3
Baltimore Oriole – 1
American Goldfinch – 28
Pine Siskin – 4
House Sparrow – 9

From Afar Sakonnet, RI; Little Compton, RI; Sabin Pt., East Providence & Cumberland, RI; Jamesport, NY; Surry, NH; Newark, DE; Pleasant Hill, OR; Seattle, WA; Sedbergh, England.
(47 species)

Brant – 40+

Canada Goose – 38

Mallard – 3

American Black Duck - 1

Harlequin Duck – 12

Common Merganser – 2

Double-crested Cormorant – 1

Great Blue Heron – 1

Bald Eagle – 2

Herring Gull – 2

*Gull species – 2

Rock Dove – 1

Mourning Dove – 3

Anna's Hummingbird – 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Hairy Woodpecker – 2

Blue Jay - 18

Steller's Jay – 3

American Crow – 6

Black-capped Chickadee – 72+/-

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3

Bushtit – 6

*Coal Tit – 3

*Blue Tit – 3

Tufted Titmouse – 14+/-

White-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Carolina Wren – 18

Gray Catbird – 2

Eastern Bluebird – 8+

Hermit Thrush – 1

American Robin – 28

*Blackbird – 3

* Thrush sp. – 1

*Robin – 3

Cedar Waxwing – 1

Townsend's Warbler – 1

Spotted Towhee – 1

Song Sparrow – 2

Sparrow species – 50

Slate-colored Junco – 7 / Dark-eyed Junco – 4

Northern Cardinal – 9

House Finch – 34

American Goldfinch – 8

*Chaffinch – 1 + 1 (albino)

House Sparrow – 2

Chris Blane – A series of text messages. – Good morning Kim, I have a real treat this morning at my bird feeder - a male Red Bellied woodpecker and a male Baltimore Oriole! Both are very hungry. 5 White-throated sparrows on the southeast. Harlequin Duck between the Spring House and south of the sewer outfall. I released the White-winged Scoter into the Salt Pond. 1 male and 1 female Northern Harrier, 1 male Kestrel, 3 Meadowlarks, and 1 Belted Kingfisher, all near my house. A good day!

Curt Milton Seattle, WA in 3 communiques. [All birds observed by Curt – from “the other day” to 11/17 – were included; but not those reported from a friend. - Kg]

1: I am turning into a fair-weather birder. Thought this afternoon would be OK but the wind and rain came up so, barring a miracle clearing event, I probably won't get out. Did see a rock pigeon this morning and heard some smaller birds but couldn't ID them. I saw TWO Anna's hummingbirds the other day at the park, as well as a Steller's Jay. I need to get back to Union Bay. My friend went there the other day and saw a great blue heron AND a bald eagle! Hope you had a better day of bird watching than I did!

2: Strike that! I did manage to get out and will be sending a list. Checking with birders on Facebook about one bird I saw. Didn't get a photo but it sure looks like it might have been a Townsend's warbler. A few do overwinter here so ... we'll see what they say!

3: Yes, I did get out in between nasty rain squalls ... and I even found a few birds, including one that was new to me. Heard some birds but hard to see them. They were huddled in the remaining foliage. Here's my list: Rock Pigeon: 4, Crow 2, Gull 2, Black-capped chickadee, Bushtits: 6, **Townsend's Warbler** ... this was my one great find of the day. That's it from Seattle!

Erica Anderson – Pleasant Hill, OR. Hi Kim, my report: I did a 'lazy as a coot' walk today as the weather was not very pleasant. Did manage to get a quick walk in before the rain set in but mostly just watched the bird feeders today. The weather was stormy and in the mid-50s. Clouds, rain, sun, clouds, wind. You name it, we had it. You can tell it's late fall here as the winter birds have returned to the river. I miss them in the summer and it's so fun to see them flying up the river - gone in a flash of white wings.

Birds: House finch 3, Black Capped Chickadee 10+, Dark-eyed Junco 4, Song Sparrow 2, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Spotted Towhee 1, Stellar Jay 2, Double Crested Cormorant 1, Common Mergansers 2.

Heather Hatfield – Back yard feeder, Old Town Road: Blue Jay 6, Cardinal 6, House Wren 3, BC Chickadee 5, Pine Siskin 4, A. Goldfinch 12, Downy Woodpecker 1, White-throat Sparrow 4, Song Sparrow 2, Mourning Dove 4, House Sparrow 3, WB Nuthatch 1. At VR (Dorries Cove Rd.): RB Nuthatch 3, A. Goldfinch 16, N. Harrier 1.

John Berg – Nov. 5. Yes, it's winter now, Kim. Harlequins are back at Lloyd's beach, Sakonnet Point. About a dozen there yesterday, I was told by a neighbor they have been around for a week or so - love 'em!

Judy Gray – Hi, Kim. My count took place between 1:45 and 2:15pm. Cheers! 12 bufflehead - in the pond on Lakeside Drive that looks like it will flow over the road, closer to the painted rock, 10 black back gulls - Fresh Pond, 4 cormorants - Fresh Pond, 16 herring gulls - Fresh Pond. Circa 250 starlings - Cooneymus Road at Rodman's Hollow, flying between the power lines, roof of house across and a grove of trees next to the house. There may have been more! I tried several times to count.

Kim Gaffett – Not a disciplined day. My birding was done around my house & pond, a short walk around the Lapham house, and a visit to Spring Street where I had been alerted to a Harlequin Duck – a species that I had always wanted to see on BI. Now the goal is to see more than 1 from the island shores. Home/Mill Tail Swamp Pond: Mallards 6, Herring Gull 5+, GBBG 4+, N. Flicker 1, A. Crow 1, Carolina Wren 1, BC Chickadee 1. Clay Head: Robins 6+, Pheasant 2, A. Crow 2+, Fish Crow 1, Song Sp.1, N. Cardinal 2, N. Flicker 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Myrtle Warbler 2, Marsh Hawk 1. Spring St. overlooking the ocean: Harlequin Duck 1, R-B Merganser 5, D-c Cormorant 3, Common loon 1, Common Eider 2, many harbor seals.

Laura Rosenzweig – Nov. 15. Happy Sunday morning to you Kim. It's grey and raining here but I just spotted something quite fascinating in the garden and came upstairs to see if I could identify it with the help of computer images. I think it's an albino chaffinch. We have a lot of birds this morning visiting the bird table — blue and coal tits, robins and blackbirds, then I spied a chaffinch and a thrush and then I saw something white pecking around in the lawn. I thought at first it might be a blue tit but the tail was longer. I can't quite see the beak, will go have another look, but it's certainly unusual colouring, everything on it is washed out rather than totally white. ["...a lot" = 3. -kg]

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, Keeping my goal of visiting as many TNC lands nearby as I can, I had a great walk two weeks ago at the Dundry Brook Trail in Little Compton Tuesday Nov 17th at 2:05 PM. I was amazed how long this winding wooden boardwalk is. The highlight was a group of American Robins gorging on the old-growth American Holly trees and it was then that I got a very quick glance at a Hermit Thrush.

Here is my E-bird list. Sorry so late!

Species	Count
Canada Goose	38
Mallard	3
American Black Duck	1
Mourning Dove	1
Herring Gull	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1

Downy Woodpecker	1
Blue Jay	2
American Crow	3
Black-capped Chickadee	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Carolina Wren	3
Gray Catbird	2
Hermit Thrush	1
American Robin	28
Cedar Waxwing	1
Northern Cardinal	3

Maggie Komosinski – Jamesport, NY. Good morning! Yesterday (11/15) we had a beautiful view of a GB heron perched high up an old tree overlooking the brackish pond down the road — the bird was sitting in the osprey nest, sun hitting its feathering. Also a small flock of jays has taken up residence in my yard: every morning there are 8-12 of them feeding on the sunflower seed. :) Enjoy your day tomorrow.

Stephanie Baute – Surry, NH – Nov. 13. Miss you and the island Kim. Saw 6 bluebirds waiting for their turn at the feeders this morning. Several titmice? Have arrived. Nov. 18: A bit late. Couldn't watch until Wednesday. From my feeders: 4 titmice, 8+ bluebirds. Males and females, 1 White breasted nuthatch, 1 Red breasted nuthatch, 3 chickadees, 2 doves, 1 male cardinal, 1 female cardinal, 1 red bellied woodpecker male, 1 downy woodpecker, 1 hairy woodpecker, Many goldfinch [8].

Susan Matheke – My list is composed of mostly random sightings as I did my horse chores and then romping down the beach at low tide with Sue G. and Amy K. 13 Robins feasting on the Winterberry, 5 Crows harassing 1 Northern Harrier, 3 blue jays, 6 house sparrows, 2 Carolina Wrens, 1 male pheasant, 37 Starlings on the power line, 2 Mourning Doves, 47 Canada Geese not caring that Autumn was barking at them. 30 (approximately) Buffleheads, 2 Blackback Gulls, several [5] Herring Gulls. Peace, Susan M.

Tim Mooney – Sabin Point, RI – Thanks Kim! I missed your talk yesterday (11/16), getting ready for Channel 12 to interview JT at Sabin Point. But while there, we saw 2 Bald Eagles circling over the bay to the south and probably 40 or so Brant taking off from the water. That might be my birding for the week but we'll see! Best, Tim.

11/17: I wasn't able to break away long enough to take a walk, but I did stop for 5 minutes at noontime and just looked out the front window to see what birds were around. It was something. 😊 1 American Crow, 4 Blue Jays, 3 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Tufted Titmice, 1 Slate-colored Junco, 3 House Sparrows

Vicki & Tom Carter – Good morning, Tom was on bird watch duty yesterday as he is home due to shoulder surgery and I was at work. He said yesterday was the best day ever. This was "morning" at our backyard feeder in Newark, DE. Sunny, chilly morning, about 40-45 degrees. Blue Jay 2, Cardinal 2 male 2 female, Sparrows 50, Carolina Wren 15, House Finch 31, Tufted Titmouse 5, Dark Eyed Junco 6, Black Capped Chickadee 50, Red bellied woodpecker 1. Have a great day. Thanks for including us in your bird walk yesterday. Vickie and Tom Carter-Newark, DE

[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. -kg]



