

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

January 4th, 2022

Incidental Notes.

- A wonderfully broad base of observations: from Block Island to Norway to Florida to Oregon; and interesting observations from RI, as well as MA & NY.
- 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

(34 species)

Canada Geese – 22

Wood Duck – 1

American Wigeon – 4

American Black Duck – 6

Mallard – 44

Northern Pintail – 1

Green-winged Teal – 8

Common Eider – 4

Black Scoter – 11

Hooded Merganser – 8

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Great Blue Heron – 3

Norther Harrier – 2

Coopers Hawk – 1

Herring Gull – 3

Rock Dove – 12

Mourning Dove – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 1

American Kestrel – 1
Blue Jay – 4
American Crow – 21
Fish Crow – 4
Black-capped Chickadee – 9
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 8
American Robin – 30+
Hermit Thrush – 1
European Starling – 72+
Song Sparrow – 7
White-throated Sparrow – 12
Northern Cardinal – 17
Red-winged Blackbird – 4
House Finch – 37+

From Afar Narragansett (Whale Rock, Black Rock & Scarborough Beach), South Kingston , Barrington, RI;
Jamesport, NY; Woburn, MA; Sarasota, FL. Pleasant Hill, OR; Drangedal, Norway;
(72 + 2 unidentified species)

Canada Goose – 47
Mute Swan – 7
Gadwall – 12
American Wigeon – 5
American Black Duck – 1
Mallard – 73
Common Eider – 15
Black Scoter – 8
Bufflehead – 8
Hooded Merganser – 10
Red-breasted Merganser – 6
Brown Pelican – 2
Cormorant species – 1
Great Blue Heron – 2
Great Egret – 2
Snowy Egret – 1
Roseate Spoonbill – 2
Wood Stork – 1
Limpkin – 1
Anhinga – 2
Black Vulture – 3
Turkey Vulture – 18
Bald Eagle – 1
Northern Harrier – 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Unidentified very large raptor – 2
Common Gallinule – 3
American Coot – 12
Solitary Sandpiper – 1

Sanderling – 68
Herring Gull – 71
Great Black-backed Gull – 2
Mourning Dove – 6
Eastern Screech Owl – 1
Great Horned Owl – 1
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 3
Northern Flicker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Blue Jay – 9
Stellar Jay – 3
California Scrub Jay – 1
American Crow – 203
*Great Tit – 40
*Blue Tit – 10
*Spruce Tit – 2
Black-capped Chickadee – 20
Tufted Titmouse – 7
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Carolina Wren – 16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 8
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
Hermit Thrush – 6
American Robin – 86
Gray Catbird – 4
European Starling – 300
Snow Bunting -26
Pine Warbler – 6
Yellow-breasted Chat – 1
Spotted Towhee – 4
Eastern Towhee – 2
Fox Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 7
Swamp Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 66
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 34
Dark-eyed Junco – 20+
Northern Cardinal – 13
House Finch – 9
Pine Siskin – 1
House Sparrow – 1

*European species

[Chris Blane](#) – Home yard to Georgian Swamp: A. Black Duck 2, Green-winged teal 5, Wood duck 1, Canada Goose 2, Mallard 5, Hooded Merganser 3, Great Blue Heron 1, Marsh Hawk 1, Pheasant calling 1, Robins 10+, House Finch 20+,

[Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers](#) eBird report: Comings Loop -Chalet Pt./Payne/KADUMA, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Jan 4, 2022 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, NW breeze and cold (19F to start). Start at bluffs, overland via Comings easement to Payne Rd. - south end of Sands Pond - loop back via "Kaduma" road to Comings road. Participants: Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Heather Hatfield, Socha Cohen, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Kim Bubko, Tracy Finn, Vicki Butlevska, Judy & Sarah Gray, Brook Santamaria & children (Anna Perrena, Cassander, Aurelia) & Kim G. 23 species: Mallard 3, American Black Duck 5, Common Eider 4, Black Scoter 11, Bufflehead 11, Hooded Merganser 3, Herring Gull 3, Great Blue Heron 1, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, American Crow 5, Black-capped Chickadee 5, Carolina Wren 6, European Starling 22, Hermit Thrush 1, American Robin 10, House Finch 10, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 6, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Northern Cardinal 9

[Dan Kasuba](#) – Red Bug slough Sarasota, FL 1/4/22, 10-11 am and several birds in various neighborhoods. 1 limpkin, 1 wood stork, 1 GBH, 1 snowy egret, 2 great egrets, 1 Eastern phoebe, 3 common gallinules, 6 Carolina wrens, 2 anhingas, 1 cormorant, 12 turkey vultures, 3 black vultures, 2 roseate spoonbills, 8 blue gray gnatcatchers, 6 pine warblers, 1 solitary sandpiper, 2 brown pelicans, 1 Eastern screech owl, 1 sharp shinned hawk, 1 pileated woodpecker and many American crows ?(200)
Thanks and enjoy!

[Erica Anderson](#) - Pleasant Hill, Oregon – Hi Kim, Today it was rainy, cold and pretty winter-y weather here in the Pacific Northwest. Thankfully our snow came and went without mishaps down on the valley floor. As a consequence of the weather I did my birding at the feeders and the environs out my windows.
Spotted Towhee 4, House Finch 5, White-throated Sparrow 1 (first time for me in Oregon), Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 2, Stellar Jay 3, California Scrub Jay 1, Dark-eyed Junco (many varieties) 20+, Black Capped Chickadee 5, Pine Siskin 1.

[Faye Benedict](#) – Drangedal, Norway: Report from the veranda yesterday, Sunflower City: ca. 40 great tits, 10 blue tits, 2 spruce tits. [see photo below] They're lovin' it! Faye

[Heather Hatfield](#) – Home feeders & Dorries Cove residence: A. Kestrel 1, Mallard 2, A. Wigeon 4, White-throated Sparrow 11, House Finch 7, BC Chickadee 4, Mourning Dove 1, Song Sparrow 1, E. Starling 50+, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Cardinal 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Blue Jay 1.

[Kim Gaffett](#) – Going about my day on BI: (Home) Mallards 20, American Crow 6, Canada Geese 20, Blue Jay 3, Carolina Wren 1, N. Cardinal 2, (Along the roads & etc.) Rock Dove 12, (Meadow Hill trail) Carolina Wren 1, A Crows 10+, Fish Crow 4, Amer. Robin 10+

[Lauren Miller-Donnelly](#) – ON Tuesday I stopped by Whale Rock in the morning before a meeting we had at Black Rock in Narragansett. I pulled up and instantly I saw and heard many white-throated sparrows in the thickets. I had 3 catbirds and 4 Hermit thrushes, which was awesome! Later on at the meeting Tim Mooney informed me he had also stopped by Whale Rock and had a Yellow-breasted Chat there (WHAT?!?!? I missed it)! Tim had his bins out at Black Rock, too but I also had some pre-time to search the thickets there.

Here is my [Whale Rock \(Narragansett\)](#) report. Excellent spot for winter thicket birds:
Common Eider 2, Herring Gull 2, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 4, Black-capped Chickadee 6, Tufted Titmouse 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 4, Gray Catbird 3, Hermit Thrush 4, American Robin 22, House Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 22, Song Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 4.

[Black Rock, Narragansett](#): Common Eider 2, Black Scoter 8, Red-breasted Merganser 3, Sanderling 28, Herring Gull 5, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Black-capped Chickadee 3, Carolina Wren 3, Gray Catbird 1, House Finch 4, White-throated Sparrow 8, Eastern Towhee 2, Northern Cardinal 2.

After the meeting I stopped by Scarborough Beach at just the right time, when a Northern Harrier was flying past. & I also noticed a good sized group of snow buntings, so I took a report there as well: Sanderling 40, Herring Gull 1, Northern Harrier 1, Snow Bunting 26.

I had an awesome bird at Brenton Point on the 31st, my 93rd bird of January was a **Lapland Longspur!** And to top it off, I was the first to record it. Missed the King Eider though. Take care, **Lauren [Great bird, lucky you congratulations. A testament to getting out there to look around.]**

Maggie Komosinski – Jamesport, NY: Hi, yesterday was spent almost all day with the horses, so I don't have a report for you, except to say that we watched 6 T. Vulture soaring and circling overhead, high and low, seemingly lazy but we know they searched for a waft of decaying, edible! Also had over 300 starling (est.) And a band of a dozen junco. Two very large raptors flew at a distance: unable to id. So, not too bad a report for a non-walk bird walk.

Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim, Cathy and I checked out Warden's Pond & Cooneymus Swamp this afternoon and saw: Great Blue Heron – 1, Mallard – 14, Northern Pintail – 1, Green-winged Teal – 3, Hooded Merganser – 2. Cheers,

Tim Mooney – Thanks Kim, for the reminder about Where-on-Earth. Good birding out there today!

Echo Lake, Barrington, RI – sunny, 22 degrees: Bald Eagle – 1 (adult plumage, soaring over the pond – how do birds that big just appear from nowhere?), Hooded Merganser – 4, Great Blue Heron – 1 (looking positively frozen on the pond shore), Belted Kingfisher – 1, American Black Duck – 2, Mallard – 15 (flying over in a tight formation), Canada Goose – 6, Herring Gull – 1, Song Sparrow – 1

Mussachuck Creek, Barrington, RI: Gadwall – 12, American Wigeon – 3, Canada Goose – 7

TNC's Whale Rock Preserve, Narragansett RI – sunny, 26 degrees: Yellow-breasted Chat – 1 (First one for me), Bufflehead – 8, Common Eider – 11, Red-breasted Merganser – 3, Great Black-backed Gull – 1, Hermit Thrush – 2, American Robin – 14, Northern Cardinal – 2, Carolina Wren – 3, Downy Woodpecker – 1 (I was watching this woodpecker about a foot off the ground when the chat popped up.)

Blue Jay – 1, American Crow – 1, White-throated Sparrow – 10 (7 birds right at the edge of the parking lot, and 3 more down the trail).

Tom Fetherston – Hi Kim, Here is my list for today. Most sightings were in my yard as usual, a few from Worden's Pond, which had a fringe of ice. Maggie & I did a trip through the east edge of Great Swamp across from Emilie's house. Labs & looking for songbirds don't mix particularly well but I did see some. The only species not also in my yard was American robin. I'll note Great Swamp separately, as usual birds seen from my dock will have WP for Worden's Pond next to them.

American crow (2), Herring gull (50)* WP, Downy woodpecker (1), Tufted titmouse (3)*, Slate colored junco (2)*, Northern cardinal (3), Song sparrow (1)*, White throated sparrow (1)*, Northern flicker (1), White breasted nuthatch (1)*, Mourning dove (5), Blue jay (3), Red bellied woodpecker (1), Hairy woodpecker (2) male & female, Canada goose (18) WP, Swamp sparrow (1)*, Mallard (8) WP, Mute swan (2) WP

Great Swamp - American robin (50)*, Northern flicker (1), Blue jay (1), White throated sparrow (24)*
- Slate colored junco (20)*

* With a flock in motion I use my "biologist's best guess". At the feeder, I only count multiples of a species if I can see them all at the same time. Some move in and out quickly so could be different individuals.

Of note that before sunrise it was 14 degrees and NO birds were moving. The action picked up quickly once the sun came up and the temperature reached a balmy 18 😊 Cool having four species of woodpeckers! Only needed a pileated for a grand slam. Cheers, Fether

Vicki & Lawrence Kikuci HI Kim, Happy New Year! Lawrence and I went to Horn Pond in Woburn MA today to look for birds and here is what we found: Great horned owl -1, American wigeon -2, Mallard- 50

Mute swan -5, Herring gull -12, Hooded merganser -6, American Coots -12, Canada goose -16, Mourning dove -1, Downy woodpecker -1, BC chickadee -6, Tufted titmouse -2, White-throated sparrow -1, Northern cardinal -2. I hope you had a great day as well and we look forward to seeing the list! Peace, Vicki

See Photo Below from Faye Benedict



Tits of Norway – related to the familiar Chickadee. photo: Faye Benedict