

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

November 18, 2025

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Here is another fun compilation of bird walk sightings – from far and wide. Curt, our usual respondent from Seattle, WA, sent fun observations from London, England. And, Nigel & Cathy have sent some great photos of birds seen while exploring Seychelle and Madagascar islands. The photos were sent in without identifications; I did the best I could to figure out IDs. These identifications will be confirmed and updated in the next compilation report.

The from afar reports include several birds I would love to see on Block Island this season, or anytime: Evening Grosbeak & Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Tufted Titmouse, Tropic Bird, “the King’s Ravens”, and Great-horned Owl.

And on Block Island, it is always great to see American Coot (our namesake); these were the first of this 2025/26 season.

New to this compilation is a list of bird species seen by Sky Kardell, who is employed by RI Div. of Fish & Wildlife to observe and record morning flight birds from outside the North Light at Sandy Point, BI. This is the second year of these daily observations, which will continue thru November. The protocol is to arrive each day 15 minutes before sunrise and make observations for three hours. To view this data daily start by going <https://www.trektellen.org/count/view/4089/20251104> and choose the day of interest. If you noodle around the Trektellen site you will find hundreds of sights being monitored around the world.

Remember, no matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day.

Peace, Kim.

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- 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. Observations in Gray are deemed to be a double observation and are therefore not counted in the list. 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, Flock = 15+

Block Island

(36 species)

Canada Goose – 19+
Mute Swan – 5
Amer. Wigeon – 2
Mallard – 93+
Green-winged Teal – 2
Lesser Scaup – 1
Bufflehead – 14
Hooded Merganser – 4
Red-breasted Merganser – 8

Ruddy Duck – 40
Ring-necked Pheasant – 5
Double-cr. Cormorant – 8
Great Blue Heron – 1
Marsh Hawk (aka Northern Harrier) – 8
American Coot – 14
American Herring Gull – 16+
Great Black-back'd Gull – 3+
Gull species – 100+

Rock Dove – 7
Mourning Dove – 48
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Merlin – 2
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 34+
Common Raven – 3
Black-backed Chickadee – 2

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Carolina Wren – 11
American Robin – 47
Northern Mockingbird – 2
E. Starling – 80+

Song Sparrow – 11
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 60+
Northern Cardinal – 3
American Goldfinch – 20

House Sparrow – 6

RI Div. Fish & Wildlife - Block Island morning flight at Sandy Pt. Tuesday 18 November 2025 Counting period: 06:23-09:38. Count type: all species. Weather (first period): wind West 15mph, cloud-cover 1/8, precipitation none, temperature 39 °F. Observers (first period): Sky Kardell. Totals: 679 individuals, 26 species, 3:15 hours. <https://www.trektellen.org/count/view/4089/20251118>

Canada Goose – 14
Black Duck – 2
Surf Scoter – 6
White-winged Scoter – 14
Black Scoter – 14
Long-tailed Duck – 1
Red-breasted Merganser – 30
Mourning Dove – 2
Ring-billed Gull – 9

Common Loon 4,
Northern Gannet – 29
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) – 1
Merlin (taiga) – 1
Cedar Waxwing – 8
European Starling – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 5
American Robin – 29
House Sparrow – 8

American Pipit – 6
Purple Finch – 2
House Finch – 41
American Goldfinch – 268
Pine Siskin – 13
Snow Bunting – 1
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) – 2
Red-winged Blackbird – 167

From Afar South Kingstown, Cumberland, RI; Woodbury, CT; Westport, MA; Jamesport, NY; Teaneck, NJ; London, England; somewhere in the Seychelles/Madagascar region.
(50 species)

Canada Goose – 53
Wood Duck – 5
Scaup species – 100
Bufflehead – 15
Wild Turkey – 16
Pied-billed Grebe – 1
Turkey Vulture – 1
Bald Eagle – 2
Broad-winged Hawk – 1
American Coot – 3
Amer. Herring Gull – 100
Gull sp. - 5
Rock Pigeon – 10+
Mourning Dove – 16
Great-horned Owl – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 5

Hairy Woodpecker – 4
Parrot sp. – 5+
Blue Jay – 39
American Crow – 4
Fish Crow – 3
Common Raven – 6
Black-capped Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 8
White-breasted Nuthatch – 5
Carolina Wren – 8
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
American Robin – 74
Northern Mockingbird – 2
European Starling – 20+
Cedar Waxwing – 1
Fox Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 3
Swamp Sparrow – 1

White-throated Sparrow – 10
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 24
Northern Cardinal – 7
Red-winged Blackbird – 12
Brown-headed Cowbird – 2
Common Grackle – 3
House Finch – 18
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 46

Weaver finch spec.
Red-footed Booby
Tropic Bird
Heron spec.
Stork/shoebill/other ?

Amy Keeler – Hi Kim, It was another beautiful walk today . Thank You. I had a very successful walk about today. I'll do my best to give you locations but most are found in the Mitchell Lane, Seneca Swamp area. 2 Carolina Wren, 2 Chickadee, 50+ Gull Species (Fresh Pond), 50+Gull Species (in town), 6 Junco, 3 Marsh Hawk(1 **Corn Neck**), 1 Raven, 30+ American Crow(some Lakeside), 3 Bluejay, 2 Mockingbird, 2 RN Pheasant, 80+ Mallard Duck(40 Beacon Hill), 4 Hooded Merganser, 4 Bufflehead, 2 Cardinal, 30+ Mourning Dove,

60+ Starling (Lakeside Dr.), 1 Cormorant(Fresh Pond), 6 House Sparrow. Walking down Mohegan Trail: 1 Great Blue Heron("painted rock pond"), 1 Merlin, 1 Downy Woodpecker.

Annie Kurz – Hi Kim. Bravo for awards of recognition! Here are my WOE observations in Teaneck, NJ:

3 downy woodpeckers: 1 is a male, the other two not sure. One has very small red — patch, the second, no patch, Hairy woodpecker(s?), Red-bellied woodpecker/female, Carolina wren, Black capped chickadee, Robins 3 or 4, Blue jay(s) - heard them but they do not come to suet cage, and a mockingbird. Best, Annie Kurz

Curt Milton, Penny Lapham & Erica Anderson – Good morning! We did see a few birds during our walking around London, England on Tuesday: European starlings ... numerous, Pigeons ... numerous, not sure what species, Gulls ... several, not sure of the species, Ravens ... several, Parrots ... heard them on Tuesday but saw them on Monday. And that's our report. Cheers! Curt. [Parrot comment: Most common Parrot in London is Rose-ringed (a.k.a. ring-necked) Parakeet. Monk parakeets are also seen in London; and the occasional Macaw escaped or being "flown" by a local owner.]

Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers – Middle Pond - Fields to dune & shore - Block Island, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Nov 18, 2025 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling, 0.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cool/40F, sunny, breezy/NW, morning. The group met at Hodge Preserve parking area and walked down Rhon (private) driveway to edge of Middle Pond. We did not proceed to the dune and ocean - too windy & cold (wind chill feels like temp. about 32F). Participants: Judy Gray, Susan Matheke, Ellen Davis, Heather Hatfield, Faye Benedict, Anne & Carlos Salinas, Amy Keeler, visitors Virgil, Lucille, Maria, & Taylor from southeast PA, & KimG. 20 species: Canada Goose 19, Mute Swan 5, American Wigeon 2, Mallard 8, Green-winged Teal 2, Lesser Scaup 1, Bufflehead 10, Red-breasted Merganser 8, Ruddy Duck 40, American Coot 14, American Herring Gull 15, Great Black-backed Gull 3, Merlin 1, American Crow 2, Carolina Wren 2, American Robin 25, American Goldfinch 20, Dark-eyed Junco 15, Song Sparrow 10, Northern Cardinal 1.

Darcy Thurrott – Hi there Kim. Here's my list! From North Cemetery, Woodbury, CT. Gorgeous afternoon, not too windy or cold & sunny! First bird was raven at top of pine! Hope your walk was fun & filled with wonderful birds! Cheers, Darcy. 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Blue Jay, 2 American Crow, 3 Fish Crow, 1 Common Raven, 1 Tufted Titmouse, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 4 House Finch, 7 Dark-eyed Junco.

Hank Hewitt – Glad it's [Phoebe] still here. Bodes well for fish. I've always caught when phoebes are around. [Hank is a local charter fisherman by vocation, and avid fisherman and bird observer by avocation.]

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day – at Lapham's and along the road: 2 raven, SC Junco 17, Robin 2, Song Sp. 1, Blue Jay 2; along Corn Neck Rd. near the Scotch Beach: 1 Marsh Hawk, 20+ Starling, 5+ Junco; off Surf Beach from Corn Neck Rd.: 7 DC Cormorant; at office (High St.), Mourning Dove 2: Rock Dove 7; at home on the pond & in yard: Mallard 5, SC Junco 3.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, On November 18th I took a walk out back behind my house before work. I haven't seen Wood Ducks since then. Notably, over the Holiday I posted myself up on the dunes of Horseneck Beach for the epic Goldfinch movement with hundreds of birds passing each day. I also had 3 Evening Grosbeak on Saturday, a **life bird** for me! Westport MA, Nov 18th, 6:41AM: Wood Duck 5, Wild Turkey 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Carolina Wren 2, European Starling 3, American Robin 7, Cedar Waxwing 1, House Finch 1, Amer. Goldfinch 2, Dark-eyed Junco 7, Song Sparrow 1, Swamp Sparrow 1, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Northern Cardinal 1. Congrats on your recent award, that's amazing! <3 Lauren

Maggie Komosinski – Hi Kim. The species we saw on Nov 18 were the usual suspects this time of year. The numbers, however, were a bit low as it was a very blustery day.

I missed submitting my report for Nov 4, and that day had an immature Bald Eagle (seen 2 days in a row) and a flock of Cedar Waxwings! The latter were in low shrubbery just down the road from our house, feeding on berries. Such beautiful birds. Two Ravens have been regulars also. Best as always, Maggie.

Jamesport NY bird sightings, Nov 18 2025: Canada Goose 35, Wild Turkey 12, Turkey Vulture 1, Mourning Dove 11, Great Horned Owl 1 (heard), Red-bellied Woodpecker 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 23, Tufted Titmouse 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Wren 3, American Robin 62, Northern Mockingbird 1, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Brown-headed Cowbird 2, Common Grackle 3, European Starling 5, White-throated Sparrow 5, House Finch 14, House Sparrow 18, Dark-eyed Junco 2, Northern Cardinal 2.

Nancy Greenaway – Herring Gull 1, Marsh Hawk 1, SC Junco 8.

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce – Photos from the Seychelles. Identifications in question – we'll just have to wait to hear the tales...



Above: Possibly Mauritius fody, or a type of weaver finch?

Red-footed Booby and young.

Below: Tropicbird

Green-backed Heron-like?

Stork or Shoebill or ???



Skyler Kardell – RI Div. Fish & Wildlife - Block Island morning flight at Sandy Pt. Tuesday 18 November 2025

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Canada Goose 14, Black Duck 2, Surf Scoter 6, White-winged Scoter 14, Black Scoter 14, Long-tailed Duck 1, Red-breasted Merganser 30, Mourning Dove 2, Ring-billed Gull 9, Common Loon 4, Northern Gannet 29, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 1, Merlin (taiga) 1, Cedar Waxwing 8, European Starling 2, Eastern Bluebird 5, American Robin 29, House Sparrow 8, American Pipit 6, Purple Finch 2, House Finch 41, American Goldfinch 268, Pine Siskin 13, Snow Bunting 1, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 2, Red-winged Blackbird 167. Totals: 679 individuals, 26 species, 3:15 hours

Susan Matheke – HI Kim. These are my bird observations while riding Tryggur on the West Side. Beautiful day and beautiful ride. 4 Northern Harriers, 16 Mourning Doves, 7 Carolina Wrens, 1 male pheasant seen and 2 heard in different areas, 20+ Robins, 2 American Crows, 6 Junco.

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim - Nov 18 was chilly and windy, even blustery, in the morning, so I think a lot of little birds stayed tucked in the bushes. Cumberland, RI Neighborhood Walk: House Sparrow – 28, Dark-eyed Junco – 6, Tufted Titmouse – 1, Black-capped Chickadee – 1, Northern Cardinal – 1, Blue Jay – 7, European Starling - 2

On Nov 21, I saw a Brown Creeper on the same route and on Nov 24, heard 2 Eastern Towhees at the Cumberland Monastery. Happy Thanksgiving! Best, Tim

Tom Fetherston – 18 November 2025, South Kingstown. Good evening Kim – A nice day for birding at Wordens Pond. A bit of a NW wind but that didn't keep activity down. Notes for this week:

- Yesterday while down at the dock throwing dummies and swimming the Labs, a juvenile bald eagle flew along the shore and lighted in an adjacent tree. The bird seemed fascinated by what was going on, perhaps amazed that these stupid mammals were jumping into cold water. This morning an adult and juvenile eagle were soaring over the pond. While I was having lunch an adult did a few spirals over the yard, gather it wanted to make sure eagles were on the list.
- The yard has been full of birds, scores of white-throated sparrows, the omnipresent titmice, song sparrows and the first fox sparrows have arrived. However, when I went to the side porch to eat lunch there was nary a bird in sight. Suddenly a broad winged hawk took off from a nearby tree and floated off through the woods, answering my question.
- It was choppy on the pond, but I did sight a number of water birds. When my pup Vesper and I returned from our run, she charged off the dock flushing 18 Canada geese. Nice of them to line up and be counted. In the southwest corner there was a large flock of scaup. I could easily see the black and white bodies of the drakes, but they weren't close enough to identify the species. There have been both greater scaup and ringnecks in significant numbers here before, so not sure which. They are listed as scaup (sp).

Here's the list. Birds seen around Wordens Pond will be noted with WP. Estimates are noted with an asterisk (*) Birds in the field or at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes. Herring gull (100*) WP, Bufflehead (15*) WP, Canada goose (18) WP, Amer. coot (3) WP, Pie-billed grebe WP, Bald eagle (2) WP, Scaup (sp) (100*) WP, Broad-winged hawk, American crow, White-throated sparrow (5), Fox sparrow (2), Song sparrow (2), Dark-eyed junco (2), Northern cardinal (3), American robin, Tufted titmouse (5), Blue jay (5), White-breasted nuthatch (2), Carolina wren (2), Black-capped chickadee, Golden-crowned kinglet, Mourning dove (5), Red-winged blackbird (4), Downy woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker (2). Cheers, Fether

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- 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".
 - ²Q. What is a ²**Myrtle Warbler**? A. Yellow-rumped Warbler (YRWA), *Setophaga coronata*. The species YRWA is comprised of two subspecies, once considered separate species. The eastern population/subspecies was known as Myrtle Warbler (*coronata*), and the western population/subspecies known as Audubon's Warbler (*auduboni*). These two regional populations have been "lumped" to form Yellow-rumped Warbler.