

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

October 18, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Without a doubt, the best Block Island sighting on October 18th was our last coffee at Bethany's Airport Diner. Many thanks to Cathy Joyce for the short bread, Faye Benedict for taking the photo and Bethany C. for sharing her tables for nearly 14 years.



And, the lists from afar are terrific – Lauren, especially, had a great day.

Peace, Kim

- 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

(39 species)

Canada Goose – 1
 Mute Swan – 8
 Wood Duck – 2
 American Wigeon – 4
 Mallard – 37+
 Ruddy Duck – 200
 Ring-necked Pheasant – 2
 Double-crested Cormorant – 8
 Great Cormorant – 5
 Northern Harrier – 1
 Herring Gull – 10
 Great Black-backed Gull – 10
 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
 Downy Woodpecker – 1
 Northern Flicker – 2
 Peregrine Falcon – 1
 Blue-headed Vireo – 1
 Blue Jay – 2
 American Crow – 10
 Fish Crow – 1
 Common Raven – 1
 Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
 Brown Creeper – 1
 House Wren – 1
 Carolina Wren – 5
 Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 2
 American Robin – 1
 Gray Catbird – 2
 European Starling – 10
 Yellow-rumped Warbler – 15
 Eastern Towhee – 1
 Chipping Sparrow – 1
 Savannah Sparrow – 5
 Song Sparrow – 9
 Swamp Sparrow – 2
 White-throated Sparrow – 2
 Slate-colored Junco – 1
 Northern Cardinal – 2

From Afar: South Kingston, Little Compton, RI; Truro, MA; Lyme, CT;
(65 species)

Canada Goose – 160
Mute Swan – 27
American Black Duck – 11
Mallard – 48
Northern Pintail – 8
Surf Scoter – 10
White-winged Scoter – 10
Black Scoter – 15
Common Loon – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 1
Northern Gannet – 10
Double-crested Cormorant – 14
Great Blue Heron – 3
Great Egret – 2
Turkey Vulture – 2
Osprey – 1
Bald Eagle – 1
Northern Harrier – 4
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 5
Red-tailed Hawk – 3
Black-bellied Plover – 5
Semi-palmated Plover – 3
Killdeer – 2
Hudsonian Godwit – 1
Sanderling – 2
Dunlin – 4
Semipalmated Sandpiper – 2
Laughing Gull – 1
Ring-billed Gull – 14
Herring Gull – 16
Great Black-backed Gull – 11
Mourning Dove – 11
Peregrine Falcon – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Northern Flicker – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Blue Jay – 16
American Crow – 12
Common Raven – 5
Tree Swallow – 80
Black-capped Chickadee – 2
Tufted Titmouse – 8
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Carolina Wren – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 2
American Robin – 11
Gray Catbird – 3
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 1
Cedar Waxwing – 9
Blackpoll Warbler – 1
Black-throated Blue Warbler – 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 21
Passerine species – 2
Vesper Sparrow – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 25
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Song Sparrow – 4
Northern Cardinal – 9
Red-winged Blackbird – 5
House Finch – 4
American Goldfinch – 1
House Sparrow – 22

Also seen ... Rooster, Squirrel.

Crazy-as-a- Coot Bird Walkers – Sachem Pond & environs, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Oct 18, 2022 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cloudy to start but ended in sun. Met at the "1st turn out" at Sachem pond: surveyed the pond and walked to USFWL path & Golden Grove. Participants: Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Faye Benedict, Donna Ortelli, Judy Gray, Sarah Gray, Socha Cohen, Max & Olly Woolf, Laura Rosenzweig & friend Enid, Chuck McMellon, and Kim G. Reviewed and made the list at Bethany's Airport Diner at an outdoor picnic bench for the last time. Bethany made us coffee and joined us. Thanks to Cathy Joyce for the ginger shortbread.

35 species: Canada Goose 1, Mute Swan 8, American Wigeon 4, Mallard 2, Ruddy Duck 200, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Herring Gull 10, Great Black-backed Gull 10, Double-crested Cormorant 8, Northern Harrier 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 2, Peregrine Falcon 1, Blue-headed Vireo 1, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 7, Common Raven 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Brown Creeper 1, House Wren 1, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 10, Gray Catbird 2, American Robin 1, Chipping Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco 1, White-throated Sparrow 2, Savannah Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 5, Swamp Sparrow 2, Eastern Towhee 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 15, Northern Cardinal 2

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, My sightings on 10/18/22 at High Head in Truro included: 1 peregrine falcon, 4 Northern harriers, 4 sharp shinned hawks and 2 red tailed hawks. Also, 2 Eastern bluebirds, 2 turkey vultures, 8 mallards and 6 American black ducks, 2 ravens, and 1 common loon. In addition, a very large raft of black, white winged and surf scoters, and MANY greater black backed and herring gulls, double crested cormorants, Northern gannets, blue jays, and crows, and large scattered flocks of yellow rumped warblers. Thanks and hope all is well. ["many" & "large" were tallied as 10. -KG]

Gail & Shorty Cahill Hi Kim, we are back in CT for a bit. Did the Tuesday morning walk with Lyme Land Trust. Thatch Preserve on Brush Hill.
32 mallards, 1 Blue herring, Heard a rooster. Saw Beaver Dens on Beaver Pond no Beavers. 1 squirrel Hope to catch you on the next one! G&S

Gloria Hall Daubert – On October 17: Always nice to have beautiful visitors.



"Yard" Mallards were joined by 2 Wood Ducks.

Kim Gaffett—A nice walk from Red Gate Farm to home and saw: 3 Song Sparrow, 1 Fish Crow, 3 A. Crow, 15 Mallard, 1 Carolina Wren, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Laura Rosenzweig — On a walk around Lewis Farm: Great Cormorant 5, Song Sparrow 1, Savannah Sparrow 3.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly — HI Kim, I am **so excited** that the bird walks are back. I have some excellent observations for birds yesterday. It was the annual Quicksand Pond Breach day and I brought my binoculars. I glanced down the beach and saw some larger shorebirds foraging so I headed down and got a **HUDSONIAN GODWIT!** *Which is a life bird for me & a good assemblage of late shorebirds as well.*

Goosewing Beach Preserve & Quicksand Pond 18-Oct-22, 8-10am: Canada Goose 160, Mute Swan 25, Mallard 8, American Black Duck 5, Northern Pintail 8, Black Scoter 1, Mourning Dove 6, Black-bellied Plover 5, Semipalmated Plover 3, Hudsonian Godwit 1, Sanderling 2, Dunlin 4, Semipalmated Sandpiper 2, Laughing Gull 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Herring Gull 6, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Double-crested Cormorant 4, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 4, Common Raven 2, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Tufted Titmouse 2, Tree Swallow 80, Carolina Wren 1, Cray Catbird 2, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 7, Cedar Waxwing 8, House Sparrow 22, House Finch 4, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 3, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Blackpoll Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 11, Northern Cardinal 6.

South Kingstown Land Trust. 18-Oct.-22 1pm. LATER in the afternoon at the SK land trust for our Strategic Planning Session I had a **VESPER SPARROW!!!!** Killdeer 2, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Northern Flicker 1, Tufted Titmouse 2, Gray Catbird 1, Vesper Sparrow 1, Savannah Sparrow 25, passerine species 2.

THEN on the Newport Bridge over Jamestown I had an Osprey. **Not a bad day for birding at work!** Hope all is well, Lauren

Tom Fetherston - 18 October 2022 Good evening Kim — Great to be back at the bi-weekly bird list! During the summer I kept my eyes open for new birds. Had both a black & white warbler and a Blackburnian warbler to add to my list. The black-throated blue warbler I first identified earlier this summer appeared to stay around. He, or other males showed up occasionally the past several months. This morning a brilliantly colored male, was feeding on berries in the side yard.

As frequently happens on days I'm concentrating on identifying birds I find some new ones, probably seen them before in passing but didn't recognize the species.

The first one this morning wasn't a new species but a color morph I hadn't noticed. There was a sparrow hopping around under the feeders with tan stripes on its head, turned and had a white throat with a yellow spot by the bill. Quickly looked it up and found there is a tan-striped form of white-throated sparrow. Never noticed one before but there it was. A white striped individual joined it, reinforcing the identification.

Nuthatches are always around, flitting from the feeder to trees in the yard. I'd always seen the white-breasted species, or so I thought. Today I was having coffee on the side porch when a nuthatch flew to a nearby oak and began its head-first inspection of the trunk. It seemed smaller than usual and had striking markings with a black stripe through the eye like a gemsbok. I've undoubtedly seen red-breasted nuthatches at a distance and written them off as white-breasted, but this handsome fellow was close enough that the differences in size and markings were obvious.

It was another day when bird life on Worden's Pond was strangely absent. Maggie and I were out in the canoe two days ago fishing and saw the usual ducks, geese, gulls and a big flock of coots. Today there were only a pair of mute swans, two pie-billed grebes and an adult eagle soaring over the north shore. Only an eagle, OK, it was pretty awesome ☺

Birds on or adjacent to Worden's Pond will be noted with WP and estimates with * Birds at the feeders or in the field were counted as singles unless they were different sexes or present simultaneously.

Here's my list: Northern cardinal (3), American robin (4), American crow (2), Raven (WP), Carolina wren, Blue jay (2), White-breasted nuthatch (2), Red-breasted nuthatch, Song sparrow, White-throated sparrow (tan & white striped individuals) 2, Mourning dove (5), American goldfinch, Tufted titmouse (4), Bald eagle (WP), Mute swan (2) WP, Black-throated blue warbler, Downy woodpecker Hairy woodpecker (2), Red-bellied woodpecker, Cedar waxwing, Starling, Pie-billed grebe (WP)

[vVicki Kikuchi](#) – Thanks again for the inspiration. Lawrence and I went to Mary Cummings Park right here in Burlington, MA. Nothing unusual but here is the list: 1 Mourning Dove, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 2 Blue Jays, 4 Tree Swallows, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 House Wrens, 8 American Robins, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 10 Song Sparrows, 12 Red-winged Blackbirds, 5 Common Grackles, 4 Northern Cardinal. Vicki Kikuchi.