

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

March 3, 2026
Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Another wonderful day afield looking at birds for one and all. It was cold and slim-pickings on Block Island, but even so it was nice to get a report of Evening Grosbeak, which will likely leave soon, and it may be some years before that species returns to the island for a winter. Also noticeable was a decline in winter ducks – Hooded Mergansers are gone until next fall.

Please take note of a couple of new From Afar participants. Valerie H. has been providing wonderful observations from the mid-west. And, Steve Fletcher (who spent his childhood on Block Island) has sent a warm, sunny report from Texas – yay! southern birds.

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

(44 species)

Canada Goose – 46+	American Herring Gull – 1,004+	Gray Catbird- 1
American Wigeon 14	Great Black-backed Gull – 30+	Northern Mockingbird – 2
American Black Duck – 7	Eared Grebe – 2	American Robin – 6
Mallard – 87 +	Rock Pigeon – 9	American Tree Sparrow – 1
Ring-necked Duck – 4	Mourning Dove – 22	Fox Sparrow – 3
Greater Scaup – 48	Downy Woodpecker – 4	Song Sparrow – 15
Common Eider – 5	Hairy Woodpecker – 1	White-throated Sparrow – 14
Bufflehead – 17	American Kestrel – 1	Slate-colored Junco ¹ – 2
Common Goldeneye – 8	Blue Jay – 8	Northern Cardinal – 45
Red-breasted Merganser – 10	American Crow – 13+	Red-winged Blackbird – 14
Ruddy Duck – 14	Common Raven – 2	Common Grackle – 1
Ring-necked Pheasant – 5	Black-backed Chickadee – 13	House Finch – 16
Great Cormorant – 2	Carolina Wren – 5	Evening Grosbeak – 1
Marsh Hawk (N. Harrier) – 2	White-breasted Nuthatch – 1	House Sparrow – 4
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1	E. Starling – 65+	

From Afar South Kingstown & Cumberland RI; Dalton, Pittsfield & Westport, MA; Jamesport, NY; Woodbury CT; Escanaba, MI; Austin, TX; Sedbergh, England; Queensland, Australia

(71 species)

Canada Goose – 1
 Bufflehead – 4
 Great Blue Heron – 1
 Bald Eagle – 1
 Cooper's Hawk – 1
 Red-Shouldered Hawk – 1
 Red-tailed Hawk – 3
 Ring-billed Gull – 2
 Amer. Herring Gull – 107+
 White-winged Doves – 4
 Mourning Dove – 56
 Rock Pigeon – 11
 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 8
 Downy Woodpecker – 6
 Hairy Woodpecker – 3
 Northern Flicker – 1
 Pileated Woodpecker – 2
 Eastern Phoebe – 2
 Blue Jay – 27
 American Crow – 12
 Common Raven – 1
 Long-tailed Tit* – 1
 Coal Tit* – 2
 Blue Tit* – 1
 Carolina Chickadee – 3

Black-capped Chickadee – 11
 Black-crested Titmouse – 4
 Tufted Titmouse – 11
 White-breasted Nuthatch – 7
 Carolina Wren – 3
 Bewick's Wren – 1
 European Starling – 34
 Eastern Bluebird – 4
 Robin* – 2
 Amer. Robin – 71+
 Hermit Thrush 1
 Gray Catbird – 1
 Northern Mockingbird – 3
 Cedar Waxwing – 45
 American Tree Sparrow – 41
 Fox Sparrow – 4
 Swamp Sparrow – 1
 Song Sparrow – 14
 White-throated Sparrow – 11
 Dark-eyed¹ Junco – 39
 Northern Cardinal – 19
 Pine Grosbeak – 1
 Red-winged Blackbird – 42
 Common Grackle – 45
 Great-tailed Grackle – 4

Brown-headed Cowbird – 32
 House Finch – 21
 American Goldfinch – 13
 Lesser Goldfinch – 6
 House Sparrow – 28
AUSTRALIA
 Ibis – 2
 Sulphur Crested Cockatoo – 6+
 Rainbow Lorikeet – 30+
 Scaly breasted Lorikeet – 3
 Crow – 4
 Pigeon – 2
 Spotted Turtle Dove – 5
 Indian Myna – 3
 Noisy Miner – 8 +
 Yellow Faced Honeyeaters – 2
 Magpie – 4
 Currawong – 1
 Bush Stone Curlew – 3
 Plover – 1
 Brush turkey – 1
 Galah – 3

*British birds.

Amy Keeler – March 3, 2026, Going about my Day. Most are the usual cast of characters on assorted feeders filled with suet and black oil sunflower. Some are on property flying or in bushes. It's not always easy counting birds at a busy feeder but this is my best 🐦: 1 Mockingbird, 1 Marsh Hawk, 1 Canada Goose, 40+ Mallard Duck, 2 Am. Black Duck, 2 Herring Gull, 9 Cardinal, 1 Fox Sparrow, 6 Bluejay, 5 RW Blackbird, 11 House Finch, 6 Chickadee, 2 WThroat Sparrow, 2 S. C. Junco, 28 Starling, 2 Carolina Wren, 8 Am. Crow, 5 Song Sparrow, 4 House Sparrow, 1 Sharp Shin. Hawk, 2 D. Woodpecker, 1 W.B. Nuthatch. In town while at Lunch Bunch. Feeder near Community Center: 2 Chickadee, 6 Pigeon, 2 Bluejay, 4 Starling, 2 Song Sparrow, 4 Cardinal, 1 Kestrel (airport)

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hello Kim, here is our bird-list from yesterday (not a particularly busy day at our feeders, I guess the bird-party was somewhere else!): Cardinals 14, White-throated sparrows 3, Chickadees 3, Song sparrow 1. Thanks for a lovely Coot-walk (as always!). Cheers, Nigel & Cathy

Chuck McMellon – 2 crows, 1 pheasant (under the feeder scavenging for leftovers. A magnificent bird when seen up close), 1 northern Harrier, 1 cardinal, 2 song sparrows. Chuck McMellon

Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers – Sachem Pond from Corn Neck Rd. bump-out to Settlers' Rock & ocean, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Mar 3, 2026 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.1 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cloudy and cold - 27F with light ESE wind. Met at the Sachem Pond/Corn Neck Rd. bump-out and walked south along the road along the edge of Sachem Pond (about 500'), and north to Settlers' Rock (about 500'). There was a huge number of Amer. Herring Gull (on the pond, dunes, Sandy Point and in the air) the actual count should be 1,000-plus; and uncountable clouds of gull species in the air: upwards of

2,000. Participants: Judy Gray, Heather Hatfield, Barbara Stavola, Jim Reale, Nancy Miles, Chuck McMellon, Susan Matheke, Pat Saylor, Mena Hautau, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Anne Salinas, Amy Keeler, & Kim G. 18 species (+1 other taxa): Canada Goose 12, Mallard 9, American Black Duck 5, Greater Scaup 48 Common Eider 5, Bufflehead 17, Common Goldeneye 8, Red-breasted Merganser 10, Ruddy Duck 14, American Herring Gull 1000, Great Black-backed Gull 30, grebe sp. 2 [eBird did not allow me to enter Eared Grebe, only allowed "grebe species". However, in the field we ID'd it as Eared Grebe and thus that is how it is listed above in the BI list. – KG], Great Cormorant 2, American Crow 2, Common Raven 2, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 1, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 1.

Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, I got out for a short walk at Fred Garver park in Pittsfield MA on 3/3 (World Wildlife Day) mid-morning. The park is a 10 acre peninsula where the east and west branches of the Housatonic river meet. I was happy to see 25 robins and a few crows. The rest of my sightings were at home in Dalton. Pittsfield: 25 American robins, 3 American crows. Dalton: 2 hairy and 1 downy woodpecker, 5 juncos, 2 tufted titmice, 8 goldfinches, 5 mourning doves, 5 black capped chickadees, 1 red tailed hawk, 3 white-breasted nuthatches, and 1 Northern cardinal. Thanks ! Time for spring!!

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim. A short list at home of feeder birds before snow & mix.

Walked later in town while Piper at Dentist & heard very loud pileated drumming while viewing a great blue heron at edge of pond! Hope your walk was great. Darcy.

Hi again, I just remembered that I heard redwings on my walk in town...1st so far, amazingly!

Woodbury, CT: Great Blue Heron 1, Mourning Dove 7, Downy Woodpecker (F) 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 3, European Starling 2, Eastern Bluebird 1, American Goldfinch 9, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Song Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal (M) 1, Red-winged Blackbird [5].

Heather Hatfield – March 3, 2026, cold & rainy. Early morning [unknown work]. Old Town Rd.: Red-wing Blackbird 5, Starling 3, Mourning Dove 17, House Finch 5, Ev. Grosbeak 1, Downy Wdpr. 2, Song Sp. 3, White-thr.Sp. 9, Cardinal 15, BC Chickadee 2, A.Crow 1, A. Tree Sparrow 1, Pigeon 2, Hairy Wdpr. 1, C. Grackle 1, Mallard 2. Dorries Cove vicinity: Canada Goose 13, Fox Sparrow 2, Song Sp. 2, RH Pheasant 1. Spring House Pond: Mallard 36, A. Wigeon 14, Ring-necked Duck 4.



Jim Reale & Barbara Stavola – Kim: "Thanks for the photo. Did you and Barbara observe any birds later in the day? Weather definitely deteriorated."

Jim: "No but we did spot a pheasant on the way to the neck before we joined the group."

Kim: "That counts." 😊

Laura Rosenzweig – In just two minutes staring out of the kitchen window (at a gloriously sunny morning at long last) I saw: A long tailed tit, Two coal tits, One Robin, One bluetit. Let's see what else the day brings. Hope you're well. Laura.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, I'm giving you my March 4th report because on Tuesday the 3rd I didn't get very much at all besides a Red-tailed hawk on the highway. So here is from Wed March 4 at my feeders: Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 6, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Tufted Titmouse 2, European Starling 4, Eastern Bluebird 2, Hermit Thrush 1, House Finch 3, Fox Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco 8, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 1, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Northern Cardinal 3. American Woodcock and Killdeer calling last night at sunset (3-8). I guess they finally have some bare ground to dance on! Sincerely, Lauren

Lee Allan – Middle Park, Queensland, Australia, via Nancy Miles. Ibis 2, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo 6+, Rainbow Lorikeet 30+, Scaly breasted Lorikeet 3, Crow 4, Pigeon 2, Spotted Turtle Dove 5, Indian Myna 3, Noisy Miner 8+, Yellow Faced Honeyeaters 2, Magpie 4, Currawong 1, Bush Stone Curlew 3, Plover 1, Brush turkey 1, Galah 3.

Maggie Komosinski Hi Kim, unlike my last report, we saw no C. Geese — our morning outing was too late to catch them. Sadly, many geese carcass remain on our Peconic Bay beach. An uplifting sight was the flock of robins! Maggie. Report for S. Jamesport area, March 3, 2025: Bufflehead 4, Ring-billed Gull 2, Herring Gull 6, Mourning Dove 27, Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, Downy Woodpecker 3, Hairy Woodpecker 1, N. Flicker 1, Blue Jay 9, B.C. Chickadee 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 1, North. Mockingbird 2, A. Robin 45+, European Starling 17, Red-winged Blackbird 20 (M and F this time!), Cowbird 2, C. Grackle 35+, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 5, White-throated Sparrow 6, House Finch 15, A. Goldfinch 3, House Sparrow 14, Slate-colored Junco 15, Northern Cardinal 5.

Steve Fletcher – Hi Kim, thanks for including me on your email list! I love the “where in the world” idea. Here is a screenshot of my morning ebird submission from my front yard in Austin and as I walked into work. Spring is kicking off earlier and earlier here...will climb into mid-80's today. Anyway, the spring migrants are starting to show up. I took my Ornithology class to a local trail and we saw our first White-Eyed Vireo of the season this past weekend. The Cedar Waxwings are massing in the tops of trees before heading north and the Carolina and Bewick's Wrens are getting testy about claiming their turf for nesting season. This weekend, I watched 9 White-Faced Ibis stuffing themselves on the banks of a local river - presumably fueling up for their push northwards.

Anyway, I'd love to see what everyone else shared and if it is easier for you to record everything to a larger list via a google doc or excel spreadsheet, just let me know. Cheers, Steve

Walking into work. Stopped to listen for a moment as I left the house: Rock Pigeon 10, White-winged Dove 4, Eastern Phoebe 2, Blue Jay 1, Carolina Chickadee 3, Black-crested Titmouse 4, Carolina Wren 1, Bewick's Wren – 1, Northern Mockingbird 1, Cedar Waxwing 45, House Sparrow 1, Lesser Goldfinch 6, Song Sparrow 1, Great-tailed Crackle 4, Northern Cardinal 2. Lots of singing going on.

Susan Matheke – I have a much bigger list than I thought. Here it is. Susan M. At Ball Farm and West Side Rd.: 2 male Pheasants, 2 male Cardinals, 5 Mourning Doves, 1 Carolina Wren, 2 Herring Gulls, 20+ Canada Geese, 30+ Starlings, 4 Red Wing Blackbirds, 5 American Robins.

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim - My dog and I managed to get a good walk in this morning, before things turned gray and icy. Song Sparrows, Tufted Titmice and Northern Cardinals were singing in the neighborhood, and they sounded great. And Mourning Doves seemed to be all over. Conservatively, I saw 11 doves and that feels like an all-time high here. Have a great day. Cumberland, RI. Red-tailed Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, American Crow 4, Blue Jay 6, Northern Cardinal 5, House Finch 2, American Goldfinch 1, House Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 2, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Tufted Titmouse 4, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Mourning Dove 11.

Tom Fetherston – Here you go Kim! 3 March 2026. Good afternoon, Kim – Shockingly cold at 5 degrees before sunrise after having been near the Equator for the past two weeks! As usually happens, there was little bird activity until the sun climbed a bit and the temperature reached the 20s. The numbers of birds in the yard when I got back seemed low, not sure how much our house-sitter fed them or what the effect of the blizzard was, but they have been gradually increasing in abundance. The pond remains completely frozen over; the ice was 6”-8” when I was fishing over the weekend. There were five groups of gulls sitting on the ice, one large aggregation and four smaller ones. I often see ring-billed gulls during the winter, but those I could positively identify were herring gulls. The usual winter suspects, nothing exotic.

Notes for this week:

- There were “blackbird” flocks again, the majority are still brown-headed cowbirds, with quite a few red-winged blackbirds and a scattering of grackles and starlings. My estimates for numbers of each species reflects their relative abundance in the flocks.
- Sparrows, titmice, Carolina wrens and chickadees have all figured out how to access the mealworms in the bluebird feeder. At one point there was a fox sparrow, a white throated sparrow and a wren inside chowing down.

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.

American herring gull (100*) WP, American crow, White-throated sparrow (5), Tree sparrow, Fox sparrow (2), Song sparrow (4), Swamp sparrow, Dark-eyed junco (4), Eastern bluebird, House finch, Gray catbird, Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay (3), White-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, Black-capped chickadee, Mourning dove (5), European starling (10*), Brown-headed cowbird (30*), Red-winged blackbird (15*), Common grackle (10*), Red-bellied woodpecker. Cheers, Fether

Valerie Heemstra – Hi Kim, here's the list from near Escanaba, MI (Upper Peninsula): Canada Goose (first of the season). No ducks today (still have ice covering most water, ice fishermen with cars 1/4 mile out on the bay). Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Herring Gull, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Crow, Northern Raven, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, European Starling, American Robin (first of season migrant, though some stuck around for the winter), Pine Grosbeak (they've almost all gone north now), Dark-eyed Junco (they've almost all gone north, too), American Tree Sparrows, a nice big flock of at least 40 of them, Red-winged Blackbird (first of the season and he was singing). [Since no numbers were attached to any species, except Amer. Tree sparrow, I have counted only one individual for all the other species, which is likely an undercount. -KG]

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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.