

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

October 17, 2023

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

What a delightful first set of bird walks for the 2023/24 season. Among other things there were some interesting sightings. Among them Darcy's FOY early season Juncos; Lauren's Least Sandpiper; Cathy & Nigel's Amer. Tree Sparrow; Dan's giant flock of C. Grackles; Heather's Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Fether's Pied-billed Grebe (always fleeting migrant visitors in this area), Tim's perched above him Red-shouldered Hawk; and the Coot Walkers were all delighted with the immature Bald Eagle.

No matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the 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, Flock = 15+

Block Island

(53 species)

Canada Goose – 47

Mute Swan – 4

American Wigeon – 5

Mallard – 6

Red-breasted Merganser – 11

Ruddy Duck – 200

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2

Cormorant species – 65

Great Blue Heron – 3

Great Egret – 13

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – 1

Bald Eagle – 1

Northern Harrier – 4

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Black-bellied Plover – 14

Greater Yellowlegs – 9

Laughing Gull – 21

Herring Gull – 29

Great Black-backed Gull – 23

Gull species 2

Mourning Dove – 12

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1

Belted Kingfisher – 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Northern Flicker – 46

Merlin – 2
Blue-headed Vireo – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 19
Blue Jay – 29
American Crow – 2
Black-capped Chickadee – 6
Brown Creeper – 4
Carolina Wren – 5
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 85
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 8
Hermit Thrush – 2
American Robin – 10
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 8
Northern Parula – 1
Black-throated Blue Warbler – 1
Palm Warbler – 3
Myrtle/Yellow-rumped Warbler – 20
Eastern Towhee – 1
Amer. Tree Sparrow! – 1
Chipping Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 12
White-throated Sparrow – 4
Northern Cardinal – 2
Red-winged Blackbird – 1
Common Grackle – 10

From Afar: Cumberland & South Kingston, RI; Woodbury CT; Berkshire Co., Bristol Co., & Plymouth Co., MA.

(74 species)

Canada Goose – 6
Wood Duck – 1
American Black Duck – 7
Mallard – 1
Scaup species – 15
Common Eider – 20
White-winged Scoter – 1
Black Scoter – 25
Common Loon – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 2
Double-crested Cormorant – 26
Great Blue Heron – 8
Great Egret – 5
Snowy Egret – 1
Turkey Vulture – 9
Bald Eagle – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1

Red-shouldered Hawk – 3
Broad-winged Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 3
American Coot – 2
Semipalmated Plover – 7
Killdeer – 1
Greater Yellowlegs – 1
Ruddy Turnstone – 8
Least Sandpiper – 1
Laughing Gull – 3
Ring-billed Gull – 5
Herring Gull – 40
Great Black-backed Gull – 3
Rock Pigeon – 5
Mourning Dove – 9
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 6
Downy Woodpecker – 9
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 1
Merlin – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 2
Blue Jay – 30
American Crow – 39
Fish Crow – 1
Common Raven – 3
Tree Swallow – 50
Barn Swallow – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 7
Tufted Titmouse – 7
White-breasted Nuthatch – 7
Carolina Wren – 11
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 6
Eastern Bluebird – 9
American Robin – 33
Gray Catbird – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 4
European Starling – 47
American Pipit – 1
Cedar Waxwing – 3
Palm Warbler – 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 12
Eastern Towhee – 3
Chipping Sparrow – 16
Field Sparrow – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 3
Song Sparrow – 17
Swamp Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 11
Slate-colored Junco – 17

Northern Cardinal – 5
Indigo Bunting – 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 7
Common Grackle – 100
House Finch – 28
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 16

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Corn Neck Bush Lot Hill-Golden Grove, Washington, Rhode Island, US
Oct 17, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.75 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, NNE light wind, 60-65F. Participants: Heather Hatfield, Dianne King, Socha Cohen, Susan Matheke, Kim Bubko, Sarah Gray, Viki Butlevska & Georgia, Carley Drieson, Amy Keeler, Anna Grant & Jude, Lila, Ellis, Faye Benedict, Chuck McMellon, Judy Gray, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Penny Lapham, Erica Anderson, Curt Milton, & Kim G.
29 species (+2 other taxa). Canada Goose 30, Mute Swan 4, American Wigeon 5, Ruddy Duck 200, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Mourning Dove 2, Herring Gull 14, Great Black-backed Gull 20
gull sp. 2, Great/Double-crested Cormorant 50 (Several large flocks migrating overhead. 50 is a conservative report. Whether Great or Double-crested Cormorant was difficult to discern. Likely both were present.), Northern Harrier 2, Bald Eagle 1, Northern Flicker 40, Merlin 2, Eastern Phoebe 15, Blue Jay 25, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Golden-crowned Kinglet 50 (50 GCKI is likely an undercount. The large number is surely due to a large migration fall out. CG Kinglet were ubiquitous throughout the walk.), Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 8, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 10, Chipping Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 10, Common Grackle 3, Northern Parula 1, Palm Warbler 3, Yellow-rumped Warbler 12.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim, What a perfect fall day! Here is our bird list — actually 2 lists:
1) Home environment: Canada goose 17, Mallard 3, Northern Harrier 2 (1 m, 1 f interacting), Mourning Dove 7, Red-bellied woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 2, Eastern Phoebe 3, Blue jay 4, American crow 1, Black-capped chickadee 2, American robin 4, Gray catbird 1, Yellow-rumped warbler 7, Eastern towhee 1, Song sparrow 1, White-throated sparrow 3, Northern cardinal 1, Red-winged blackbird 1, C. Grackle 7.
2) Afternoon walk, Andy's Way to Beane Point: Mallard 3, Red-breasted merganser 11, Cormorant sp. 15, Great blue heron 2, Great egret 13, Night-heron sp. 1 juv. (prob. yellow-crowned; quite gray), Black-bellied plover 14, Greater yellowlegs 9, Laughing gull 21, Herring gull 15, Ring-billed gull 3, Great black-backed gull 3, Belted kingfisher 1, Amer. tree sparrow 1 [Wow!]. Cheers, Cathy & Nigel.

Darcy Thurrot – Hi Kim, beautiful morning here with some clouds & breeze from North, but so many seeds and fruits birds feasting on by edges. Could hardly count fast enough when heard or spotted. Juncos & white throats both FOY for me. Hope your morning was fruitful and fun! Darcy 🍁🍁
Hollow Park. Oct 17, 2023, 10:41 AM, Traveling 1.65 miles, 70 minutes. All birds reported? Yes. Comments: 2 Mourning Dove, 1 Turkey Vulture, 2 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Red-bellied Woodpecker – Male, 2 Downy Woodpecker – Male, 7 Blue Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Tufted Titmouse, 4 Carolina Wren, 9 Eastern Bluebird – Male, 1 American Robin, 2 House Finch, 1 American Goldfinch, 6 Chipping Sparrow, 10 Dark-eyed Junco – Foy, 5 White-throated Sparrow – FOY, 5 Song Sparrow, 3 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1 N. Cardinal– Male.

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, I'm living in the Pittsfield Mass area now, loving it! My report includes some of the surrounding towns. I'll also be in Sarasota for part of the winter. Hope you had a good summer !
10/17 Berkshire County Massachusetts. Late morning to midafternoon: 4 dark eyed (slate colored) juncos, 2 Ravens, approximately 30 American crows, > 100 common grackles, 7 blue jays, 1 turkey vulture, 1 red tailed hawk, 1 downy woodpecker and 8 chipping sparrows. Thanks, Dan.

Heather Hatfield – Oct. 17: sun & clouds at V. Ryan's (off Dorries Cove Rd.). Great Blue Heron 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, GC Kinglets 12, N. Flicker 4, Mourning Dove 3, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Northern Cardinal 1, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1.

Kim Gaffett – At bird banding: Sunny, 0-light N wind, 50-55F. Ruby-cr kinglet 5, Golden-cr Kinglet 23, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Br. Creeper 4, Song Sp. 1, Myrtle warbler 1, E. Phoebe 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Blue-headed Vireo 1, Hermit Thrush 2, Carolina Wren 1, Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim on Oct 17th I was scheduled to attend a field trip to the Manomet banding laboratory in Plymouth but we got rained out. I had taken the day off so we decided to bird in Plymouth and Bristol Counties. I got 62 species that day. We visited the King farm in Dartmouth, Little Bay Conservation Area in Fairhaven, Shaw Road in Fairhaven, Osprey Marsh in Marion, the Planting Island Causeway in Marion at Sippican Harbor, and The Kittansett Club in Marion. The Least Sandpiper at Planting Island was considered a late and rare bird for Plymouth County.

Here is my list: Indigo Bunting 1, Palm Warbler 1, Chipping Sparrow 2, House Sparrow 5, Cooper's Hawk 1, Turkey Vulture 1, Eastern Towhee 1, Tufted Titmouse 1, Northern Flicker 1, Great Blue Heron 7, Great Egret 5, Snowy Egret 1, Killdeer 1, Savannah Sparrow 3, American Goldfinch 1, Cedar Waxwing 3, Gray Catbird 1, Barn Swallow 1, Tree Swallow 50, Fish Crow 1, American Crow 4, Eastern Phoebe 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 4, Rock Pigeon 5, Mallard 1, Swamp Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 5, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Belted Kingfisher 1, Ring-billed Gull 5, **Least Sandpiper 1**, Ruddy Turnstone 8, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Semipalmated Plover 7, Black Scoter 25, Canada Goose 1, Northern Cardinal 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, Song Sparrow 9, Field Sparrow 1, House Finch 25, American Pipit 1, American Robin 3, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 35, Carolina Wren 2, Blue Jay 2, Merlin 1, Double-crested Cormorant 26, Common Loon 1, Great Black-backed Gull 3, Herring Gull 40, Laughing Gull 3, White-winged Scoter 1, Common Eider 20, American Black Duck 7. Thanks, Lauren.

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim – Perfect timing for the return of the Where-on-Earth bird walks! Here in Cumberland, we had an impressive “neighborhood fallout” of birds either returning to the area or moving through. First Junco, first Kinglets, etc. The morning also brought in two Eastern Towhees, which I can’t ever remember seeing in the neighborhood. And they are gone today. The Red-shouldered Hawk was perched on top of a telephone pole, calling loudly as I walked underneath it. Best, Tim

Cumberland, RI – Walking around my suburban neighborhood, 1.5 miles: Red-shouldered Hawk – 1: Red-tailed Hawk – 1: American Crow – 2: Blue Jay – 14 (high): Red-winged Blackbird – 3 (flyover - hadn’t seen or heard in weeks): European Starling – 12, Downy Woodpecker – 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3 (two on the same pole), White-breasted Nuthatch – 4, Tufted Titmouse – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet – 4, House Finch – 1, Northern Cardinal – 1, Eastern Towhee – 2, Dark-eyed Junco – 3, Song Sparrow – 2, White-throated Sparrow -1, House Sparrow – 11, Carolina Wren – 5, American Robin – 29 (high) Eastern Phoebe – 1, Northern Mockingbird – 2. Bonus: Yellow-rumped Warbler – 6 (nearby at the Cumberland Monastery property. They showed up on Saturday and have been in the same spot every afternoon since then.)

Tom Fetherston – 17 Oct 2023. Good evening Kim - Fun to be sending you bird lists again! Over the past week I’ve been seeing and / or acoustically detecting migrants, several species were around yesterday but as often happens decided not to show themselves when I was making my list although Merlin did record them. I’d had a few golden crowned kinglets flitting about the yard this week so figured that species would make the list. While sitting on the side porch Merlin kept picking up the calls but I couldn’t see them. Frustrating! Finally, after an hour a male hopped into view in the oak tree the kinglets had been frequenting so was able to add him. Other than that, you’ll see the usual suspects, nothing exotic yet.

This week’s observations:

- The first white-throated sparrows have appeared, although they played hooky today. While in Newfoundland the last week of September they were common, fueling up for the trip south.
- I’ve watched plenty of ospreys and quite a few eagles snatch fish out of the pond, always circling above and then plunging to the water for the grab. A few days ago, I was swimming Maggie at the dock when

an adult bald eagle flew over her, 50' off the water, then entered a long, descending glide. Couldn't figure out what it was up to, but it hit the water and came up with a fish, looked to be a bass around 10"-12". I don't know how the bird saw the bass at that angle, unless the setting sun backlit it and the fish was resting near the surface?

- There was a flock of diving ducks out in the pond, likely scaup or ringnecks but too far off to identify the species so will simply be listed as "Scaup sp."

Here's the list. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP. Estimates noted with an asterisk * Birds in the field or at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes. Canada goose (5) WP, American crow (3) WP, Great blue heron (WP), Pie-billed grebe (2) WP, American coot (2) WP, Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay (3), Mourning dove (3), White-breasted nuthatch (2), Black capped chickadee, Bald eagle (WP), Common raven, Wood duck (WP), Broad-winged hawk, Turkey vulture (6), Golden-crowned kinglet, Song sparrow, Downy woodpecker (2), Hairy woodpecker, Scaup (sp.) WP. Cheers, Fether