

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

March 7, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Well, well, well, what an interesting list we have here. Of special note is the From Afar list – five observers on four different continents! Seattle, WA and Portsmouth, RI on the North America continent; Sedbergh, England on the continent of Europe; Egypt is a transcontinental county spanning the Africa and Asia continents; and although the continent status of New Zealand is a bit bewildering, (at times considered part of Oceania, or associated with the Australian continent, or part of the Australasia region) it certainly not part of the three continents previously mentioned.

In addition to the continental considerations – or because of those considerations – there is a huge variety of species observed. And even so, some species have spread globally – consider the lowly House/English/Tiu Sparrow, which is distributed worldwide (except for the poles).

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).
- <sup>1</sup>**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”.
- 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**

(39 species)

Canada Goose – 21

Snow Goose – 3

Tundra Swan – 3

Gadwall – 1

Mallard – 23

Ring-necked Duck – 7

Common Eider – 4

Black Scoter – 400

Long-tailed Duck – 50

Bufflehead – 75

Hooded Merganser – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2

Common Loon – 4

Cormorant species – 16

Great Blue Heron – 3

Turkey Vulture – 1  
Osprey – 1  
Northern Harrier – 4  
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1  
Red-tailed Hawk – 1  
Herring Gull – 11  
Great Black-backed Gull – 4  
Mourning Dove – 26  
Rock Pigeon – 11  
Northern Flicker – 5  
Blue Jay – 2  
American Crow – 39  
Black-capped Chickadee – 8  
Carolina Wren – 6  
American Robin – 152+  
European Starling – 24  
Song Sparrow – 6  
Slate-colored Junco – 1  
Northern Cardinal – 12  
Red-winged Blackbird – 75  
Common Grackle – 1  
House Finch – 6  
American Goldfinch – 4  
House Sparrow – 3

Also seen: Muskrat 1, owl pellets.

**From Afar:** Portsmouth, RI; Seattle, WA (North America); Sedbergh, England (Europe); New Zealand (Oceania/Australia); Egypt (Africa & Asia).  
(69 species)

Mute Swan – 1  
Egyptian Goose~ – 5  
Ferruginous Duck~ – 5  
Mallard – 8  
Green-winged Teal – 4  
Ring-necked Duck – 6  
Pheasant\*\* – 5  
White Pelican~ – 5  
Great Cormorant – 5  
White Stork~ – 5  
Squacco Heron~ – 5  
Gray Heron~ – 5  
Little Egret~ – 5  
Cattle Egret – 5  
Black-crowned Night Heron – 5  
Glossy Ibis – 5  
Black Kite~ – 5  
Bonelli's Eagle~ – 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Eurasian Moorhen~ – 1  
Spur-winged Lapwing~ – 5  
Gull species – 5  
Little Gull – 5  
Black-headed Gull – 5  
Common Tern – 5  
Mourning Dove – 2  
Wood Pigeon\*\* – 5  
Laughing Dove~ – 5  
Rock Pigeon – 5  
Garden Bulbul~ – 5  
Anna's Hummingbird – 3  
Pied Kingfisher – 5  
Levant Sparrowhawk~ – 5  
New Zealand Falcon\* – 1  
Black-backed Magpie\* – 2  
Pied Wagtail\*\* – 1  
White Wagtail~ – 5  
African Pied Wagtail~ – 5  
Crow\*\* species – 10  
Hooded Crow~ – 5  
American Crow – 11  
Blue Jay – 2  
Fan-tailed Raven~ – 5  
Bank Swallow – 5  
Barn Swallow – 5  
Black-capped Chickadee – 2  
Tufted Titmouse – 2  
Blue Tit\*\* – 1  
Wren\*\* – 1  
Carolina Wren – 1  
Song Thrush\*\* – 1  
Blackbird\*\* – 3  
American Robin – 10  
Northern Mockingbird – 1  
European Starling – 2  
Asian Desert Warbler~ – 5  
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler~ – 5  
Scrub Warbler~ – 5  
Isabelline Warbler~ – 5  
Spanish Sparrow~ – 5  
Dark-eyed Junco – 2  
Song Sparrow – 3  
White-throated Sparrow – 3  
Northern Cardinal – 1  
Red-winged Blackbird – 4  
? House Finch\* – 2  
House Sparrow/Tiu\* – 8  
Tui\* – 2  
Senegal Thick-knee~ – 1

\*New Zealand species

\*\*British species. Pheasant is the same genus species as North American Ring-necked Pheasant (introduced in both places from Asia. Wren is the same as North Amer. Winter Wren, Blackbird is a thrush.

~Egyptian species.

**Amy Keeler** –Today March 7 - Out and about. In Town: 11 Pigeon, 16 Cormorant, 3 Herring Gull, 1 BB Gull. Going up Spring St.: 1 Vulture, 4 Robin, 45 Bufflehead, 12 Canada Goose. Mitchell Lane: 2 Cardinal, 2 Bluejay, 3 Chickadee, 14 RW Blackbird, 1 Junco, 1 N Harrier, 23 Starling, 1 RN Pheasant, 16 Mourning Dove, 2 Carolina Wren, 6 Ringed Neck Duck, 3 House Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow, 16 Mallard Duck, 14 American Crow, 3 Tundra Swan, 2 Great Blue Heron, and 1 MUSKRAT.

**Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley** – Hi Kim, here's our bird list for Tuesday:

1) Backyard feeders and Warden's Pond: Gadwall 1, Ring-necked Duck 1, Hooded Merganser 1, Osprey 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 10, American Crow 5, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Northern Cardinal 10, Red-winged Blackbird 21, House Finch 6, Goldfinch 4

2) Cooneymus Beach: Herring Gull 7

3) Round-and-about: Turkey Vulture 1 (Spring Street after Coots)

Grackle 1, Northern Harrier 1 (Old Town Road), Red-winged Blackbird 30 (at Mansion Rd)

[Follow-up Note]: As I recall, the Osprey was an overflight over our property. (There is a platform by Nancy Ruddle's house, and they also like to check out Warden's Pond for fish.)

Many thanks for an interesting "Coots" walk. Cathy & Nigel

**Corrie Heinz** – Again I didn't go birding just observed the birds on my wandering.

Front my house a great blue heron, red tailed hawk, tons of crows (I need to revisit learning my crows), 50 plus robins all over my yard [recorded as 15 Amer. Crow. -kg], a handful of northern flickers [5], and my female northern harrier.

Across the street at Trims Pond: 4 loons, small flock of Canada geese [6].

Enchanted forest: coming through the field at least 100 robins in the and bare shrubs, owl pellets under pines, 1 female northern harrier.

**Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers** – Painted Rock, Snake Hole Rd, Lakeside Drv Loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Mar 7, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:20 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny and cool (38-40F) with light NW wind. Participants: Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Judy Gray, Sarah Gray, Mena Hautau, Faye Benedict, Carlos & Anne Salinas, John Formica, Kim Bubko, & Kim G. 16 species Canada Goose 3, Mallard 7, Common Eider 4, Black Scoter 400, Long-tailed Duck 50, Bufflehead 30, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Herring Gull 1, Great Black-backed Gull 3, American Crow 4, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 1, American Robin 2, Song Sparrow 5, Red-winged Blackbird 10

**Curt Milton** – Good evening! Walking in the Eastlake neighborhood in Seattle. Temps in the upper 40s, cloudy and threatening to rain. Should have gone out this morning. It was sunny and there were lots of birds but ... I waited. Oh well! Here is my list: American Crow: Numerous, Gull: several ... not sure of the exact species, Anna's hummingbird: 3, Dark-eyed Junco: 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Ring-necked duck: 6, American Robin: numerous. Just checked and we'll be at Block Island for a Crazy as a Coot walk in May! [Yay! -kg] See you soon! Curt

**Elspeth Crawford** – I am in New Zealand where there are not as many birds as I expected in this suburb of



Palmerston North. [I think there are more around in Edinburgh!] However it means those I do see are a delight. Yesterday, walking in Upper Turitea riverside, my son Donal and I emerged from the trail and found a New Zealand falcon about ten feet in front of us by the river. Because of the sun I only got the photo in silhouette, we stood silent watching for quite a few minutes, then tried to ease around to see his colors - and he rose lazily, flew, wonderful wingspan and feet, and disappeared beyond the trees. I have also seen a couple of tui, house finch in our nest box [House Finch are native to North America; have they been introduced to NZ? – kg], and a pair of [New Zealand black backed magpie](#). and sparrows - at every coffee shop [I am assuming House sparrows a.k.a. Tiu, based on “habitat” description. -kg]. Sending my love to Block island and memoires of bird walks, best wishes, Elspeth.

**Laura Rosenzweig** – Not much to report as I wasn’t out looking but I did see a song thrush and a blue tit at home, plus the little wren that lives near my workshop and then a surprise visit from a pied wagtail, also at the workshop. Lots of pheasants, crows and wood pigeons as per normal. Seeing more blackbirds generally as well. Laura

**Lauren Miller-Donnelly** – Hi Kim, on March 7th I stopped by one of my favorite off-the-beaten track birding spots in Portsmouth RI. Melville Ponds!!!! i was lucky to spot 4 Green Winged teal on my way out and an excellent look at a Sharpie! Here is my list: Mute Swan 1, Mallard 3, Green-winged Teal 4, Mourning Dove 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 1, Tufted Titmouse 2, Carolina Wren 1, European Starling 2, Northern Mockingbird 1, Dark-eyed Junco 1, White-throated Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 3, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Northern Cardinal 1. Lauren.

**Sarah Gray** – Hi Kim - to add to your list today: 3 Snow Geese flying by my mom’s house off Center

**Tom Fetherston** – Good morning Kim! Greetings from Aswan. Sorry for the late email. I made my list during the trip from Aswan to Abu Simbel then lost cell coverage. It also took some time to ID what I was seeing - thank heavens for Merlin as my field guide only had a few species. Some of the birds were seen on the trip through the Sahara, once in Abu Simbel on the shore of Lake Nasser the number of species increased significantly. During the drive through the desert we witnessed the annual migration of white storks from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe. Amazing to see that many birds over such barren landscape! As usual I only counted multiples of a species if seen simultaneously, and field estimates are noted with an asterisk.

Here’s my final species list for Egypt. I tried to narrow down the locations I saw them. They are more specific in my eBird listing which I can send along if interested. Some birds were ubiquitous, so I noted “Everywhere”, others were associated with aquatic habitats (Lake Nasser / Nile). I didn’t fill in numbers like my previous bird count because I wasn’t keeping track after that. How many hooded crows, laughing doves, house sparrows or barn swallows did we see? A ton ☺ There are pictures of most in the list of Egyptian birds: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_birds\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_birds_of_Egypt) Enjoy!! Total of 37 species.

Mallard duck: Nile River Cairo, Hooded crow: Everywhere, Rock dove: All cities, Spanish sparrow: Abu Simbel, House sparrow: Everywhere, Laughing dove: Everywhere, Black crowned night heron: Nile River Cairo, Little egret: Lake Nasser & Nile, Cattle egret: Farm fields in Nile Valley, Squacco heron: Nile near Luxor, Garden bulbul: Courtyard at Sofitel, near Nile, African pied wagtail: Giza, Abu Simbel, White stork: Sahara south of Aswan, Barn swallow: Everywhere, Black kite: Lake Nasser, Nile Valley, Egyptian goose: Wadi el-Sebua, Lake

Nasser, White pelican: Lake Nasser, Common tern: Lake Nasser, Nile River, Fan-tailed raven: Lake Nasser, Nile Valley, Gray heron: Lake Nasser, Nile River, Bank swallow: Everywhere, Great cormorant: Lake Nasser, Bonelli's eagle: Lake Nasser, Isabelline warbler: Abu Simbel, Asian desert warbler: Abu Simbel, Aswan, Eastern Bonelli's warbler: Luxor, in fields across from the farmhouse, Scrub warbler: Abu Simbel, Glossy ibis: Luxor, flying over the Nile, Ferruginous duck: Nile at Luxor, White wagtail: West Bank Luxor  
 Black-headed gull: Lake Nasser, Nile River, Little gull: Lake Nasser, Eurasian moorhen: Nile River, Aswan / irrigation canal, Cairo, Pied kingfisher: Nile River, Senegal thick-knee: Nile River, Aswan, Spur-winged lapwing: Luxor, Levant sparrowhawk: Abu Simbel, Aswan, fields near Cairo.  
 Cheers, Fether.

[I recorded nearly all of these species as "5" individuals. I did the best that I could to mark Egyptian species, but did not mark birds that can be found universally in Europe and North America, for example Barn Swallow or Black-headed Gull.-kg]

