

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

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

The truth is: I'm getting to this report too late (at least by my self-imposed deadline) so I'm not going to offer any narration this time around. Enjoy the report, and get ready for another bird walk tomorrow.

Many thanks all!

Peace, Kim

(March 14, 2022)

- <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".
- 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**

(34 species)

Canada Geese – 65+

Mute Swan – 2

Mallard – 29

Black Scoter – 35

Scoter species – 100+

Hooded Merganser – 2

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Great Cormorant – 5

Great Blue Heron – 2

Norther Harrier – 4

Hawk species – 1

Killdeer – 2

Herring Gull – 25

Great Black-backed Gull – 8

Mourning Dove – 4

Snowy Owl – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 3

Northern Flicker – 2

Merlin – 1

Blue Jay – 2  
American Crow – 19+  
Black-capped Chickadee – 4  
Carolina Wren – 6  
American Robin – 71  
European Starling – 33  
Song Sparrow – 4  
White-throated Sparrow – 9  
Northern Cardinal – 12  
Red-winged Blackbird – 61  
Eastern Meadowlark – 1  
Common Grackle – 2  
House Finch – 4  
American Goldfinch – 7

**From Afar** South Kingston, Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA; Sutherlin, OR.  
(66 species )

Greater White-fronted Goose – 10  
Canada Goose – 44+  
Mute Swan – 2  
Wood Duck – 3  
American Wigeon – 10  
Mallard – 20  
Blue-winged Teal – 2  
Northern Shoveler – 7  
Greater Scaup – 30  
Bufflehead – 19+  
Hooded Merganser – 10  
Common Merganser – 4  
American White Pelican – 7  
Wood Stork – 1  
Least Bittern – 1  
Great Blue Heron – 3  
Little Blue Heron – 2  
Cattle Egret – 10  
Glossy Ibis – 2  
White Ibis – 10  
Turkey Vulture – 10  
Black Vulture – 4  
Bald Eagle – 3  
Hawk species (large) – 1  
Purple Gallinule – 2  
Common Gallinule – 10  
American Coot – 110+  
Sandhill Crane – 7  
Wilson's Snipe – 1  
Herring Gull – 30+

Caspian Tern – 1  
Mourning Dove – 6  
Black-hooded Parakeets – 14  
Anna's Hummingbird – 1  
Belted Kingfisher – 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2  
Downy Woodpecker – 1  
Hairy Woodpecker – 2  
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker – 5+  
Loggerhead Shrike – 1  
Blue Jay – 5  
American Crow – 27  
Purple Martin – 10  
Black-capped Chickadee – 1  
Tufted Titmouse – 3  
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2  
Bewick's Wren – 1  
Carolina Wren – 3  
Brown Creeper – 1  
American Robin – 12+  
Northern Mockingbird – 1  
European Starling – 16  
Pine Warbler – 20  
Amer. Tree Sparrow – 3  
Song Sparrow – 1  
Swamp Sparrow – 2  
White-throated Sparrow – 3  
White-crowned Sparrow – 1  
Golden-crowned Sparrow – 4-6  
Slate-colored<sup>1</sup> Junco – 10  
Northern Cardinal – 5  
Painted Bunting – 2  
Red-winged Blackbird – 45  
Common Grackle – 50  
Brown-headed Cowbird – 60  
Boat-tail Grackle – 10  
American Goldfinch – 2

And, 4 rabbits.

[Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley](#) Hi Kim, Here is our home bird list - it's split into 2 parts:

1) Around the yard and Warden's Pond: Canada Goose – 6, Hooded Merganser – 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1, Downy Woodpecker – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 4, Carolina Wren – 1, American Robin – 1, Song Sparrow – 1, White-throated Sparrow – 9, Northern Cardinal – 10, Red-winged Blackbird - 1

2) Walk to Dickens Preserve and South-west Point (without binoculars!): Mallard – 2, Ring-necked Duck – 1, Scoter sp. - 100+, Northern Harrier - 1 (a magnificent grey ghost), American Robin – 40, Red-winged Blackbird – 25. Great walk this morning - many thanks! Cathy & Nigel

[Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers](#) Painted Rock, Snake Hole Rd, Lakeside Drv Loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US  
Mar 1, 2022 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Part sun to cloudy, 30F,

light south wind. Loop: Painted Rock/Snake Hole Rd. & bluff edge/Jones fields & pond/ residential yards to path leading to Lakeside Drive/Breydert Pond and back to Painted Rock, with ancillary report from nearby Seneca Swamp. Participants: Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Judy Gray, Jules Craynock, Socha Cohen, Chuck McMellon, Debbie Martin, & Kim G. 18 species (+1 other taxa): Canada Goose 6, Mallard 12, Black Scoter 35, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Mourning Dove 1, Herring Gull 5, Great Cormorant 5, Great Blue Heron 1, Northern Harrier 3, hawk sp. 1, Snowy Owl 1, Merlin 1, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 15, American Robin 30, Song Sparrow 2, Eastern Meadowlark 1, Red-winged Blackbird 30, Northern Cardinal 1. And, Amy reminded me that we also had 3 American Crows.

**Curt Milton** The report from Seattle: We've been pounded the last few days by another atmospheric river (think rain like a firehose), so I wasn't sure I'd be able to get out today. But the day was sunny, with temps in the low 50s, so off I went. I went to the Union Bay Natural Area, which never disappoints. Saw two birds that I hadn't seen there before: wood ducks and greater white-fronted geese. Here is my list: American Robin: 2, Downy Woodpecker: 1, Golden-crowned sparrow: 4-6, Mallards: numerous, American Crow: numerous, Anna's Hummingbird: 1, Red-winged Blackbird: 1, Canada goose: numerous, Bufflehead: 4, Northern Shoveler: 6-8, Wood Duck: 2-4, American Wigeon: numerous, Hooded Merganser: numerous, American Coot: numerous, Greater White-fronted goose: numerous, Bewick's Wren: 1 Thank you for being our bird walk leader! Curt

**Dan Kasuba** – Hello Kim, It was another exciting visit to Sarasota Audubon/ Celery fields yesterday. Great to have naturalists helping to point out the various species viewed from 2 different boardwalks. One in a swampy area, the other beside a meandering river! Sightings included: 1 Caspian tern, 1 loggerhead shrike, 1 wood stork, 1 Wilson's snipe, 1 least bittern, 2 painted buntings, 2 purple gallinules and many common gallinules, 3 bald eagles, 1 large unidentifiable hawk, 7 sandhill cranes, 4 black and many turkey vultures, 10 white and 2 glossy ibises, 3 GBHs, 2 little blue herons, 6 blue winged teal, 2 red bellied woodpeckers, many cattle egrets, purple martins, boat-tailed grackles, brown headed cowbirds and American crows, 14 black hooded parakeets, 20 pine warblers, 7 white pelicans and 12 red winged blackbirds. Also 4 rabbits! Thanks and enjoy!!

**Erica Anderson** – Pleasant Hill, OR. I will say the robins are here, the red shafted flickers have been drumming on our gutters and doing mating dances in the trees.

**Kim Gaffett** – Going-about-my-day, mostly at my bird feeder and yard/pond. Canada Goose 35, Mallard 15, Herring Gull 20, GBBG 8, Mourning Dove 3, Red-winged Blackbird 5, E. Starling 3, C. Grackle 2, House Finch 4, A. Goldfinch 7, Downy Woodpecker 1, N. Cardinal 1, Song Sparrow 1, Carolina Wren 1, A. Crow 6, Blue Jay 2.

**Susan Matheke** – Not really [birding on 3/1] but today [3/2] riding was great, 1 great blue, 2 swans, 2 killdeer, 15 starlings, 10 plus robins, 2 flickers, 18 Canada geese, can that count 🙏

**Tom Fetherston** Good evening Kim – Another day with changes from last time and some new arrivals. Last report the "blackbird" numbers were minimal, today they were back in force with some new recruits. The grackles, cowbirds and starlings were joined by red-winged blackbirds. They weren't as numerous as the grackles and cowbirds but still made up part of the mob, perhaps 20%? Again I wonder what caused the change in numbers, maybe snow cover? Does a blanket of snow cause the flocks that would normally be in fields to descend on feeders? I only have a few observations but so far that seems to correlate. Yesterday I had a gray catbird at a feeder, it didn't return today but instead a northern mockingbird showed up. Driven out by the blackbird mob but observed, nonetheless. More cardinals around and a host of juncos. Probably more than I reported but they are so hard to count when hopping everywhere. Even had a neighbor's chicken crash the party but she didn't go on the official list.

As usual birds on Worden's Pond will be noted with WP and estimates with \* Birds at the feeders were counted as singles unless they were different sexes or present simultaneously. Here's my list: Slate colored junco (10), Carolina wren, Song sparrow, White breasted nuthatch (2), Hairy woodpecker (2), Mourning dove (6), White throated sparrow (3), Northern cardinal (5), Brown headed cowbird (50\*), Common grackle (50\*), European starling (6\*), Red-winged blackbird (20\*), Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay (5), American tree sparrow

(3), Brown creeper, Carolina wren, Black-capped chickadee, American crow (7), Swamp sparrow (2), Northern mockingbird, American goldfinch (2), Herring gull (30)\* WP, Canada goose (14) WP, Mallard duck (10) WP, Mute swan (2) WP, Common merganser (4) WP, Greater scaup (30\*) WP. Cheers, Fether