

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

October 6, 2026

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to a new season (Oct. 2026 – June 2025) of Where-on-Earth & Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walks. Here's another fun compilation from near and far. It is unusual that the species count for the Block Island and the From Afar lists are nearly the same. (Probably because From Afar reports are all from the same region as BI, and all are experiencing the same fall migration patterns.

A super interesting addition is the list from Sean Williams who is contracted by RI DEM to do daily morning flight counts at Sandy Point (Block Island) from September through November. I do not include his species count in the Block Island list (maybe I should) but the observations are shown in the individual reports (below). They are super interesting; they include sea bird species that we generally don't see while on land – think Brandt, Shearwaters, etc.; and reflect observations of a very skilled birder.

Again, welcome and yippee for our new season.

Peace, Kim

Remember, no matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day.

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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

(49 species)

Black Scoter – 12	Mourning Dove – 6	Black-backed Chickadee – 12
Hooded Merganser 1	Belted Kingfisher – 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 8
Ruddy Duck – 40	Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet – 18
Ring-necked Pheasant – 2	Downy Woodpecker – 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Common Loon – 8	Northern Flicker – 7	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Double-crested Cormorant – 5	American Kestrel – 2	Carolina Wren – 3
Great Blue Heron – 11	Merlin – 3	Gray Catbird – 9
Marsh Hawk (N. Harrier) – 8	Eastern Phoebe – 1	Cedar Waxwing – 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1	Least Flycatcher – 1	Common Yellowthroat – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1	Blue-headed Vireo – 2	Northern Parula – 4
Black-bellied Plover – 2	Red-eyed Vireo -2	Nashville Warbler – 1
American Herring Gull – 10	Blue Jay – 34	Blackpoll Warbler – 13
Great Black-backed Gull – 1	Common Raven – 3	Palm Warbler – 4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 2	American Crow – 4	Myrtle ² Warbler – 17

Rufus-sided Towhee – 6
Song Sparrow – 1
Northern Cardinal – 4

Indigo Bunting – 1
Common Grackle – 9
American Goldfinch – 1

House Sparrow – 3

Yellow-billed Cuckoo ➡

Note: yellow bill, dull eye ring,
rufous wings, & large tail spots.

Nashville Warbler, below.



From Afar South Kingstown, Cumberland RI; Westport, Dalton & Pittsfield, MA.

(47 species)

Canada Goose – 40
Mallard – 6
Wood Duck – 1
Bald Eagle – 3
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Amer. Herring Gull – 1
Mourning Dove – 5
Rock Pigeon – 4
Pied-billed Grebe – 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 3

Northern Flicker – 4
Eastern Phoebe – 6
Red-eyed Vireo – 1
Blue Jay – 17
American Crow – 14
Fish Crow – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 9
Tufted Titmouse – 8
Kinglet species – 7
White-breasted Nuthatch – 8
Carolina Wren – 5
Eastern Bluebird – 3
Swainson's Thrush – 1
American Robin – 16
Gray Catbird – 8
European Starling – 2

Cedar Waxwing – 40
Common Yellowthroat – 1
American Redstart – 1
Yellow-rumped² Warbler – 2
Blackpoll Warbler – 1
Pine Warbler – 2
Eastern Towhee – 4
Chipping Sparrow – 9
Song Sparrow – 4
Swamp Sparrow – 8
White-throated Sparrow – 10
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 3
Northern Cardinal – 7
House Finch – 2
House Sparrow – 11

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim. Our bird list for today — very short but very interesting!

The highlight was a yellow-billed cuckoo; I don't believe we have ever seen one before, but it seems they are pretty much unmistakable and I am sure that is what I saw. I got a long and clear look at the head and bill (decurved and yellow with a black tip on the upper mandible) and most of the very white breast (but not the underside of the tail).

The other bird 'of interest' was a harder call, but I am fairly sure it was a Nashville warbler. I saw a yellow-breasted warbler with a gray head and white eye-ring but otherwise rather plain. My initial thought was a Connecticut warbler but then I got a good look at the throat, which was yellow, not gray.

Here's the whole list - all seen in our yard: Cooper's Hawk 1, Mourning dove 3, Yellow-billed cuckoo 1, Blue jay 4, Chickadee 4, Nashville warbler 1, Yellow-rumped warbler 1, Eastern towhee 3

It was great to be back with the Crazy Coots! Many thanks. Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot walkers – Corn Neck at Littlefield driveway and Sachem Pond, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Oct 6, 2026 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: End of Corn Neck Rd. at the turn-out near Littlefield driveway: birded the Road, C. Littlefield lawn & edge path, Sachem Pond and "the" pine tree & brush at entrance to Golden Grove driveway/corner of USF&WS. Sunny & cool (50F), NW breeze. Participants: Judy Gray, Nancy Miles, Kristin Sprague & 2, Kristin Rittenhouse, Sherri Maxman, MariJean Conrad, Laura & Caroline Rosenzweig, Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley, Heather Hatfield, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Annie Kurz, Elizabeth Littlefield, Kim G. 27 species. Ruddy Duck 40, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Mourning Dove 3, American Herring Gull 10, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Double-crested Cormorant 5, Northern Harrier 3, Belted Kingfisher 1, Northern Flicker 6, Least Flycatcher 1 (consensus of several birders) Blue Jay 25, American Crow 3, Black-capped Chickadee 3, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5, Golden-crowned Kinglet 15, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 4, Cedar Waxwing 1, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 3, Northern Parula 3, Blackpoll Warbler 9, Palm Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 10.

Dan Kasuba – I got out 10/6/26 on a windy, chilly, but sunny day, mid afternoon, to Canoe Meadows Audubon preserve in Pittsfield MA. Lots of bird activity! 1 common yellow throat, 3 kinglets(? Sp), 5 Eastern phoebes, 8 American crows, 1 sharp-shinned hawk, 1 Cooper's hawk, 1 red-tailed hawk, 6 Blue jays, 2 white throated sparrows, 4 marsh [Swamp] sparrows, 2 Mallards, 1 Northern Cardinal, 1 Red-bellied woodpecker, 2 mourning doves, and 3 dark eyed juncos. Also, late afternoon in Dalton MA, 3 bluebirds, 1 Swainsons thrush, 2 American Robins, 5 cedar waxwings, 8 white throated sparrows, 4 kinglets, And 2 pine warblers. An exciting day! Two days later there were only 2 birds that I saw in my yard. Thanks and enjoy,

Heather Hatfield – Sunny, 50s, breezy. Old Town Rd.: Goldfinch 1, BC Chickadee 1, C. Grackle 8, Blue Jay 3. Lewis Farm: N. Harrier 2, Kestrel 2, Merlin 1, GBH 10 [yes, 10!]. Breed land: Blackpoll 3, BC Chickadee 2, Hooded Merganser 1, Yellow-rumped 5, Catbird 2, Sharp-shinned 1, N. Harrier 2. Off Dorries Cove Rd.: Phoebe 1, YB Cuckoo 1.

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day at home: C. Raven 2, House Sparrow 3; at Lapham's: Catbird 2, N. Cardinal 4, Downy Woodpecker 2, N. Flicker 1, Carolina Wren 1, House wren 1, YT 1, Chickadee 2, Blue Jay 2, C. Raven 1, Pheasant 1,

Laura Rosenzweig – (On Block Island) Enjoyed the walk today Kim, despite our late arrival! Out and about later we saw a marsh hawk over Lewis Farm, possibly two or the same one twice several hours apart, second over Dickens reserve; a catbird at Dickens flew out of the shrub at ankle height just as we passed by; a heron (aka a pterodactyl!) flew overhead at Dickens; several crows (definitely 4) making a racket at Lewis Farm; and a bird I didn't recognize — looked like an English blackbird, about the same size, with a blue-black tinge to its plumage on the top half of its body. A Common Grackle perhaps? There were two hawks 'playing' in the pines around Keith Lewis's house but they had gone by the time I got my binocs. Maybe Merlins or possibly peregrines, that sort of size. Laura.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – On Tuesday Oct 6th I walked out back behind my house. It was a pretty good fall migration morning and I was so bummed I had to wrap it up early and head to work. Here is my list from Westport MA 10/6: Canada Goose 32, Wood Duck 1, Mourning Dove 1, Bald Eagle 1, Yellow-bel'd Sapsucker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 3, Eastern Phoebe 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Blue Jay 4, American Crow 1, Fish Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, European Starling 2, Gray Catbird 6, American Robin 10, Cedar Waxwing 35, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 1, Chipping Sparrow 8, Swamp Sparrow 4 Eastern Towhee 4, American Redstart 1, Blackpoll Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 2. Take care! Lauren.

Maura & Steve – Block Island morning list from the North End on Tuesday 10/6: GC & RC kinglets [3 each], RB nuthatch, common loons (flyover group of 8), indigo bunting (molting male), BH and RE vireos [2 each],

Red-bellied woodpecker, blackpoll, yellow rump, black bellied plovers (2 flyovers), palm warblers [2], blue gray gnatcatcher, parula, black scoters (flyover group of 12). Hope this helps! [When species listed in the singular I counted it as 1, when species listed in plural but with out a number I made a conservative estimate; indicated in [brackets]. – Kg]

Sean Williams – RI Div. Fish & Wildlife - Block Island morning flight at North Light/Sandy Point, Tuesday 6 October 2026

Brant (Atlantic)	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Cape May Warbler	13
Common Eider	5	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	31	Northern Parula	36
White-winged Scoter	80	Merlin	9	Magnolia Warbler	1
Black Scoter	7	Eastern Phoebe	2	Blackpoll Warbler	167
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Blue Jay	18	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Black-bellied Plover	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Palm Warbler	15
American Golden Plover	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	Pine Warbler	14
Great Shearwater	-	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	43
Northern Gannet	1	American Pipit	32	Prairie Warbler	2
Double-crested Cormorant	10	American Goldfinch	7	Black-throated Green Warbler	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	1	Indigo Bunting	1
Northern Harrier	2	Nashville Warbler	1	warbler sp.	43
Totals: 575 individuals, 36 species, 4:45 hours					

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim – Thanks for bringing Where On Earth back for another season! Tuesday morning was breezy and cool... quiet at first, but eventually a few birds found me. Carolina Wrens have been singing more regularly the past couple weeks and they showed up for the walk.

On October 7 (not in the list), Golden-crowned Kinglets (2) arrived in the neighborhood. I heard more singing at Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve in Exeter the same day, along with 2 Brown Creepers. I'm pretty sure there was a Blackpoll Warbler up in a white pine, too, but I need more practice ID'ing them. Later the same day, I was walking my dog and talking on the phone (ugh – yes, I'm that guy), when I heard a short rustling in the leaves on the ground. I looked over and saw a hawk (Cooper's or Sharp-shinned?) take off from the ground and fly across the trail less than 25 feet away. I immediately forgot what I was talking about. I don't think it got what it was after, but it happened very fast. Take care, Tim

Cumberland Monastery in Cumberland, RI: Gray Catbird – 1, Northern Flicker – 1 (unfortunately, I didn't keep a list in my head on that walk)

Around the Neighborhood in Cumberland, RI: Red-shouldered Hawk – 1, Song Sparrow – 1, House Sparrow – 9, Mourning Dove – 1, Rock Pigeon – 4, Black-capped Chickadee – 2, Tufted Titmouse – 3, House Finch – 1, Northern Cardinal – 1, Carolina Wren – 4, Blue Jay – 5, American Robin – 4, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2, White breasted Nuthatch – 3.

Tom Fetherston – 6 October 2026. Good evening, Kim – A bit windy but a beautiful day to be looking for birds. An unusually meager list, possibly due to the wind but bird numbers recently have been down, perhaps because of the shifting populations as summer residents depart and the winter crowd moves in. I've had Merlin detections of white-throated sparrows and dark-eyed juncos but no visuals so far.

Notes for this week:

- Birds at the feeders were the usual crew of titmice, nuthatches, cardinals and song sparrows. There were broods of all those species fledged so birds I saw today were a mix of adults and obvious juveniles.

- I haven't seen many migrants passing through yet. There were two new "lifers" for me last week, a Cape May Warbler and a blue-headed vireo. Quite exciting but disappointing not to observe more warblers stopping by.
- Another day the pond was oddly quiet, likely due to the wind. There was a flock of geese in the lee of the north shore but getting an exact count was precluded by distance and whitecaps. A small flock of mallards, only one gull (?), a grebe and two eagles (ho hum).

Here's the list. Birds seen around Worden's 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 crow (5), Canada goose (8*) WP, Mallard (4) WP, American herring gull (WP), Pie-billed grebe (WP), Bald eagle (2) WP, Tufted titmouse (4), Black-capped chickadee (2), Gray catbird, Mourning dove, Northern cardinal (5), Blue jay (2), Carolina wren, Hairy woodpecker, Downy woodpecker (2), White-breasted nuthatch (4), Song sparrow (3), Chipping sparrow. Cheers, Fether. Photo: Blue-headed vireo



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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.