

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

January 17, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Below is another interesting list of birds seen by us all in mid-January. Of special interest are Faye and Tom's lists from very far afar. How fun to get a list from Hawaii – many species I didn't even know what taxa they were and where to fit them in the list – but I made my best try. For a quick look of some of the more common Hawaii species check out this online site: <https://www.animalspot.net/birds-in-us/birds-of-hawaii>



And, Faye called out the unusual Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea* photo at left) at her feeders in the aftermath of a Norwegian snow storm. It is wonderful to note how like our Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) the European version is.

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

(36 species)

Snow Goose – 1  
Canada Goose – 76  
Mallard – 20+  
Common Eider – 6  
Bufflehead – 16  
Common Goldeneye – 9  
Red-breasted Merganser – 3  
Ring-necked Pheasant – 3  
Common Loon – 8  
Horned Grebe – 1  
Cormorant species – 1  
Great Blue Heron – 1  
Bald Eagle – 1  
Northern Harrier – 2  
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1  
Black-bellied Plover – 2

Sanderling – 9  
Herring Gull – 40  
Great Black-backed Gull – 4  
Mourning Dove – 23  
Rock Pigeon – 25+  
Belted Kingfisher – 1  
Peregrine Falcon – 1  
Blue Jay – 3  
American Crow – 34  
Fish Crow – 1  
Black-capped Chickadee – 13  
Carolina Wren – 7  
American Robin – 7  
European Starling – 27  
Cedar Waxwing – 20  
Northern Cardinal – 12  
House Finch – 12  
Red-winged Blackbird – 9  
American Goldfinch – 2  
House Sparrow – 3

**From Afar:** Cumberland, RI; Dartmouth, MA; Lyme, & Woodbury, CT; Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA; Oahu, Hawaii; Drangedal, Norway  
(83 species)

Canada Goose – 70  
Black Swan – 5  
Mute Swan – 1  
Mallard – 12  
American Black Duck – 25  
American Wigeon – 1  
Bufflehead – 4  
American White Pelican – 6  
Brown Pelican – 8  
Great Cormorant – 2  
Great Blue Heron – 3  
Great Egret – 1  
Western Cattle Egret\*\* – 10  
Black-Crowned Night Heron – 1  
Wood Stork – 1  
Black Vulture – 4  
Turkey Vulture – 30  
Bald Eagle – 3  
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk – 2  
Hawaiian Stilt\*\* – 2  
Wandering Tattler – 1  
Golden Plover – 5  
Piping Plover – 4

Grey Plover\*\* – 3  
Sandpiper species  
Willet – 8  
Killdeer – 14  
Ruddy Turnstone – 5  
American Woodcock – 1  
Laughing Gull – 50+  
Ring-billed Gull – 50+  
Black Skimmer – 25  
Mourning Dove – 13  
Zebra Dove\*\* - 10  
Spotted Dove\*\* - 10  
Indian Mynah\*\* – 10  
Red-vented Bulbul\*\* – 1+  
Belted Kingfisher – 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2  
Downy Woodpecker – 2  
Hairy Woodpecker – 1  
Pileated Woodpecker – 3  
Japanese White-eye\*\* – 2  
Blue Jay – 10  
American Crow – 117+  
Fish Crow – 4  
Common Raven – 1  
Great Tit\* – 12  
Willow Tit\* – 4  
Eurasian Blue Tit\* – 3  
Black-capped Chickadee – 7  
Tufted Titmouse – 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1  
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 2  
Eurasian Nuthatch\* – 1  
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2  
Brown Creeper – 1  
Carolina Wren – 3  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2  
E. Bluebird – 2  
American Robin – 45  
White-rumped Shama\*\* – 2  
Brown Thrasher – 1  
Northern Mockingbird – 10  
European Starling – 22  
Pine Warbler – 6  
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 20  
Savannah Sparrow – 1  
Song Sparrow – 4  
Swamp Sparrow – 1  
White-throated Sparrow – 3  
Golden-crowned Sparrow – 10

Java Sparrow\*\* – 5  
Slate-colored Junco – 3  
Red-crested Cardinal\*\* – 5  
Northern Cardinal – 7  
Red-billed Leiothrix\*\* – 1  
Common Waxbill\*\* – 8  
Red Avadavat\*\* – 3  
Saffron Finch\*\* – 2  
House Finch – 5  
American Goldfinch – 9  
House Sparrow – 16

\*European species

\*\* Hawaiian species

[Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley](#) – Hello Kim, Here is our backyard bird list for yesterday (not a very birdy-day!): Pheasant – 1 (heard, not seen), Chickadee – 1, Cardinal - 4 (3m, 1f). Also, 10 Bufflehead on Warden's Pond at about 8.30 am. Thanks for a great Coot-walk yesterday! [And from Nigel] Hi Kim, A few extras from Mansion (house and beach): 9 Sanderling, 6 Common Eider, 4 Mourning Dove, 2 Pheasant, 2 Carolina Wren. Thanks for a lovely walk! Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

[Corrie Heinz](#) – Short walk yesterday and this morning across the street from my house Resident snow goose that lives with Canada goose flock, 1 great blue starting a ruckus with the bald eagle who spends a lot of time behind my house - my parents property, And a kingfisher in trims by Parrish.

[Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers](#) – Cormorant Point & Swamp & environs, Washington, Rhode Island, US Jan 17, 2023 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, with WNW wind, 32F. Walked a loop from Coast Guard Rd. around Cormorant Pt. swamp. Participants: Susan Matheke, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Molly Fitzpatrick, Dorrie Napoleone, Bob Greenlee, Carlos Salinas, Mena Hautau, and Kim G. 21 species (+1 other taxa). Canada Goose 2, Mallard 5, Bufflehead 2, Common Goldeneye 9, Red-breasted Merganser 3, Horned Grebe 1, Mourning Dove 2, Black-bellied Plover 2, Herring Gull 40, Great Black-backed Gull 4, Common Loon 8, cormorant sp. 1, Bald Eagle 1, Peregrine Falcon 1, American Crow 13, Fish Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Carolina Wren 3, European Starling 1, American Robin 7, Cedar Waxwing 20, American Goldfinch 2




[Curt Milton](#) – Good afternoon! Managed to get out this morning ahead of the rain. Not a ton of birds but a good selection considering it's January. **Location:** Union Bay Natural Area in Seattle. **Weather:** temp: upper 40s, skies overcast, light wind. **Here is what I saw:** American Robin: several; Bald Eagle: 2; Bufflehead: 2; American Wigeon: 1; Mallard: numerous; Song sparrow: 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1; American Crow: numerous; Great Blue Heron (photo attached): 1; Black-capped Chickadee: 2; Brown Creeper: 1; Golden-crowned Sparrow: numerous; American Goldfinch: several. Thanks for doing this! See you soon! Curt.

[Dan Kasuba](#) – Jan. 16: Hi Kim, So after years of rarely seeing American robins in Florida they seem to suddenly be everywhere, everyday! On a bike ride this morning I saw 3 separate flocks, all in the 30-50 range. Its been great ! Not sure what to attribute this to. I will be participating tomorrow. Have a great day ! Dan. Jan.17: Hi Kim, the following is my tally of birds for 1/17/23. Siesta Key Beach, Sarasota Florida

25 black skimmers, 4 piping plovers, 8 willets, 6 white and 8 brown pelicans, and many (> 50 each) ring-billed gulls, laughing gulls, and unidentifiable sandpipers. Also, in the Sarasota neighborhoods, 14 killdeers, 2 pileated woodpeckers, 4 Northern cardinals, 7 blue jays, 1 brown thrasher, 1 great blue heron, 1 great egret, 1 woodstork, 9 mockingbirds, > 100 American crows, 13 mourning doves, many (?20) yellow rumped warblers, 6 pine warblers, 2 blue gray gnatcatchers, approx 30 American robins, a similar number of turkey vultures and 4 black vultures. thanks ! Dan

[Darcy Thurrott](#) – Hi Kim, I had a nice walk in amazingly mild weather and good birds. Hope you did too.

 Darcy at the North Cemetery Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21). Jan 17, 2023. 10:05 AM. Traveling 3.33 miles. 110 minutes. All birds reported? Yes. Comments: 68 Canada Goose, 1 Bald Eagle -- Flying away, wings flat out horizontal, immature as no white tail or head, graceful and big. 2 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Pileated Woodpecker -- Heard only, 1 Blue Jay, 4 American Crow, 4 Fish Crow, 1 Common Raven, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Carolina Wren, 12 European Starling, 2 Eastern Bluebird, 3 American Robin, 3 House Sparrow, 1 House Finch, 4 American Goldfinch, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 1 Northern Cardinal

[Curt Milton](#) – This morning I may have seen a northern shoveler drake and hen in the small pond behind the mechanic shop across the street from the Depot. [The Sinclair Pond, Ocean Ave., Block Island.]



[Faye Benedict](#) – Jan. 16: Wish I could go on the walk with you and the coots, Kim.

Arriving before the next walk, if all goes well. I will try to estimate the tits on the veranda tomorrow morning, but another big snowstorm is expected so there may not be a whole lot of birds! cheers, Faye

Jan. 17: Zero bird sightings this morning from 8-9 --- a first!! See photo. The Bird Weather Forecast said flying not recommended this morning.

Bird count today, Jan. 18, on my snowy veranda in Drangedal, Norway. I have tried to not overcount them.

Great tit (kjøttmeis, Parus major) 12, willow tit (granmeis, Poecile montanus) 4, Eurasian blue tit (blåmeis, Cyanistes caeruleus) 3, and the bird of the day (see photo, bird facing head on my lower rung on the stool. They don't usually come to the feeding station) Eurasian nuthatch (spettmeis, Sitta europaea) 1. Faye.



[Gail & Shorty Cahill](#) – Hi Kim, hope you all had a good coot walk. We walked again on the Tuesday Trek with the Lyme land Trust at the Brockway Hawthorne preserve. This was all new for us and a nice walk. The new environmental director used to work for the Audubon so he shared a lot about birds and another walker used to volunteer with him so we had some expert eyes with us and we saw at least two and heard more golden-crowned kinglets. On the way there I spied a kingfisher in a tree. Was in the car and it was a quick look so no details but it's profile I'm sure that is what it was.

So our list, tho small, is: 2 golden crowned kinglets heard others, 1 Kingfisher. Miss you all! G & S.

[Kim Gaffett](#) – Going-about-my-day. Old Harbor: Rock Dove 25+; at home: Canada Geese 17, Mallard 20+, Mourning Dove 4, Blue Jay 3, A. Crow 7, Red-winged Blackbird 5.

[Lauren Miller-Donnelly](#) – Hi Kim, on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> I decided to try for a Short-eared Owl. So I headed down to THE BEST SPOT for viewing SEOW's at dusk that I know of (Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Dartmouth). I did not get one, but I did flush a Woodcock out of a wet patch on the trail. Back at my car I had my Merlin App open *and wouldn't you know it, a picture of a Short eared Owl came up on the app!!!!* But when I went back to listen I am pretty sure it was just the sound of the phone in my pocket swooshing around. Here is my list: Canada Goose 2, Mute Swan 1, Mallard 2, American Black Duck 25, Bufflehead

2, **American Woodcock 1**, Great Cormorant 2, Great Blue Heron 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Carolina Wren 1, Northern Mockingbird 1, American Robin 1, White-throated Sparrow 2, Savannah Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 3, Swamp Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 1. It's snowing here! [Lucky you! I'm wishing for at least one snow storm this winter. Kg] Have an excellent weekend, Lauren

[Nancy Greenaway](#) – It has been a beauty of a day, and these are my bird family members who lunched with me today: 4 Cardinals (2 pairs), 12 Finches (mostly house finches), 8 Mourning doves, 8 Black-capped chickadees, 4 Red-winged blackbirds, and 1 Harrier.

[Susan Matheke](#) – The following list is Out and About with Della and Tryggur: 1 Northern Harrier, 26 Starlings, 37 Canada Geese, 2 Carolina Wrens, 3 House Sparrows???, 1 Sharp shinned Hawk, 5 Mourning Dove, 4 cardinals, 1 male 3 females, 14 American Crow, 4 Buffleheads.

[Tim Mooney](#) – Hi Kim! I might have fudged the date a bit, but here's a representative sample of what I've seen around my Cumberland yard this week. The Sharpie just streaked through the neighbor's backyard while I was typing this email. Only got a quick look, but definitely a small accipiter. Gotta pay attention out there! Best, Tim. Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1, American Robin – 6 (flyover, calling), Blue Jay – 2, American Crow – 3, European Starling – 10, House Sparrow – 7, White-throated Sparrow – 1, Tufted Titmouse – 1 (singing, usually mid-morning), Carolina Wren – 1 (occasional bursts of song, piercing the quiet), Black-capped Chickadee – 3, Northern Cardinal – 1

[Tom Fetherston](#) – Aloha Kim - Greetings from Ko Olena, Oahu, Hawaii. I'm staying at the Aluani, a Disney resort so as you might imagine there isn't much species diversity on the grounds but a friend here sent me to a refuge at West Loch, which is where much of my list came from. Not being familiar with Hawaiian birds I had to study the Hawaiian section of Peterson's, write descriptions of those not immediately recognizable and research other lists of birds here, some endemic, most introduced. There's some question on the endemics, my friend is reviewing the list but I wanted to get it out today, then possibly revise later. There are only a couple in question, which will be noted with an asterisk (\*). I'll also be using "few / many" when there were multiples of a species. At the resort the numbers of doves & mynahs defy counting! I'm also noting the most numerous land mammal I've encountered, the mongoose! Birds seen at West Loch will be noted by WL, others are from the vicinity of the Aluani in Ko Olina (KO). If present both places I'll list both spots.

[I've included Fether's Jan. 25 follow-up, because it is interesting.] Good morning Kim - Got back lat last night, finally able to get on my laptop and turn my bird list into a word document.

I ended up making more revisions, probably too late for inclusion in your count but it took a lot of checking, re-sighting species and looking at different references to settle on an id. I had Peterson's Western Birds with the HI supplement. Problem was it had been published in 1960, and my friend Julie Rivers, a biologist based in Pearl Harbor told me that endemics listed as common there had since been driven out of the lowlands by development and disease carried by introduced species so were now only found in the mountains. Another twist that had stumped me was that the state publishes a bird list, but doesn't provide much detail regarding occurrence or life history in HI. There were white egrets all over the lawns and golf courses that looked like cattle egrets, but lacked the buff on the head and chest. The state list discussed an introduced egret from India, the "intermediate egret" as a plain white bird smaller than the great or "American" egret so I assumed that's what I was observing. Later in the week I was on one of my runs and passed a flock of the egrets close by. A few had some buff on the head?? I went back and did more research, it turns out that cattle egrets only have the buff during breeding season (spring & summer) which is when I usually see them, otherwise they are plain white. Bingo!

The different plovers were another challenge because they weren't in their breeding plumage. The photo I sent was a wandering tattler, black-bellied plovers (called grey plovers in HI) are similar looking, golden plovers are everywhere but I did see a flock of smaller birds with more white that ended up keying out as ruddy turnstones. The Hawaiian stilts had flushed ahead of me on a mudflat, took checking out pictures of them in flight to confirm what they were.

It was lots of work but great fun sorting through so many species new to me. Zebra dove (many) KO / WL, Spotted dove (many) KO / WL, Indian mynah (many) KO / WL, House sparrow (6\*), House finch (4\*) KO / WL, White-rumped shama (2) WL, Red crested cardinal (5) KO / WL, Red-billed leiothrix (WL), Saffron finch (2) KO / WL, Japanese white-eye (2) WL, Red-vented bulbul (KO/WL), Black-crowned night heron, Common waxbill (8\*) (WL), Java sparrow (5\*) WL, Golden plover (many) KO / WL, Grey plover (3\*) KO/ WL, Western cattle egret (many) KO /

WL, Red avadavat (strawberry finch) (3) WL, Black swan (5), Wandering tattler (WL), Hawaiian stilt (2) Hikham  
AFB Pearl Harbor, Ruddy turnstone (5). Cheers, Fether.