

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

November 1st, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

November 1st was a rainy day on BI and I had to be off island, so our BI observations were limited. But thanks to Tom Fetherston there were some BI observations. And, I loved (I hope you will too) getting all the reports from afar – even if some were a bit off the date. 😊

Mark your calendars – the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays generally.... But just to keep things confusing, we have an extra day planned for November 29, a 5th Tuesday.

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, +=10+, +++=10++.

Block Island

(9 species)

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2
Herring Gull – 15
Great Black-backed Gull – 8
Mourning Dove – 4
Blue Jay – 2
American Crow – 2
American Robin – 3
White-throated Sparrow – 5
Northern Cardinal – 1

Also seen: Spring Peeper, mud-bathing deer

From Afar: Niantic Bay, CT; Hudson Valley, NY; Sarasota, FL

(43 species)

Wood Duck – 2
Blue-winged Teal – 7
Double -crested Cormorants – 4
Anhinga – 2
Roseate Spoonbill – 1
Great Blue Heron – 2
Great Egret – 5
Cattle Egret – 60
Little Blue Heron – 3
Tricolored Heron – 3
Sandhill Crane – 7

Black Vulture – 20
Turkey Vulture – 2
Osprey – 2
Bald Eagle – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Sora Rail – 1
Swamp Hen – 5
Common Moorhen – 8
Gull species (immature) – 12
Mourning Dove – 14
Black-hooded Parakeets – 22
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 2
Blue Jay – 12
American Crow – 200
Black-capped Chickadee – 10
White-breasted Nuthatch – 10
Winter Wren – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 4
Northern Mockingbird – 8
Pine Warbler – 10
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 2
Sparrow species – 5
Slate-colored Junco – 6
Northern Cardinal – 4
Painted Buntings – 2
Red-winged Blackbird – 4
Common Grackle – 10
Boat-tailed Grackle – 10
Brown-headed Cowbird – 6
House Finch – 2

Curt Milton – Nov. 10, 2022, London, England:
Hello! We've been looking for birds. Saw lots yesterday in Windsor on the Thames. I'll attach a photo of the red kite. It looked like it was maybe hunting pigeons or gulls. Lots of swans a swimming there also.

There is a photo in my room of a group of what may be English sparrows singing. Very cute!

Here's what we've seen: Canada geese, Rooks (or, possible Jackdaws), Red Kites, Swans, Mallard, Gulls, Pigeons, Starlings, Wood Pigeon, Eurasian Magpie.

No owls yet! Curt, Penny and Erica



Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, I went to Celery Fields/Sarasota Audubon sanctuary yesterday AM. It's exciting to see the winter residents returning and they were abundant during my visit !

1 bald eagle, 2 Ospreys, 1 kingfisher, 1 soar rail, 2 painted buntings[male], 1 roseate spoonbill, 1 pileated woodpecker, 1 red bellied woodpecker, 5 swamp hens [Is this Purple Swampphen (Sibley Guide to Birds) or something else??? -KG], 8 common galinules [a.k.a. Common Moorhen. -KG], 6 brown headed cowbirds, 7 mockingbirds, 22 black headed [Hooded? -KG] parakeets, 4 red winged blackbirds, many boat tailed and common grackles, 20 black and 2 turkey vultures, 2 anhingas, 2 double crested cormorants, 7 sandhill cranes, 3 little blue and 2 great blue herons, 3 tricolored herons, 5 great and approx 60 cattle egrets, 3 cardinals, 10 blue jays, approx 200 American crows, 2 wood ducks, many pine and 2 yellow rumped warblers, 7 blue winged teals, and 14 mourning doves.

Thanks and enjoy !!

Ellen Davis – Hi Kim, Greetings from the Hudson Valley, NY. We've had spectacular weather so far this fall and the colors are more brilliant than Dean and I ever remember. These two souls were home on Nov. 1st and here's a list of the birds we saw at our feeders. House finch – 2, Cardinal (M) – 1, Junco – 6, White breasted Nuthatch – many, Tufted titmouse – many, Red tailed hawk – 1, Downy woodpecker (M) – 1, Downy woodpecker (F) – 1, Chickadee – many, Blue jay – 2, Red breasted [Red-bellied] woodpecker – 1, Pileated woodpecker – 1, Wren - it looked like it may have been a winter wren but might have been a house wren. [Given the time of year and your northern location I'll call it a Winter Wren. House Wrens are gone from here and we are further south and warmer. -KG] Thanks for keeping this going. It's nice to stay in touch with everyone. Ellen

Gail & Shorty Cahill – Hi Kim, Shorty and I walked on Tuesday along Niantic Bay (Our local conservation group canceled because of weather (not like the Coots!)) so we went to Niantic Bay (Niantic CT) along beach and some low scrub areas. I'm sorry but we don't have proper names for some because we are unsure without you all. 12 Gulls (gray), 2 Cormorant, 4 Bluebirds, I think a mockingbird? It was gray a little dark around eyes and definite white on the wings when it flew. It was sitting in a cedar tree.

And we saw some sort of sparrow. Color was brown head and all of body but white breast. We saw 5 but there were many making a lot of chatter in the low scrub bushes just couldn't see them.

Of course we are here on the wrong week again! Have to fix that! S & G

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Good Morning Kim, Nov. 8: Remind me when Crazy as a Coot walks occur so I can put them into my calendar!?

I had my first ever **Saw Whet Owl** in my county today I am so excited!!!!

Also we are getting alerts of Cave Swallows *keep an eye out*.

Tom Fetherston - Good morning Kim! This bird list is notable in two respects. First I was on your home turf around Clay Head Trail Block Island and second, its the most meager bird list I've submitted! I was expecting to see some new species, had a pair of Cooper's hawks fly over my stand while scouting the day before so thought that a good omen but rain moved in overnight and kept up most of the day. It cleared in the late afternoon so managed to add some last minute sightings during a walk before dinner.

Non-bird sightings of interest:

I had a spring peeper cross the trail near Upper Quarter. Tiny but I caught the movement and crouched to id it.

Walking down the driveway, just before Littlefield's there was a doe bedded in a mud puddle, middle of the road?? Thought perhaps she was injured but she stood at my approach and stared at me. I decided not to disturb her bath so turned around, she watched me head back towards the house, not sure if she resumed the mud soak.

Here's the list. Estimates noted with an asterisk*. American robin 3, White throated sparrow 5*, American crow 2, Ring-necked pheasant 2, Herring gull 15*, Black backed gull 8*, Blue jay 2, Cardinal, Mourning dove 4. Cheers, Fether