

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

February 1st, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

February 1st was another wonderful day of bird walks and reports from far and near. Everything seems special: from Killdeer on BI to Fox Sparrows, huge flocks of Brown Cowbirds, Anna's Hummingbirds, to Black-hooded Parakeets & Long-tailed Tits! And, I love seeing the Sanibel, FL report of so many species that we will soon see here on BI with the onset of spring migration. See a few value-added comments (photographs, mini audio stories & bird info) below.

Many thanks all!

- Black-hooded Parakeet reported by Dan Kasuba is an interesting observation. See the attached Florida Fish & Wildlife information about this species, which has been introduced (mostly) from the pet trade.
<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/birds/black-hooded-parakeet/>
- Bird Note's audio spot (often heard on NPR, or check it out on line) about Anna's Hummingbird is interesting and informative. Another species that is becoming more established in the US. <https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/annas-hummingbirds-winter-north>
- 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".
- 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

(37 species)

Canada Geese – 19
Gadwall – 4
American Black Duck – 12
Mallard – 13
Northern Pintail – 1
Green-winged Teal – 3
Ring-necked Duck – 11
Common Eider – 1
Common Goldeneye – 2
Ring-necked Pheasant – 1
Wild (feral) Turkey – 6
Common Loon – 1
Norther Harrier – 3
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 3
Killdeer – 5
Herring Gull – 1
Mourning Dove – 26
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 5
Blue Jay – 22
American Crow – 21
Black-capped Chickadee – 14
Carolina Wren – 14
American Robin – 8
Gray Catbird – 3
European Starling – 19
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 3
Field Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 9
Swamp Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 25
Slate-colored Junco – 4
Northern Cardinal – 20
Red-winged Blackbird – 4
Common grackle – 5
House Finch – 22
House Sparrow – 21

From Afar South Kingston, RI; Westport, MA; Cos Cob, Connecticut; Brooklyn, NY; Sanibel & Sarasota, FL;
Seattle, WA; Sedbergh, England.
(88 +/-1 species)

Trumpeter Swan – 1
American Wigeon – 5
Mallard – 10
Blue-winged Teal – 12
Pied-billed Grebe – 5
Brown Pelican – 5

American White Pelican – 14
Double-crested Cormorant – 3
Anhinga – 2
Least Bittern – 1
Great Blue Heron – 2
*Grey Heron – 2
Great Egret – 6
Snowy Egret – 3
Little Blue Heron – 3
Tricolored Heron – 3
Cattle Egret – 13
Yellow-crowned Night-heron – 3
Black-crowned Night-heron – 3
Glossy Ibis – 50+/-
White Ibis – 8
Ibis species – 3
Roseate Spoonbill – 3
Turkey Vulture – 13
Vulture species – 1
Osprey – 2
Bald Eagle – 2
Northern Harrier – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 3
Purple Gallinule – 2
Common Gallinule – 12
American Coot – 12
Black-bellied Plover – 3
Killdeer – 1
Willetts – 3
Dunlin – 3
Short-bellied Dowitcher – 3
Laughing Gull – 3
Ring-billed Gull - 3
Herring Gull – 50+
Mourning Dove – 10
Rock Pigeon – 1
Common Ground Dove – 2
*Wood Pigeon
Black-hooded Parakeets – 7
Barred Owl – 1
Anna's Hummingbird – 1
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
Blue-headed Vireo – 1
Blue Jay – 6

American Crow – 23
*Crow species – galore
Purple Martin – 10
Black-capped Chickadee – 11
Tufted Titmouse – 3
*Long-tailed Tit – 3
*Blue Tit – 3
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 6
American Robin – 3
*Robin – 1
*Blackbirds – 3
Northern Mockingbird – 2
European Starling – 8
Common Yellowthroat – 1
Palm Warbler – 3
Pine Warbler – 4
Amer. Tree Sparrow – 1
Fox Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 2
White-throated Sparrow – 1
Slate-colored¹ Junco – 25
Northern Cardinal – 7
Painted Bunting – 5
Red-winged Blackbird – 1
Yellow-headed Blackbird – 1
Common Grackle – 50+
Brown-headed Cowbird – 60+
Boat-tail Grackle – 8
House Finch – 8
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 8
*LBJ – 20+ (Little Brown Job)

*European species

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley Hello Kim, Here is our back-yard bird list for yesterday. (Mostly of birds at or around our feeders - sunflower, thistle and suet.) Mourning dove: 3, Downy woodpecker: 2 (1m, 1f) in morning, 3m in afternoon, Blue jay: 4, American crow: 4, Black-capped chickadee: 3, Carolina wren: 2, American Robin: 1, Field sparrow: 1, Song sparrow: 3, White-throated sparrow: 15, Junco: 2, Cardinal: 13 (9m, 4f), House finch: 4 (1m, 3f), House sparrow: 6. Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers eBird report: Block Island--Cooneymus Rd, Washington, Rhode Island, US Feb 1, 2022 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cold - 26F and windy from NE. Snow on the land and roads, and ponds frozen over - except a small area of open water at Cooneymus Swamp. We met briefly at Setter's Rock but changed venue because of harsh weather conditions. However, we did include a few sea birds spotted at Settlers' Rock in the list. Some birds were seen at a feeder along Cooneymus Rd. The recorded wild turkeys were actually feral turkeys originating from the McCabe property in the area. Participants: Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Heather Hatfield, Vicki Butlevska, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Austin Morin, and Kim G. 27 species:

Gadwall 4, Mallard 11, American Black Duck 12, Northern Pintail 1, Green-winged Teal 3, Ring-necked Duck 11, Common Eider 1, Common Goldeneye 2, Wild Turkey 6, Mourning Dove 12, Herring Gull 1, Common Loon 1, Northern Harrier 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Blue Jay 7, American Crow 8, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Carolina Wren 7, European Starling 3, Gray Catbird 3, American Robin 7, White-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 2, Swamp Sparrow 1, Common Grackle 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, Northern Cardinal 4

Curt Milton Here is my report from the Seattle Where-on-Earth Bird Walk for today, Feb. 1: I went to the Union Bay Natural Area this morning as I usually. Temperatures were in the upper 30s and the sky had a light overcast. I'm having to use my computer glasses while my regular frames are in getting new lenses. These glasses aren't the best for long-distance spotting so my numbers were down!

And now the birds! Anna's Hummingbird: 1 (in my neighborhood), Black-capped Chickadee: I saw one but heard many, Great Blue Heron: 1 ... my first of 2022! Mallard: numerous, American Crow: numerous, Trumpeter Swan: 1, Rock Pigeon: 1, American Robin: 1, American Wigeon: several, American Coot: numerous. Thank you for organizing this! Curt

Dan Kasuba – Greetings Kim and hello to everyone. I discovered a new place here in Sarasota FL called Celery fields (former farm in the 1920s) which is now 300 acres of ponds, wetlands, fields and 1 large hill. A treat here in flat Florida! The nature preserve adjoins the Sarasota Audubon society with bird houses and feeders and some amazing sightings! Date was 2/1, 9-11 AM.

5 painted buntings, 3 male, 2 female[at feeder]. 1 least bittern, 1 killdeer, 1 common yellowthroat, 1 blue headed vireo, 2 purple and 12 common galinules, 50 or so glossy and 8 white ibises, 11 white and 2 brown pelicans, 2 bald eagles, 1 Northern harrier, many purple martins[birdhouse], and many brown headed cowbirds, 1 yellow headed blackbird, 8 boat-tailed grackles, 6 blue gray gnatcatchers, 4 pine warblers, 7 black hooded parakeets, 6 great and 13 cattle egrets, 1 GBH, many turkey vultures, 2 pied billed grebes, 2 anhingas, 12 blue winged teal, 2 American coots, 1 osprey, 2 mockingbirds, 1 Cooper's hawk, 2 common ground doves and 1 kingfisher. Thanks and enjoy!

Josie Merck – Hi Kim! Birds From yesterday: A Pair of red tails speaking and dancing overhead! / blue jay/Many juncos/ mr and Mrs cardinal/ downy woodpecker/ fox Sparrow/ song sparrow/ red bellied woodpecker/ pileated woodpecker/crow/ vulture. Heat wave at 42' F here....all subject to change... 😊

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day on BI: Home feeder, yard, pond & neighbor field. Mallards 2, Canada Geese 19, Blue Jay 2, Mourning Dove 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, E. starling 8, BC Chickadee 1, N. Cardinal 2, Song Sparrow 4, White-throated Sparrow 3, Slate-colored Junco 2, Red-winged Blackbird 4, House Finch 4, House Sparrow 3

Laura Rosenzweig – Hi Kim Sorry this is late but I kept forgetting to look up what I saw the other day — it was Wednesday rather than Tuesday because Tuesday was a wash out. I'm happy to report however that I saw something new, to me — three beautiful long-tailed tits!! (picture not mine) [See Below]

So the list goes as follows: Long-tailed Tit x 3 , Grey Heron x 2, Blackbirds, Robins — there's always at least one around the garden, year-round, Blue Tits, Wood Pigeon. Plus: Crows galore, always, every day of the year, and a flock of 20+ LBJs that zipped over my head as I was walking along the embankment at dusk. I have no idea what they were, they looked like they wanted to get somewhere fast!

There are now many birds singing whenever we have a bright early morning and we've recently seen many skeins of geese flying in V formations very high up, heading northwest in general.

I'll keep my eyes peeled as spring approaches. Laura x

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, It has been a great few days for backyard birds with the snow on the ground. I cleared a few areas under the cedar trees out back and have been getting so many Fox Sparrows. The day after the storm we had 7! Here is my list from the feeders yesterday 2/1 before work: Mourning Dove 7, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 9, Carolina Wren 1, European Starling 4, American Robin 2, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 8, American Goldfinch 2, Fox Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco 10, Red-winged Blackbird 1, & then to close out the day a BARRED OWL came to check out the open patches, too. We saw it around 7:15PM. so cool! take care, Lauren

Mary Lutz – Dear Kim: The birds were hiding today as I went for a short, cold walk in the snow here in Brooklyn. Only 6 house sparrows chirping in an evergreen euonymus bush. Hardly counts, does it? Anyway, happy Groundhog day tomorrow. Wish I was there for the census. All the best, Mary Lutz

Polly & Sam Huntington – Hi Kim, Hope it's not too late to get our Tuesday list to you! We are on Sanibel, and enjoying the variety of bird and plant life here, not to mention the warm weather. The snowstorm on Block must have been awesome.

We will try to remember to catch your Wednesday Walks, and do the next Tuesday bird count on the 15th, but meanwhile we enjoy your articles in the Block Island Times. Polly and Sam Huntington Bird List 2/1/22
Sanibel, Florida

So many of the birds we see here we have seen on Block in their summer wardrobes. Palm Warbler, Great Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Egret, Dunlin, Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Willet, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Pied-billed Grebe, Tricolored Heron, Osprey, Short-billed Dowitcher. [In lieu of actual numbers of individuals I have counted 3 for each species – as a conservative, likely undercount. -kg]

Susan Matheke – Going about the day at Ball Farm. 5 Killdeer, 7 Starlings, 1 Carolina wren, 3 Mourning Dove, 1 Downy woodpecker, 10 Sparrows maybe House i am not good on sparrows, plain brown/gray

Tom Fetherston Hi Kim – It was another day with something out of the ordinary, at least for here. I didn't stray from home, so everything is either my yard or Worden's Pond, noted with WP. Estimated group sizes are marked with * and as usual, I only counted multiples of a species if I either saw them simultaneously or the birds were different sexes.

What is different from my previous lists is that there have been large mixed flocks of brown-headed cowbirds and common grackles, with a few starlings riding shotgun that descend on mass around the feeders like a gang of outlaws on a frontier town. The local sparrows, titmice, jays and other birds either leave right away or get pushed out. I was surprised the blue jays didn't put up much of a fight, also surprised that the mourning doves did. The flock or flocks, not sure which, would gather in the surrounding trees, drop in and take over the place. Just as quickly they'd spook and fly off, allowing the other birds to return. This occurred throughout the day. Not sure if it's because their usual foraging areas are covered with snow, but I haven't seen such aggregations this year.

Worden's Pond is iced over, once again only the hardy gulls were sitting out there.
Here's my list: Northern cardinal (5), Slate-colored junco (5), Carolina wren, Song sparrow, Hairy woodpecker (2), Blue jay (3), Mourning dove (3), Common grackle (50*), Brown-headed cowbird (50*), European starling (4), American crow (3), Black-capped chickadee, Tufted titmouse (3), Tree sparrow [Nice! -kg], White-throated sparrow, White-breasted nuthatch, Herring gull WP (50*). Cheers, Fether

Vicki Butlevska - At my west side (BI) home bird feeder: 5 white throat sparrows, 14 house finches, 1 blue Jay, 3 Cardinals, 1 Downy woodpecker, 1 Red bellied woodpecker, 3 grackles ?, 2 House sparrow, 4 Carolina wren, 1 Am. Crow, 1 starling, 2 chickadees, 8 Mourning doves, 1 pheasant.



Thanks Laura R. for supplying a photo of your country's Long-tailed Tits.