

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

March 4, 2025

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

What an interesting set observations! What fun with all the non-USA observations.

It is interesting to note that each distant land has species that are endemic to the area, but there are species that are also found in multiple areas. For instance, Laura's Oystercatcher is different from US's version is very similar – different only in location. Magnificent Frigatebird in the Virgin Islands is the same as in Galapagos. Many of the shorebird species found in Galapagos are also seen on US shores. And, Virgin Gorda's Northern Mockingbird is also found in the U.S.

Fether's photos are definitely evocative of Galapagos; and Laura's description are equally evocative of her area in the

Thanks to one-and-all who spent time outside observing birds, and then sharing their sightings. Remember, no matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day.

Peace, Kim.

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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

(34 species)

Canada Goose – 50+

Gadwall – 11

Mallard – 18+

Northern Shoveler – 4

Ring-necked Duck – 14

Common Eider – 14

Bufflehead – 22

Common Goldeneye – 29

Red-breasted Merganser – 20

Ruddy Duck – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 6

Great Blue Heron – 1

Marsh Hawk – 3

American Herring Gull – 15+

Great Black-backed Gull – 4+

Rock Pigeon – 6+

Mourning Dove – 43+

American Kestrel – 2

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Blue Jay – 8

American Crow – 23

Common Raven – 1

Fish Crow – 2

Common Raven – 1

Black-capped Chickadee – 6

Carolina Wren – 12

American Robin – 134

E. Starling – 29

Song Sparrow – 10

White-throated Sparrow – 7

Northern Cardinal – 20

Red-winged Blackbird – 66

Common Grackle – 10

House Finch – 10

From Afar Woodbury, CT; Jamesport, NY; Dalton, and Westport, MA; Sedbergh, England; Virgin Gorda, Brit. Virgin Islands; Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos; Tasman Sea, between Australia and New Zealand.

(82 species)

Canada Goose – 27

Mallard – 2

Turkey Vulture – 3

Cooper's Hawk – 1

Red-tailed Hawk – 2

Mourning Dove – 22

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3

Downy Woodpecker – 4

Northern Flicker – 1

Blue Jay – 27

American Crow – 10

Fish Crow – 30

Black-capped Chickadee – 11

Tufted Titmouse – 3

White-breasted Nuthatch – 2

Brown Creeper – 2
Carolina Wren – 3
Eastern Bluebird – 2
American Robin – 7
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 47
Song Sparrow – 4
White-throated Sparrow – 14
Slate-colored Junco¹ – 29
Northern Cardinal – 16
Red-winged Blackbird – 14
Brown-headed Cowbird – 1
Common Grackle – 2
House Finch – 19
American Goldfinch – 12
House Sparrow – 14

Sedbergh, England

Dipper – 1
Mallard – 12
Common Merganser – 2
Great Tit – 1
Long-tailed Tit – 1
Little Egret – 1
Crow species – 3
Pheasants – 3
Wood Pigeon – 3
Robin – 3
Blackbird – 3

Tawny Owl – 1
Oystercatcher – 1
Virgin Gorda, BVI
Common Ground Dove – 1+
Brown Pelican – 1+
Magnificent Frigatebird – 1+
Common Tern – 1+
Kestrel – 1
Gray Kingbird – 1
Bananaquit – 1+
Pearly-eyed Thrasher – 1+
Northern Mockingbird – 1+
Green-thr. Carib H'mingbird – 1
Green Parrot – 1
Yellow-legged Thrush – 1

Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos

Endemic species:

Darwin Finches –
Small Ground Finch – 2
Large Ground Finch – 1
Woodpecker Finch – 1
Vegetarian Finch – 1
Cactus Finch – 2
Galapagos Flycatcher – 1
Galapagos Mockingbird – 1
Galapagos Shearwater – 5
Galapagos Petrel – 1

Lava Heron – 1
Native species:
Yellow Warbler – 2
Paint-billed Crake – 1
American Flamingo – 1
Black-necked Stilt – 1
White-cheeked Pintail – 1
Whimbrel – 1
Ruddy Turnstone – 1
Least Sandpiper – 5
Brown Noddy – 5
Swallow-tailed Gull – 5
Blue-footed Booby – 5
Great Frigatebird – 5
Magnificent Frigatebird – 5
Brown Pelican – 5
Great Blue Heron – 1
Yellow-crowned Night-heron – 1
Introduced from Amazon:
Smooth Ani – 1

Tasman Sea, AUS/NZ

Southern Royal Albatross – 1+
Petrel species – 1
Australasian Gannet – 1

Barby & Doug Michel – Hi from Virgin Gorda, BVI. Here is our list of birds we could identify today: common ground dove, brown pelican, frigate bird, common tern, kestrel, gray kingbird, bananaquit, pearly-eyed thrasher, northern mockingbird, green throated Carib hummingbird. And our special green parrot. We also saw a black bird, crow size, that had a heavy orange beak for cracking seeds [Yellow-legged Thrush -kg]. Barby and Doug

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hello Kim, Thanks for a very enjoyable Coot Walk yesterday. Here are our bird lists for the rest of the day: Home (backyard, mostly around our feeders): Mourning Dove – 6, American Crow – 16, Chickadee – 4, Carolina Wren – 1, Song Sparrow – 2, White-throated Sparrow – 5, Northern Cardinal - 7 (4m, 3f), Red-winged Blackbird – 1, House Finch - 8
On a walk to Cooneymus Swamp and Cooneymus Beach: Canada Goose – 20, Gadwall – 5, Common Eider – 3, Common Goldeneye – 7, Red-breasted Merganser – 2, Ruddy Duck – 1, Northern Harrier – 1, Kestrel – 1, American Crow – 3, Carolina Wren – 5, American Robin – 3. Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Tinker Lane - Adrian's path loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US
Mar 4, 2025 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny to start, cloudy at end. 35-40F, sw wind. Starting at Corn Neck Rd. we went east on Tinker Lane, threaded backyards to the beach, walked south to the path coming out at Adrian Mitchell's on Corn Neck Rd. This route included Georgian Swamp, Dee's Tug Hole and ocean. Participants: Socha Cohen, Anne Salinas, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Susan Matheke, Cathy & John O'Riordan, Kim Bubko, Mena Hautau, Chuck McMullan, Amy Keeler,

Heather Hatfield, Faye Benedict & Kim G. 27 species: Canada Goose 18, Gadwall 4, Mallard 6, Ring-necked Duck 8, Bufflehead 3, Red-breasted Merganser 12, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Mourning Dove 15, American Herring Gull 4, Great Black-backed Gull 4, Great Blue Heron 1, Northern Harrier 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 1, Blue Jay 8, American Crow 3, Fish Crow 1, Common Raven 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Carolina Wren 5, European Starling 4, American Robin 100, House Finch 2, Song Sparrow 8, Red-winged Blackbird 50, Common Grackle 10, Northern Cardinal 13

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim. The following were all birds noted in Dalton, Massachusetts on 3/4/25 throughout the day. 4 chickadees, 2 tufted titmice, 1 red-bellied woodpecker, 4 American crows, 5 blue jays, 2 blue birds, 1 brown creeper (love them!), 1 American robin, 2 house and 2 gold finches, 6 juncos, 2 red-tailed hawks, and 2 cardinals. The woods here today (3/13) are carpeted with about 2 inches of fresh snow. Thanks and enjoy!

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim, I don't keep a daily list, but do walk every day. Think I had 3 dozen fish crows in cemetery, along with some American crows & 6 robins. Only 4 cardinals, 3 goldfinch, 4 mo-dos, 1 nuthatch [assuming white-breasted -kg], 2 Carolinas, 3 house finch, 2 chickadees at feeders, not sure I had a bluebird. See & hear a raven every few days.

Interesting that we had a screech trilling single note call at 8pm.-11:30 nightly from our hemlocks near driveway from February 1-February 23 !! I called a friend who is a raptor specialist & licensed bander. He said screeches are very rare here now, so we were very fortunate. He wanted to come over to look for a nesting hole in area tree. I couldn't find one & don't hear it anymore... Perhaps now on eggs somewhere?? Trying to dwindle feeding, as bears are probably coming out. All for now, but yes, so excited for Spring. Be well, D & P 🐾

Heather Hatfield – March 4 Partly sunny, SW 20mph, 40sF. Vin's Pond: Ring-necked Duck 6, Mallard 2, Bufflehead 3, Pheasant 1. Dories Cove: C. Goldeneye 22, RB Merganser 6, Bufflehead 16, C. Eider 11, Mallard 1. Sprague's Pit pond: N. Shoveler 4, Mallard 4, A. Crow 1, Canada Goose 1.

Judy Gray – Yes! Southern royal albatross in the Tasman Sea. I have been looking all day and we have a petrel that is quite nondescript, so I have not narrowed it down. Probably a grey faced petrel but no one aboard to help me verify and too far away for a photo. The royal albatross was identified by the on board naturalist. 😊😊 That's a good one! [Added later in the day -kg] Also saw Australasian Gannet 😊😊

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day – At home & on the pond: mallard 5+, Herring Gull 10+, Red-wing BlkBrd 2, Mourning Dove 1, C Raven 1. At office: Rock Pigeon 6, Fish crow 1, E. Starling 25. Along the roads as I traveled about: A. Robin 15. And, in late afternoon visit at Nancy & Malcolm Greenaway's, they reported a Herring gull and a Mourning Dove, and as I left a Carolina Wren sounding and 2 Pheasants in the tall grass at the edge of the yard.

Laura Rosenzweig – A day late, as usual! But I got out for a late afternoon/early evening ramble around the fields and along the river with Suki just as the sun was beginning to go down. The snowdrops have faded now and are quickly being replaced with daffodils. Not many open yet but another sunny day and we'll be awash with bright yellow blooms. And the lambs are multiplying rapidly. Every day there are at least another dozen tiny bonny wriggly tailed tightly curled lambs in each of the nursery fields.

So, birds — along the river I saw my first Dipper of the year and then a dozen dabbling ducks (all mallards, mostly male) plus two common mergansers flying low and fast. And then I saw a Great Tit making a fuss in a tree as we walked under it. This morning a Long-tailed Tit tried to get in the bedroom window as it was investigating wisteria buds. And at work an elegant Egret, so tiny and light it could stand on the grasses floating in the pond. Those were the highlights, along with all the usual suspects — Crows, Pheasants, Wood Pigeons, Robins and Blackbirds, and the occasional call of a Tawny Owl on a clear night. Oh, and I saw my first oystercatcher as I drove to work. I always associate them with the beach but here they come to feed in the

fields by the rivers. I'm waiting for my first curlew to call but might have to go higher up into the moors to catch them.

[Lovely postscript -kg] It's a day of sunshine and showers today, March 12th. We had temperatures close to 20C at the weekend, very nice but very odd. And today it's back to 5C (more normal) and cold showers with bits of rainbow and lovely cloud shadows on the fells. Hope all is well, Laura x.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, Here is my lack-luster list from 3/4. I must say I am having a great winter bird feeding year. Bluebirds are waiting for their mealworms now every morning, the squirrels are not visiting very often, and the recently arriving grackles and red-winged blackbirds have a hard time getting to the upside-down suet. Also with the mild temps it's been great observation weather the last few nights so I heard a Screech Owl last night (3/12) and lots of American Woodcock and a Killdeer on 3/11!

Mourning Dove 4, Turkey Vulture 1, Northern Flicker 1, Blue Jay 5, American Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, European Starling 15, House Sparrow 2, Dark-eyed Junco 4, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 1, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 1, Northern Cardinal 5

Have a great weekend, Lauren

Maggie Komosinski – Hi Kim, We did our usual birding on March 4: our yard and neighborhood down to the beach (the bay was quiet). Still, there were some nice highlights: a single Brown Creeper, 17 Blue Jay and 19 Dark-eyed Junco in my yard, and a Cooper's hunting at the feeders. The B. Creeper was feeding on suet hung from the Black Locust tree in our yard. Thinking of you— Maggie. **Jamesport NY bird sightings, March 4, 2025.** Canada Goose 27, Mallard 2, Turkey Vulture 2, Cooper's Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 14, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 4, Blue Jay 17, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren 1, N. Mockingbird 1, Red-winged Blackbird 9, Brown-headed Cowbird 1, Common Grackle 1, European Starling 32, Song Sparrow 3, White-thr. Sparrow 13, House Finch 14, American Goldfinch 7, House Sparrow 12, Dark-eyed Junco 19, Northern Cardinal 5.

Susan Matheke – Tuesday, March 4, Ball Farm 7:30 to 7:45 while feeding horses: 2 white throated Sparrows, 11 Canada Geese, 20+ Mourning Doves, 16 American Robins, 13 Red Wing Blackbirds, 2 male pheasants; and, on the road 2 Northern Shovelers in Joe's pit pond.



Tom Fetherston – March 3, 2025. Good evening Kim - Greetings from Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos chain. The next two days we will be traveling home so decided that today was when I'd do my count. As you know, the Galapagos Islands are home to a number of endemic species found nowhere else. There are also some "native" birds found elsewhere and a few introduced species. It's been lots of fun adding to my "lifer" list. Today I started with a sunrise bird walk in the highlands, went to the coast and ended up back at our hotel, situated on 600 acres at around 2,000' above sea level. Some notes:

- ☛ The number of species here is far less than in the Amazon or on the mainland.
- ☛ The "Darwin finches" comprise 17 species, all derived from a common ancestor, the dull-colored grassquit (*Tiaris obscurus*). They evolved into different forms on the various islands here depending upon the unique environmental conditions found at each site. Identifying a species of Darwin finch is very challenging, as the most telling feature is beak size and shape, which can be difficult to spot as the little bird flits through the trees.



☛ Sea birds were much easier to tally, as they are large and found in open areas. For them you'll see I used "many" for the count, as nesting season was starting and there were swarms of them.

☛ Here's the list. As usual, birds were only counted as multiples if I saw them simultaneously, biological estimates noted with an asterisk (*).

Small ground finch (2), Large ground finch, Woodpecker finch, Cactus finch (2), Vegetarian finch, Galapagos flycatcher, Galapagos mockingbird, Smooth-billed ani, Yellow warbler (2), Paint-billed crake, American flamingo, Black-necked stilt, White cheeked pintail, Whimbrel, Ruddy turnstone, Least sandpiper (many), Brown noddy (many), Swallow-tailed gull (many), Galapagos shearwater (many), Galapagos petrel, Blue-footed booby (many), Great frigate bird (many), Magnificent frigate bird (many), Brown pelican (5*), Great blue heron, Lava heron, Yellow-crowned night heron. Cheers, Fether



March 4, 2025. Good morning from Quito Ecuador Kim - Going to be a LONG day, taking a tour of the city (yawn) before going to the airport. After reading your excellent compilation yesterday, it occurred to me I should have broken out the Galapagos birds by category: endemic, native (found elsewhere) and introduced.

The endemic species: Darwin finches: small ground, large ground, woodpecker, vegetarian; Galapagos flycatcher; Galapagos mockingbird; Galapagos shearwater; Galapagos petrel; Lava heron. I also saw endemic lava gulls, rarest gulls in the world but not on the count day.

Of the remaining birds, all others are native species with the exception of the smooth billed ani, introduced from the Amazon. Looking forward to getting home and seeing the pups 😊 Cheers, Fether.

Above photos: Brown Pelican, Blue-footed Booby, and Painted Crake.

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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.