

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

November 19, 2024

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Here is another interesting compilation of observations from near and far. Of special interest are: Dan's observation of woodpeckers eating bittersweet berries; Lauren's flyover Sandhill Crane; and, Laura's first observation of egrets in her area and wonderful description of "skeins of geese and ducks almost daily, calling from high up in the sky".

Both the Block Island and From Afar lists included kinglets. For your listening pleasure check out this wonderful nod to the tiny but tough kinglets: [A tiny but tough bird is visiting us from the North | CAI](#)

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Female (L), Male (R).

Thanks to one-and-all who spent time outside observing birds, and then shared your sightings. And remember, 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).
- 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

(41 species)

Canada Goose – 58

Mallard – 14

American Black Duck – 3

Bufflehead – 68+

Common Eider – 7

Northern Gannet – 114+

Surf Scoter – 25

White-winged Scoter – 50

Black Scoter – 100

Red-breasted Merganser – 12

Ruddy Duck – 20+

Ring-necked Pheasant – 8

Common Loon – 4

Double-cr. Cormorant – 8+

Great Cormorant – 8

Great Egret – 1

Osprey – 1

Northern Harrier – 6

Cooper's Hawk – 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 2

Bonaparte's Gull – 10

Amer. Herring Gull – 180+

Great Black-backed Gull – 22

Gull species – 50+

Rock Pigeon – 16

Mourning Dove – 24

Merlin – 1

Blue Jay – 1

American Crow – 28

Fish Crow – 10+

Common Raven – 2

Black-capped Chickadee – 12

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1

Carolina Wren – 10

Eastern Bluebird – 6

American Robin – 29+

E. Starling – 315+

Song Sparrow – 8

Swamp Sparrow – 1

Slate-colored Junco – 5

Northern Cardinal – 2

House Sparrow – 9

& a Partridge in a pear tree

From Afar: South Kingstown, RI; Westport, Dalton, MA; Malden Bridge, NY; Roseburg, OR;

Sedbergh, England

(62 species)

Canada Geese – 122	Downy Woodpecker – 2	European Starling – 65
Mallard* – 21	Hairy Woodpecker – 1	Pied Wagtail* – 1
Greater Scaup – 30	Northern Flicker – 2	Dipper* – 1
Hooded Merganser – 5	Blue Jay – 33	Common Yellowthroat – 1
Common Merganser* – 1	American Crow – 19	Pine Warbler – 5
Pheasant* – 2	Common Raven – 2	Yellow-rumped Warbler – 4
Wild Turkey – 24	Crow/Rook* – 10	Chipping Sparrow – 2
Double-breasted Cormorant – 1	Great Tit* – 2	Field Sparrow – 3
Grey Heron* – 2	Black-capped Chickadee – 8	Song Sparrow – 18
Great Blue Heron – 1	Tufted Titmouse – 9	Swamp Sparrow – 3
Great Egret* – 2	White-breasted Nuthatch – 8	White-throated Sparrow – 11
Bald Eagle – 1	Wren* – 2	Savannah Sparrow – 1
Northern Harrier – 1	Carolina Wren – 6	Slate-colored Junco ¹ – 38
Red-tailed Hawk – 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 3	Northern Cardinal – 4
American Coot – 3	Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3	Red-winged Blackbird – 3
Wood Pigeon* – 10	Hermit Thrush – 1	Common Grackle – 20
Mourning Dove – 9	Eastern Bluebird – 11	Brown-headed Cowbird – 1
Belted Kingfisher – 1	Robin* – 1	House finch – 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1	Blackbird* – 2	American Goldfinch – 5
Pileated Woodpecker – 1	American Robin – 15	House (English) Sparrow – 7
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3	Gray Catbird – 2	

Also seen: **Sandhill Crane** on Nov. 21, 2024 over Westport, MA

*European species: Great Egret, Mallard, Pheasant (Ring-necked in US), and Common Merganser (called Goosander in Europe) are same *Genus species* as observed in N. America. Grey heron (UK) is same *Genus* as Great Blue Heron (US); Dipper (UK) is same *Genus* as American Dipper; Wren (UK) is same *Genus* as Winter Wren (US).

Amy Keeler – Going about my day November 19, 2024: 5 RN Pheasant, 300+Starling(2 location), 12 Mourning Dove, 6 House Sparrow, 12 Mallard Duck, 16 Crow, 1 Great Blue Heron, 50+ Gull Species, 2 Common Eider, 50+ Bufflehead, 1 Common Loon, 1 Merlin, 2 Northern Harrier, 2 Black-backed Gull, 4 Carolina Wren.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim here's our bird list for today, mostly from our yard but including a trip to Sachem Pond: Mallard 3, Bufflehead 7, Ruddy Duck 200+, Common Eider 5, Red-breasted Merganser 200+, Common Loon 1, Great Cormorant 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Gull sp. Too many to count!, Mourning Dove 19, Red-bellied woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 10, American Crow 3, Black-capped Chickadee 5, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 1, European Starling ~200 (on wires along Corn Neck Road near Mitchell Farm), White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 2, Dark-eyed Junco 1, Northern Cardinal 6, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Common Grackle 1, House Finch 3. Great walk and great company this morning – many thanks! Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Franklin Swamp loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US. Nov 19, 2024 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.25 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny and cool (45-55F) with NW wind. Walked the road from West Side Rd.(across from former West Side Conservative Baptist Church) to the last house on the coast along the southern edge of Franklin Swamp. Area included several yards and connecting pathways. Not a loop - out and back by the same road. Observations included a large 8-pt. buck with brush in its rack. Participants: Max Wolfe, Chuck McMellon, John Formica, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Ellen Davis, Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Heather Hatfield & Kim G. 27 species: Canada Goose 26, Mallard 2, American Black Duck 3, Common Eider 5, Surf Scoter 25, White-winged

Scoter 50, Black Scoter 100, Red-breasted Merganser 8, Mourning Dove 1, Bonaparte's Gull 10, American Herring Gull 150, Great Black-backed Gull 10, Common Loon 3, Northern Gannet 10, Great Cormorant 8, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Northern Harrier 3, American Crow 6, Black-capped Chickadee 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Carolina Wren 5, European Starling 15, Eastern Bluebird 6, American Robin 5, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Song Sparrow 8, Swamp Sparrow 1.

Dan Kasuba – Good morning Kim, I was outside enjoying the weather most of the day on 11/19 and the list below is all from Dalton MA. One surprising sight in my yard was a pileated woodpecker eating bittersweet berries while clinging to a tree. It was soon joined by a red bellied which also sampled some berries. I'd never witnessed woodpeckers eating berries! Dalton MA, throughout the day: 6 American crows, 15 blue jays, 4 white breasted nuthatches, 4 chickadees, 6 juncos, 2 titmice, 11 American robins, 2 ravens, 2 red bellied woodpeckers, 1 pileated woodpecker, and 2 goldfinches. The much needed rain is coming down as I write this. What a relief !

Ellen Davis – 12 Canada geese, 1 pheasant, 1 coppers hawk, 1 "raft" of gannets, floating on Seal Cove, easily 100, 6 mourning doves. (Dean says he saw a partridge in a pear tree too 🐣).

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day: At home – Canada Goose 20, Carolina Wren 1, C. Raven 2. At the Old Harbor – Pigeon 6, House sparrow 3, DC Cormorant 5+, Fish Crow. At Office: Fish Crow 10+, A. Robin 3, Pigeon 10. At Laphams – Robins 15+, Marsh Hawk 1, Osprey 1 – surprising!. At Settler's Rock – Herring gull 30+, GBBG 10+, RBMerg. 4, Ruddy duck 20+, N. Gannet 4, C. Eider 7. Along Corn Neck Rd. & Crescent Beach – E. Starling 200+, Bufflehead 18.

Laura Rosenzweig – Better late than never! Egret x 2 — haven't seen these before around here but recently I've seen egrets on several days, Grey Heron x 1, Mallard x 7 (5M, 2F), Pied Wagtail, Dipper (dipping no less!), Great tits x 2, Wren x 2, Robin, Blackbird x 2M, Common Merganser x 1M, and some little birds with flashes of yellow but I couldn't get close enough to see if they were warblers or finches or? Plus: Crows/Rooks — always, everywhere, Wood Pigeons — ditto, Pheasants — ditto, M & F, and skeins of geese and ducks almost daily, calling from high up in the sky. Laura x

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Dear Kim, I am happy to report that I had a **SANDHILL CRANE** fly over my yard this morning (11/21/24). I am ecstatic.

Here is my list from this Tuesday, 11/19/24. A small group of pine warblers is hanging around in a mixed flock and we still have chipping sparrows. Common Yellowthroat is "Rare" for this time of year.

Canada Goose 89, Mallard 2, Mourning Dove 2, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 2, Blue Jay 6, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Tufted Titmouse 5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Wren 5, European Starling 15, Gray Catbird 2, Eastern Bluebird 11, Hermit Thrush 1, American Robin 3, House Sparrow 7, House Finch 1, American Goldfinch 2, Chipping Sparrow 2, Field Sparrow 3, Dark-eyed Junco 21, White-throated Sparrow 6, Savannah Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 6, Swamp Sparrow 3, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Common Yellowthroat 1, Pine Warbler 5, Yellow-rumped Warbler 4, Northern Cardinal 2. Have a great Thanksgiving, Lauren 🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣🐣

Penny Lapham – Hi Kim. In between rain and wind I took a quick look around the river and house. So here goes for the little I saw. 1 Great Blue Heron, 10 Mallards, 5 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 1 Bald Eagle sitting atop a tree a little ways down the river.

I had given up with the birds and needed to clean the gutters. I went up on the roof to swipe out the leaves and that's when I noticed the Eagle!! Good works rewarded.

Susan Matheke – Out and about with Della. 100+ Starlings on the power wire, 5 Mourning Doves, 2 cardinal, male and female, 4 chickadee, 2 junco, 1 blue jay, 6 American Crows, 2 pheasant, male, 1 Sharpie, 6 Robins

Tom Fetherston – 19 Nov 2024. Good evening, Kim – This will be another unusual list for me as I spent the first two hours at our friend's farm near Malden Bridge, Columbia County NY, drove home and then did my birding

around the yard or Worden's Pond. I decided to split the lists rather than attempt to combine species from both locations. Notes for this week:

- For the past six days I was sitting in the woods or at the edge of fields at the farm. Lots of opportunities to observe birds, but the species diversity was generally lower than what I see around my house by Wordens Pond. Most of the birds in the forest were black-capped chickadees or white-breasted nuthatches. The fields and edges had more variety, with juncos, sparrows, crows and a pair of bald eagles. The eagles and some others didn't show up for the official count today.
- While in a tree stand overlooking a ravine in an area of large evergreens and old dead timber, I watched a pair of pileated woodpeckers feeding on bittersweet berries. They were hanging onto the vines covering the trees, which barely supported them and picking berries off clusters among the branches. I'd never seen woodpeckers doing this before and found it interesting, particularly because they were such large birds.

Here are the lists for Malden Bridge and South Kingstown. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP. Estimates noted with an asterisk (*) Birds in the field or at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes.

MALDEN BRIDGE NY: Mallard duck (10), Canada goose (30*), American crow (8), Wild turkey (24*), Blue jay (12*), European starling (50*), Dark-eyed junco (8*), American robin, Song sparrow (10*), American goldfinch, Marsh hawk, Red-tailed hawk. SOUTH KINGSTOWN RI: Mallard duck (2) WP, Greater scaup (30*) WP, Canada goose (3) WP, American coot (3) WP, American crow (3), White-breasted nuthatch (2), White-throated sparrow (5), Song sparrow (2), Tufted titmouse (2), Dark-eyed junco (3), Black-capped chickadee (2), Northern cardinal (2), Downy woodpecker, Red-bellied woodpecker, Common grackle (20*), Brown-headed cowbird, Mourning dove (7), Carolina wren. Cheers, Fether

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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.