

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

May 21, 2024

## Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Here is another great compilation of observations from near and far.

This compilation is clearly reflecting spring migration on the mainland. Of note is the terrific diversity observed by the "Afar" team: Lauren, Tim, Darcy and Fether.

Also of interest is that the BI observations are all breeding species on the island – no transitory migrants. However, take note of Yellow-headed Blackbird discussion and photo.

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

(36 species \*+2 species on 5/20)

Canada Goose – 31  
Mute Swan – 1  
Mallard – 6  
Common Eider\* – 1  
Ring-necked Pheasant – 2  
Cormorant sp. – 5  
Great Egret – 3  
Snowy Egret – 2  
Glossy Ibis – 2  
Osprey – 3  
Amer. Oystercatcher – 2  
Piping Plover\* – 1  
Herring Gull – 12

Great Black-backed Gull – 4  
Rock Pigeon – 15+  
Mourning Dove – 20  
Downy Woodpecker – 2  
Blue Jay – 2  
American Crow – 13  
Common Raven – 2  
Bank Swallow – 47+/-  
Tree Swallow – 8  
Barn Swallow – 5  
Carolina Wren – 5  
American Robin – 26+  
Gray Catbird – 22

E. Starling – 1+  
American Redstart – 2  
Yellow Warbler – 20  
Common Yellowthroat – 10  
Eastern Towhee – 6  
Song Sparrow – 17  
Northern Cardinal – 7  
Red-winged Blackbird – 108+/-  
Brown-headed Cowbird – 4  
Common Grackle – 20  
American Goldfinch – 13+  
House Sparrow – 1

## From Afar: South Kingstown, Cumberland, RI; Woodbury, CT; Westport, MA.

(79 species)

Canada Goose – 11  
Wood Duck – 2  
Mallard – 5  
Wild Turkey – 3

Common Loon – 2  
Double-crested Cormorant – 5  
Great Blue Heron – 2  
Great Egret – 2

Turkey Vulture – 2  
Osprey – 2  
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1  
Herring Gull – 50

Mourning Dove – 13  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1  
 Chimney Swift – 4  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2  
 Downy Woodpecker – 3  
 Northern Flicker – 2  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee – 5  
**Acadian Flycatcher – 2**  
 Eastern Phoebe – 1  
 Great-crested Flycatcher – 8  
 Eastern Kingbird – 2  
 White-eyed Vireo – 1  
 Yellow-throated Vireo – 1  
 Blue-headed Vireo – 1  
 Warbling Vireo – 2  
 Red-eyed Vireo - 8  
 Blue Jay – 6  
 American Crow – 1  
 Fish Crow – 3  
 Common Raven – 1  
 Tree Swallow – 19  
 Barn Swallow – 6

Black-capped Chickadee – 6  
 Tufted Titmouse – 7  
 White-breasted Nuthatch – 6  
 House Wren – 5  
 Carolina Wren – 7  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 8  
 Eastern Bluebird – 2  
 Veery – 10  
 Wood Thrush – 5  
 American Robin – 20  
 Gray Catbird – 18  
 Northern Mockingbird – 5  
 European Starling – 9  
 Cedar Waxwing – 20  
 Ovenbird – 9  
**Worm-eating Warbler – 2**  
**Louisiana Waterthrush – 1**  
 Northern Waterthrush – 1  
 Blue-winged Warbler – 2  
 Black-and-white Warbler – 3  
 Common Yellowthroat – 4  
 American Redstart – 6  
 Northern Parula – 1

Blackburnian Warbler – 1  
 Yellow Warbler – 9  
 Blackpoll Warbler – 6  
 Pine Warbler - 3  
 Black-throated Green – 1  
 Eastern Towhee – 5  
 Chipping Sparrow – 11  
 Field Sparrow – 2  
 Song Sparrow – 11  
 Swamp Sparrow – 1  
 Scarlet Tanager – 2  
 Northern Cardinal – 12  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 3  
 Indigo Bunting – 1  
 Red-winged Blackbird – 10  
 Common Grackle – 23  
 Brown-headed Cowbird – 10  
 Baltimore Oriole – 6  
 House finch – 18  
 American Goldfinch – 5  
 House (English) Sparrow – 7

**Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley** – Hi Kim, Our list for Tuesday, 5/21 seen around the house and a brief walk down to Cooneymus Swamp. Canada Goose 5, Herring Gull 1, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Mourning Dove 2, American Crow 5, Bank Swallow 7, American Robin 2, Gray Catbird 5, Yellow Warbler 2, Song Sparrow 6, Northern Cardinal 1, Red-winged Blackbird 3, American Goldfinch 1  
 \*\*\* At Andy's Way before Limulus survey: Mute Swan 1, Mallard 2, Great Egret 3. What a Limulus Survey!!!  
 We wouldn't have missed that for anything! Cheers, Cathy & Nigel.

**Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers** – Dories Cove - Dunn Town Rd.s Loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US  
 May 21, 2024 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling ~2.0 mile(s).  
 Checklist Comments: Sunny, 50-55F, light SW wind. Dunn Town Rd to Dories Cove Rd. loop with brief visit to Joanne Warfel yard (wonderful bird habitat). Participants: Chuck McMellon, Socha Cohen, Cindy Davis, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, John Formica, Rob with children Jude, Lila & Ellis, Anne Salinas, Tami Tangen, Emily Sessa, Maureen Dunn and Ken, Joanne Warfel, Heather Hatfield, & Kim G.

26 species (+1 other taxa). Canada Goose 19, Mourning Dove 12, Herring Gull 10, Great Black-backed Gull 3, cormorant sp. 5, Glossy Ibis 2, Osprey 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 6, Bank Swallow 40, Tree Swallow 8, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 1, Gray Catbird 15, American Robin 23, House Sparrow 1, American Goldfinch 6, Song Sparrow 8, Eastern Towhee 6, Red-winged Blackbird 100, Brown-headed Cowbird 4, Common Grackle 20, Common Yellowthroat 10,



American Redstart 2, Yellow Warbler 15, Northern Cardinal 4. Near the end of the walk along Westside Rd. north of Dorries Cove Rd. there was an unidentified bird – showing some upper breast yellow. Lighting, angle, and distance was difficult and impossible to positively identify. Several of the group thought that it was possibly – but unlikely – a Yellow-headed Blackbird (female). But, we will never know for sure what that bird was.

But, It is wonderfully interesting to note that on May 30, 2024 Chris Blane sent this photo of a Yellow-headed Blackbird at his bird feeder (Corn Neck Rd., Block Island, RI). Yellow-headed Blackbird is a west-of-the-Mississippi species that is rarely – but regularly – seen in RI and Block Island, especially during migration seasons. See RI Avian Records Committee <https://www.ri-avianrecords.org/Home/records-listed-by-species/yellow-headed-blackbird>

**Darcy Thurrott** – Not a fabulous list Kim, but late in the day & quite warm. Hope yours was great! Darcy 🐦 North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21). May 21, 2024, 4:02 PM, Traveling 1.77 miles. 47 minutes. All birds reported? Yes. Comments: Warm sunny afternoon 70's with SE wind.  
1 Mourning Dove, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Eastern Kingbird, 2 Warbling Vireo, 1 Blue Jay, 1 American Crow, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 House Wren, 2 European Starling, 2 Northern Mockingbird, 4 American Robin, 1 House Finch, 1 American Goldfinch, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 1 Baltimore Oriole, 1 Northern Cardinal.

**Kim Gaffett** – Going about my day: Andy's Way at 7a.m. – Mute Swan 1, Great egret 1, Snowy Egret 2, A. Oystercatcher 2, Mallard 2, Yellow Warbler 4, Catbird 2, Pheasant 1. At home – Mallard 4, Canada Goose 7, Barn Swallow 5, Carolina Wren 1, C. Raven 2. At office and town – Pigeon 15, Song Sparrow 2, Robin 1. And, power company – Osprey 2.

**Lauren Miller-Donnelly** – Hi Kim, this Tuesday was probably one of my best birding mornings of the season with 65 species. Herb Hatfield is a large property in Westport owned by the Land Trust and has an oak-dominated overstory, a big, restored field, it's quite large in acreage, and has a lot of forested wetlands and a fast-moving stream where Louisiana Waterthrush can be found. It is also reliable for Acadian Flycatcher and Worm-eating Warbler. [65 species!] Canada Goose X, Mallard 1, Mourning Dove 3, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Common Loon 2, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Eastern Wood-Pewee, **Acadian Flycatcher 2**, Eastern Phoebe 1, Great-crested Flycatcher 7, Eastern Kingbird 1, White-eyed Vireo 1, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Blue-headed Vireo 1, Red-eyed Vireo 7, Blue Jay 3, American Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 5, Tree Swallow 9, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 7, House Wren 2, Carolina Wren 3, European Starling 2, Gray Catbird 11, Eastern Bluebird 2, Veery 10, Wood Thrush 5, American Robin 1, Cedar Waxwing 20, House Sparrow 1, House Finch 4, American Goldfinch 4, Chipping Sparrow 4, Field Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 4, Swamp Sparrow 1, Ea. Towhee 5, Baltimore Oriole 1, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, Common Grackle 1, Ovenbird 9, **Worm-eating Warbler 2**, **Louisiana Waterthrush 1**, No. Waterthrush 1, Blue-winged Warbler 3, Black-and-white Warbler 3, Common Yellowthroat 2, Amer. Redstart 6, No. Parula 1, Blackburnian Warbler 1, Yellow Warbler 8, Blackpoll Warbler 6, Pine Warbler 3, Black-throated Green Warbler 1, Scarlet Tanager 2, Northern Cardinal 4, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3, Indigo Bunting 1.

**Maureen Dunn** – Andy's way 05/20: Piping Plover and a Common Eider we observed from the Settlers Rock parking lot.



**Nancy Greenaway** – With Kim G. while having coffee and looking out the window and in the yard: Red-wing Blackbird 5+, A. Goldfinch 6, Yellow Warbler 1, Song Sparrow 1, Herring Gull 1, Mourning Dove 6, C. Grackle 3, American Crow 2, Pheasant 1, N. Cardinal 2.

**Tim Mooney** – Hi Kim – You predicted some new arrivals with a shift in the wind, and yes, we had a few interesting visitors in the morning. The Eastern Wood-Pewee was a real surprise; I can't ever remember hearing one in my neighborhood. There was a nice uptick in catbirds, too. But all were gone by the next day, except one catbird that apparently finds the corner of our backyard just unkempt enough to be inviting. Thanks, Tim. Cumberland, RI. Eastern Wood-Pewee – 1, Yellow Warbler – 1, Common Yellowthroat – 2, Red-shouldered Hawk – 1, Turkey Vulture – 1, Canada Goose – 5, Mallard – 2, Common Grackle – 7, Red-winged Blackbird – 1, Brown-headed Cowbird – 5, Baltimore Oriole – 1, Gray Catbird – 5, Northern Mockingbird – 3, Chimney Swift – 4, Red-eyed Vireo – 1, Mourning Dove – 4, House Sparrow – 6, Chipping Sparrow – 6, Song Sparrow – 4, Tufted Titmouse – 1, Carolina Wren – 4, House Wren – 3, Northern Cardinal – 5, House Finch – 5, White-breasted Nuthatch – 2, Northern Flicker – 1, Downy Woodpecker – 2, American Crow – 2, Blue Jay – 1, American Robin – 12.

**Tom Fetherston** – 21 May 2024. Good evening, Kim – No hornbills, bee-eaters or rollers this time. A decent list, but frustrating because I was getting acoustic detections of many warbler species: worm eating, northern parula, common yellowthroat, black throated green; but never was able to visually identify any. More leaves out now so that's an issue. [Yes, leaf-out definitely complicates things, especially with the aerial species. If your ear hears the bird and you can ID the species by your ear that is a legitimate recordable observation. -kg] Notes for this week:

- After last year's bluebirds nesting in a wren house here, I set out two bluebird houses on poles in the yard. Of course, neither is occupied by bluebirds :-/ One has chickadees, the other house wrens and even though they are 50' apart there are still squabbles between them.
- It appears Baltimore orioles are establishing territories. Several males chasing each other and calling.
- I saw a scarlet tanager pair earlier in the week. Spectacular, too bad they didn't check in today.

Here's the list. 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. Herring gull (50\*) WP, Canada goose (6) WP, American Robin (3), American crow (2), Fish crow (3), Common raven, Blue jay, Tufted titmouse, White-breasted nuthatch (2), Song sparrow, House finch (3), Northern cardinal (2), Mourning dove (5), Black-capped chickadee, Red-winged blackbird (8\*) WP, Common grackle (15\*) WP & yard, European starling (5), Turkey vulture, Wild turkey (3), Gray catbird (2), Baltimore oriole (3), Ruby-throated hummingbird, Great blue heron (2) WP, Great egret (2) WP, Mallard (2) WP, Wood duck (2) WP, Double-crested cormorant (3) WP, House wren, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Great crested flycatcher, Barn swallow (6\*) WP, Tree swallow (10\*) WP, Osprey (2) WP. Cheers, Fether

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