

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: April 20, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- How great to get Tim Mooney's report from Arizona – a completely new region to report from. I hope you all enjoy his interesting observations.
- And, wow, Curt Milton has sent the most beautiful photo of a Great Blue Heron that I've seen. Enjoy it all.
- The individual Block Island lists are reduced as the Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walk on Block Island has resumed, thus generating one list from one walk location, rather than separate lists from a variety of locations. (For the time being the in-persons walks will be limited to 10 people, with, of course, mask-wearing and other Covid-19 protocols.) Thanks to the "Coot Walkers" who also submitted observations. At this time of year it is especially great to get as much coverage of the Island's haunts and habitats as possible.
- 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

Block Island

(41 species)

Canada Goose – 12

Blue Goose (Snow) – 1

Mute Swan – 2

American Black Duck – 3

Mallard – 25

Ring-necked Pheasant – 3

Great Egret – 9

Snowy Egret – 2

Osprey – 3

Marsh Hawk – 1

American Oystercatcher – 4

Black-bellied Plover – 20

Sanderling – 15

Dunlin – 30+

Greater Yellowlegs – 1

Ring-billed Gulls – 1

Herring Gull – 29

Great Black-backed Gull – 39

Gull species – 1

Mourning Dove – 5

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 18
Fish Crow – 5
Tree Swallow – 6
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
Carolina Wren – 6
American Robin – 14
Brown Thrasher – 1
Rufus-sided Towhee – 2
Song Sparrow – 6
White-throated Sparrow – 2
Northern Cardinal – 12
Indigo Bunting – 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 26
Common Grackle – 1
Brown-headed Cowbird – 2
House Finch – 3
American Goldfinch – 1
House Sparrow – 9

From Afar South Kingstown, Tiverton RI; Sarasota, FL; Sedona, AZ; Seattle, WA;

(67 species)

Canada Goose – 3
American Wigeon – 1
Whistling Duck – spec. – 4
Muscovy Duck – 6
Mallard – 10+
Northern Shoveler – 4
Bufflehead – 1
Gambrel's Quail – 2+
Pied-billed Grebe – 6
Grebe species – 1
Brown Pelican – 1
Double-crested Cormorant – 1
White Ibis – 4
Roseate spoonbill – 4
Great Blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 5
Snowy Egret – 1
Cattle Egret – 1
Black Vultures – 3
Turkey Vulture – 10+
Osprey – 4
Bald Eagle – 3
Broad-winged Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1+
American Coot – 1
Killdeer – 1

Mew Gull – 1
Collard Dove – 1
Anna’s Hummingbird – 1
Hummingbird species – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker² – 1 Red-shafted
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
Great-crested Flycatcher – 7
Black Phoebe – 4
Tree Swallow – 4
Swallow species – 6
White-throated Swift – 2
Steller’s Jay – 15
Blue Jay – 12
American Crow –18
Common Raven – 30+
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 10+
Tufted Titmouse – 7
House Wren – 1
Carolina Wren – 3
Bewick’s Wren – 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 10
American Robin – 6
Brown Thrasher – 7
Cedar Waxwing – 2
Northern Parula – 5
Yellow Warbler – 2
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Chipping Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 5
White-throated Sparrow – 2
White-crowned Sparrow - 1
Northern Cardinal – 16
Red-winged Blackbird – 8+
Brewer’s Blackbird – 3
Common Grackle – 10
Brown-headed Cowbird – 1
House Finch – 4
House Sparrow – 2

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.

²**Northern Flicker** is another species with differing eastern and western populations. Northern Flicker in the east is most often Yellow-shafted Flicker (under wings yellow); whereas western populations are most often Red-shafted Flicker (under wings reddish). Just to keep your birding interesting, remember either color variation could occasionally be seen on both U.S. coasts; and “cross pollination” is regularly seen in mid-country.

Since I have more experience with east coast populations, I am likely to list N. Flickers reported from east coast locations as Yellow-shafted. On the other hand, I am likely to list west coast reports as Northern Flicker (due to my lack of experience in the west regarding the likelihood of Yellow-shafted), or unless the observer confirms that it is a Red-shafted Flicker.

And then, there is the Gilded Flicker.....

³ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata*) yet another species with differing eastern and western population traits. Myrtle Warbler is the overwhelmingly predominant variety on the east coast, and is found throughout US and Canada. Whereas the Audubon Warbler (with a yellow throat and differing song) is limited to the west coast of the US and SW corner of Canada, with only rare and limited occurrences through the middle and eastern US. Once, these two variants were considered to be different species, but currently they are classified as one species.

⁴ **Pheasant (UK) and Ring-necked Pheasant (US)** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

~ For more information about Junco, Northern Flicker or Yellow-rumped Warbler populations, see *The Sibley Guide to Birds* or your favorite bird guide.

Amy Keeler. It was a beautiful and informative [Crazy-as-a-Coot] walk . Thank You . In addition, and all sighted on Mitchell Lane: 2 Chickadee, 1 Grackle, 2 Carolina Wren, 6 Tree Swallow , 1 Towhee, 1 Pheasant, 3 Cardinal, 4 House Sparrow , 2 Cowbird, 3 Mourning Dove, 2 Mallard Duck, 1 Blue Jay, 8 Robin, 12 RW Blackbird, 2 House Finch, 1 Yellow Finch, 4 American Crow

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – eBird report: Andy's Way/Skippers Is., Washington, Rhode Island, US. Light SW wind, sunny and 56F. Participants: Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Kim Bubko, Gail & Shorty Cahill, Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley, and Kim Gaffett A beautiful morning; and, one mating pair of Horseshoe Crabs.

21 species (+1 other taxa). Mute Swan 2, Mallard 3, American Black Duck 3, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, American Oystercatcher 4, Black-bellied Plover 20, Sanderling 15, Dunlin 30, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Herring Gull 29, Great Black-backed Gull 39, gull sp. 1, Great Egret 9, Snowy Egret 2, American Crow 8, Fish Crow 5, Carolina Wren 2, American Robin 1, Song Sparrow 3, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Northern Cardinal 2.

Curt Milton – Seattle, WA. Good afternoon! It's a beautiful day in Seattle, clear skies and temps in the low 50s when I took my walk at the Union Bay Nature Area starting at 9 a.m. Lots of birds there, as usual. I'll attach a couple of photos: one of a red-winged blackbird and another of a great blue heron. Here is my list: American Crow: 10+, Song sparrow: 3-6, Bewick's wren: 3, Robin: 3, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadees: 10+, White-crowned Sparrow, Great Blue Heron: 3, Mallards: 10+, Pie-billed Grebe: 6, Canada Goose: 3, Bald eagle: 2, Red-winged Blackbirds: 8+, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Shoveler: 4, House Finch, American Wigeon, American Grebe [????], American Coot, Mew Gull, Savannah sparrow, Bufflehead, Anna's Hummingbird. And, I saw carp spawning in a marshy area next to Union Bay. I've never seen that before! Thanks for organizing this walk and keeping it going. See you soon!

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, I moved from St Pete FL to Sarasota a couple of wks ago, and although it's less than 40 miles down the west coast, I'm noticing some different birds, including lots of Northern Parulas and great Crested flycatchers. Still learning my way around. Birds noted on 4/20 included 4 roseate spoonbills, 1GBH, 5 great herons, a cattle and a snowy egret, MANY blue jays, cardinals, common grackles and mocking birds, 4 white ibises, 6 Muscovy ducks, 1 broad winged hawk, 3 black vultures, 5 Northern Parulas, 7 great created flycatchers, 4 titmice, 1 brown pelican, 4 tree swallows, 3 ospreys, 6 American crows, 7 brown thrashers, 4 whistling ducks [Species?] and one collared dove. Thanks !!

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce – Here's our "home" list for Tuesday (we were not trying very hard): Osprey 2, Mourning Dove 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 1, Am. Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Am. Robin 2, Brown Thrasher 1, Eastern Towhee 1, White-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 1, Cardinal 6, **Indigo Bunting** 1, Red-winged Blackbird 6, House Finch 1, Am. Goldfinch 6, House Sparrow 2

Kim Gaffett – At home. Canada Geese 12, Blue Goose (dark phase of Snow Goose) photo attached 1, Mallard 20, Downy Woodpecker 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Osprey 1, Marsh Hawk 1, American Crow 5, Blue Jay 3, Carolina Wren 2, Robin 4, Song Sparrow 2, Cardinal 1, Red-winged Blackbird, House sparrow 3

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – I went to Fort Barton in Tiverton [RI] this past Tuesday (i missed the previous Tuesday) Blue Jay 2 , American Crow 2, Tufted Titmouse 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, House Wren 1 FOY, Carolina Wren 3, American Robin 3, Cedar Waxwing 2, House Sparrow 1, Chipping Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow

2, Song Sparrow 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 1, Northern Cardinal 2.

[Tim Mooney](#) – Hi Kim – Hopefully adding some new species to the list! Last week’s social distance bird walk found me between the Coconino National Forest (Sedona, AZ) and Grand Canyon National Park. I’m sure I missed more birds than I saw, but here are the more conspicuous birds I observed while doing other things. Raptors, for example, were hard to ID, especially looking down on them from the canyon rim! Apologies for the messy notes, but I thought some context could be helpful. (Also - near Sedona one evening, we saw the smallest bat I’ve ever seen. No clue on species, but it was tiny!) Best, Tim

Gambrel’s Quail – 2 (heard probably 6 more, finally saw 2 on the last day in Sedona)

Stellar’s Jay – 15 (common in both areas)

Common Raven – 30+ (probably more, observed every day of the trip)

Brewer’s Blackbird – 3 (Grand Canyon Visitor Center)

Swallow sp – 6 (In and out of nest holes above the Verde River – could have been rough-winged? I feel like the substrate was more rock than sand, ruling out bank swallow? No mud nests observed.)

White-throated Swift – 2 (GCNP – ID’d from an interpretive sign)

Turkey Vulture – 10+ (observed regularly)

Red-tailed Hawk – 1 (at least one confirmed sighting, I’m sure other hawks we saw were RTs)

Black Phoebe – 4 (on low branches over the Verde River)

Yellow Warbler – 2 (conservative number, song was slightly different, wasn’t positive til I saw 2 by Oak Creek outside Sedona)

Northern Cardinal – 4 (again, a variation on the familiar eastern song, but regularly seen in residential area around our hotel, at edge of the national forest)

House Finch – 3 (on Sedona hotel feeders)

House Sparrow – 1 (GCNP parking lot)

Tufted Titmouse – 1 (GCNP rim trail)

Great Blue Heron – 2 (in flight, near Oak Creek outside Sedona)

Killdeer – 1 (grassy area by the highway in northern AZ)

Northern Flicker - 1 (Red-shafted! Near the Verde River)

Red-breasted Nuthatch – (GCNP rim trail)

Hummingbird specie -1 (nectaring on the tips of a larch-like conifer in Sedona.)

[Tom Fetherston](#) - South Kingstown, RI. Good morning. Had a few interesting sightings this week:

- Magpie and I were fishing at sunrise near the Pawcatuck River entrance on Worden’s Pond and had a pileated woodpecker fly past along the west shore. It landed in a tree along the south side of Case Point, made a few calls then flew off to the north. I’ve seen lots of them in the Catskills, central PA and Columbia County NY but only a couple here. Both times I observed one it was at the edge of the clear cut in Great Swamp before you get to Area 3. JoAnn Sullivan had one in her yard last spring and sent a photo, but this was the first individual I’d seen along the shore of the pond. Yesterday I was in my “office” working when an eagle came flying quickly from the east along the shore of the pond, hotly pursued by an osprey. Ospreys look large alone, but not so much next to an eagle. They turned north across the pond and I lost sight of them. Guessing eagle stole a fish? I know they do that and at least hear on the pond the ospreys work pretty hard to catch dinner. I’d be angry if an eagle snatched a bass from me too.



Great Blue Heron – Curt Milton



Blue Goose with some molting feathers (Dark phase of Snow Goose)