

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

May 16, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

These lists reflect some great mid/late-season migration observation. Likely May 16 was the last big hurrah of spring migration. It is fun to think that many of these bird species will not be seen in our home ports for another 3 months, when the fall migrations start in reverse. Many thanks all!

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. 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

(49 species)

Canada Goose – 9
American Black Duck – 1
Mallard – 12
Ring-necked Pheasant – 3
Double-crested Cormorant – 9
Great Blue Heron – 1
Great Egret – 11
Snowy Egret – 10
Black-crowned Night Heron – 3
Glossy Ibis – 12
Osprey – 4
Northern Harrier – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
American Oystercatcher – 6
Black-bellied Plover – 35
Semipalmated Plover – 1
Willet – 5
Sanderling – 30
Dunlin – 15
Semipalmated Sandpiper – 1
Herring Gull – 22
Great Black-backed Gull – 105
Mourning Dove – 14
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Blue Jay – 6
American Crow – 9
Fish Crow – 2

Crow species – 5
Tree Swallow – 1
Bank Swallow – 4
Barn Swallow – 5
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
Carolina Wren – 2
American Robin – 11
Gray Catbird – 9
European Starling – 1
Common Yellowthroat – 7
Yellow Warbler – 7
Eastern Towhee – 6
Song Sparrow – 5
Scarlet Tanager – 1
Northern Cardinal – 10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 4
Red-winged Blackbird – 20
Common Grackle – 13
House Finch – 10
American Goldfinch – 12
House Sparrow – 2

From Afar: Newport, West Kingston & South Kingston, RI; Woodbury, CT; Sarasota, FL
(87 species)

Canada Goose – 48
Mute Swan – 3
Mallard – 4
Black-bellied Whistling Duck – 15
Common Merganser – 1
Anhinga – 2
Great Blue Heron – 3
Snowy Egret – 1
Glossy Ibis – 6
White Ibis – 1
Black Vulture – 1
Turkey Vulture – 1
Osprey – 5
Bald Eagle – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 1
Broad-winged Hawk
Virginia Rail – 1
Common Gallinule – 2
Sandhill Crane – 2
Piping Plover – 2
Killdeer – 4
Least Sandpiper – 5
Solitary Sandpiper – 1
Herring Gull – 30
Mourning Dove – 7

Chimney Swift – 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 8
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 3
Eastern Wood-pewee – 4
Great-crested Flycatcher – 5
Eastern Kingbird – 5
White-eyed Vireo – 3
Yellow-throated Vireo – 1
Warbling Vireo – 6
Blue-headed Vireo – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 5
Blue Jay – 8
American Crow – 16
Fish Crow – 3
Common Raven – 5
Tree Swallow – 6
Barn Swallow – 2
Black-capped Chickadee – 7
Tufted Titmouse – 10
White-breasted Nuthatch – 3
House Wren – 6
Carolina Wren – 4
Eastern Bluebird – 5
Veery – 3
American Robin – 33
Gray Catbird – 26
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 23
Cedar Waxwing – 3
Ovenbird – 7
Northern Waterthrush – 2
Blue-winged Warbler – 5
Black-and-white Warbler – 7
Common Yellowthroat – 3
American Redstart – 6
Northern Parula – 7
Magnolia Warbler – 2
Bay-breasted Warbler – 1
Blackburnian Warbler – 2
Yellow Warbler – 8
Blackpoll Warbler - 1
Pine Warbler – 7
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1
Black-throated Green Warbler – 1
Eastern Towhee – 2
Chipping Sparrow – 4
Song Sparrow – 3

Scarlet Tanager – 2
Northern Cardinal – 9
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1
Indigo Bunting – 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 12
Common Grackle – 17
Boat-tailed Grackle – 1
Orchard Oriole – 1
Baltimore Oriole – 5
House Finch - 2
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 3

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Corn Neck: Clayton/Tangent, Washington, Rhode Island, US. May 16, 2023
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, cool, light SW wind.
Clayton/Tangent driveway to GSP around tributary pond and loop back to C/T. 21 Participants: Nigel Grindley,
Cathy Joyce, Heather Hatfield, Susan Matheke, Judy Gray, Will Young, Pat Saylor, Viki Butlevska & Georgia,
Anne & Carlos Salinas, Jane & Jim Finch, Faye Benedict, Socha Cohen, Penny Lapham, Erica Anderson, Curt
Milton, Dick Plumb, Emily Sessa, & Kim G. Additional observations: a commotion with female Blk Duck
splashing and dashing the water surface while ducklings scurried to land. Before reaching the tuft of land, one
duckling was pulled under water. Presumed Snapping turtle attack. Also one of the ubiquitous deer was seen.
35 species: Canada Goose 5, Mallard 12, American Black Duck 1, Ring-necked Pheasant 3, Mourning Dove 8,
American Oystercatcher 2, Sanderling 10, Herring Gull 12, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Double-crested
Cormorant 9, Great Blue Heron 1, Great Egret 6, Snowy Egret 4, Glossy Ibis 3, Osprey 1, Northern Harrier 1,
American Crow 6, Fish Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Tree Swallow 1, Bank Swallow 2, Barn Swallow 1,
Carolina Wren 1, European Starling 1, Gray Catbird 3, American Robin 10, American Goldfinch 4, Song
Sparrow 4, Eastern Towhee 4, Red-winged Blackbird 10, Common Grackle 4, Common Yellowthroat 7,
Yellow Warbler 7, Scarlet Tanager 1, Northern Cardinal 3

Darcy Thurrott – Hi there Kim, Nice day here, my first day out after 7 days of Covid...just recovering from
mostly cold symptoms, but with a fever & chills. Hope you are well and weather for migrants favorable!
Bird on! Darcy 🐦

North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21), May 16, 2023, 2:04 PM. Traveling 1.51 miles, 45
minutes. Comments: 58° breezy p. sunny due to Canadian wildfires. 1 Common Merganser, 1 Turkey Vulture,
4 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, 5 Warbling Vireo, 1 Blue Jay, 2 American Crow, 4 Common
Raven, 10 European Starling, 1 Northern Mockingbird, 1 Eastern Bluebird, 6 American Robin, 3 Chipping
Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow, 2 Baltimore Oriole, 5 Common Grackle, 1 Pine Warbler, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler

Dan Kasuba – Good morning Kim, I compiled the following list of birds seen “in the neighborhoods” of
Sarasota Florida throughout the day yesterday. Thanks, and I hope your group had some great sightings!
2 Northern parulas, 2 sandhill cranes, 2 common galinules, 9 American and 1 fish crow, 2 anhingas, 1 cardinal, 5
blue jays, 1 white and 6 glossy ibises, 1 boat tailed and 2 common grackles, 3 Ospreys, 1 black vulture, 2 GBHs,
5 mourning doves, 15 black bellied whistling ducks, 1 downy and 2 red bellied woodpeckers, 1 red winged
blackbird, 2 killdeers, 2 Eastern bluebirds, 1 great crested flycatcher, and 1 snowy egret. Enjoy, Dan

Drew Wheelan – 5/16 “Not sure how rare, but I just saw a Red-Shouldered Hawk soaring over Conn ave and
OldTown rd. First for me on island.” 5/12 “Lots of birds on the north end. Blackburnian, several Baybreasteds,
RB Grosbeaks, big Eastern Kingbird movement and hundreds of Blue Jays, and lots of other goodies!” [5/12
birds not in BI 5/16 list, but, really cool to take note of. -kg]

Heather Hatfield – May 16, Sunny, 60F. Blue Jay 2, House Finch 3, RB Woodpecker 1, RW Blackbird 5, Cardinal 2, RB Grosbeak 2, BC Chickadee 1, Mourning Dove 3, A. Goldfinch 4, Catbird 2, C. Grackle 7, Osprey 2, House Sparrow 2, Barn Swallow 4.

Lauren Miller-Donnley – MAY 16TH was a WALLOP of a birding day for me! Starting off at a key warbler migration spot at Miantanomi Park, Newport, ~6a.m.: Chimney Swift 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 1, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Eastern Kingbird 3, Blue-headed Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 1, Red-eyed Vireo 4, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 1, Fish Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 5, Tufted Titmouse 4, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, House Wren 5, Carolina Wren 3, European Starling 13, Gray Catbird 12, American Robin 21, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 2, Chipping Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 1, Baltimore Oriole 1, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Ovenbird 1, Black-and-white Warbler 1, American Redstart 4, Northern Parula 3, Magnolia Warbler 2, Bay-breasted Warbler 1, Blackburnian Warbler 2, Blackpoll Warbler 1, Black-throated Green Warbler 1, Scarlet Tanager 1, Northern Cardinal 5.

Later after a meeting at Great Swamp, West Kingston, ~10a.m.: Virginia Rail 1, Great Blue Heron 1, Broad-winged Hawk 1, Eastern Wood-Pewee 2, Great Crested Flycatcher 4, Eastern Kingbird 2, White-eyed Vireo 3, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Tufted Titmouse 4, Gray Catbird 10, Eastern Bluebird 2, Veery 3, American Robin 4, Cedar Waxwing 3, American Goldfinch 2, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 2, Orchard Oriole 1, Baltimore Oriole 1, Red-winged Blackbird 2, Ovenbird 6, Northern Waterthrush 2, Blue-winged Warbler 5, Black-and-white Warbler 6, Common Yellowthroat 3, American Redstart 2, Northern Parula 2, Yellow Warbler 5, Pine Warbler 2, Scarlet Tanager 1, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1, Indigo Bunting 1

On my way home I spotted some additional species ... surprise a SOLITARY SANDPIPER!!! At Goose Pond just down the road on Rt.138 ~12-noon. Canada Goose 42, Killdeer 2, Least Sandpiper 5, Solitary Sandpiper 1, American Crow 1, Barn Swallow 2, House Sparrow 1

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce – Hi Kim, here are our bird lists from yesterday:

From 1168 Cooneymus: Glossy Ibis 7 (flock flew right over the house), Mourning Dove 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 4, American Crow 3, Bank Swallow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 1, Gray Catbird 4, Eastern Towhee 2 (m&f), Song Sparrow 1, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2 (both male), Northern Cardinal 5, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 2 (m&f), House Finch 7, American Goldfinch 4.

Andy's Way to Beane Point: Canada Goose 4, Great Egret 5, Snowy Egret 6, Black-crowned Night-heron 3, Glossy Ibis 2, Osprey 1, Black-bellied Plover 35, Semipalmated Plover 1, American Oystercatcher 4 (plus 2 nests with 3 eggs each and 1 nest all 3 likely hatched), Willet 5, Sanderling 20 (probably more), Semi-palmated Sandpiper 1 (probably more), Dunlin 15 (probably more), Herring Gull ~10, Great Black-backed Gull ~100, Crow sp 5. Great walk - many thanks! Cathy & Nigel

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim – I checked my calendar and I don't know what I was doing on May 2, but on May 16, I was at the Goosewing Beach Preserve in Little Compton, RI: Piping Plover – 2, Osprey – 1. I was there to meet staff and a new potential volunteer, so unfortunately I don't remember more of the bird details. There must have been a few Yellow Warblers around, of course. I did have an unfortunate exchange with a local dog walker, whose border collie chased a plover into the air. When I pointed out to the walker (rather excitedly) that her dog just chased a federally protected shorebird, she shrugged and said, "he hasn't caught one yet."

Tom Fetherston – Good morning (5/17) Kim - Mary had to come drag me & Maggie off the side porch for dinner, we were still looking for birds so had a few to add today before sending you the list :-)) I know you heard the eagle story but I repeated it for others who might enjoy it. Cheers, Fether
16 May 2023 - Good evening Kim – It was too windy to go out on the pond, so today's observations there were made from the dock. Odd not to see the herons & egrets that have been here regularly. Perhaps the wind affects their hunting although the south shore by the dock is in the lee? The leaves are mostly out and with many birds "bugging" in the high canopy it was often hard getting a good view of them. There was a marked

shift in species distributions too, no sparrows at all, although I suspect in the case of song sparrows and chipping sparrows the wind may have altered their behavior, but maybe the white-throated sparrows headed north? Last week the Baltimore orioles and gray catbirds arrived in force. The orioles are generally in the high canopy, but catbirds seem to be everywhere I look in the yard. Also noted house wrens for the first time building a nest in a wren house on our shed. This week's observations:

The bluebirds that nested in the yard fledged their brood. A bit over a week ago I was surprised when a downy juvenile fluttered past me and sat on a low branch. By last weekend they were looking like slightly smaller, drab females, eating at the mealworm feeder, picking insects out of the lawn and sitting on low branches. I think I counted four, but it was hard to tell at a distance if the bird was the female or a juvenile. Yesterday they were suddenly gone. This is more forest habitat, maybe they found some nice fields to feed in. I'll keep an eye on the mealworm feeder. Hope they come back to visit.

While fishing on the north side of Wordens Pond early Saturday, an osprey flew past carrying what looked like a 1lb white catfish. It was dodging around, soon I noticed an eagle in hot pursuit. The osprey climbed steeply, at about 50' altitude released the fish. It hadn't dropped 10' towards the water when the eagle swooped in and snatched the catfish in mid-air. Amazing to see such agility in a huge bird!!

There were several catbirds milling around in some bushes and sitting on a branch in the middle of them was another catbird, puffed up like a softball? Mating display?

This morning I could hear orioles but with the leafy canopy wasn't seeing any. Decided to play a recorded oriole song on my phone and had two males sitting on a branch over my head in a minute. Ok, kind of cheating but it sure worked 😊

Scanning the trees this morning there was a bird that at first glance appeared to be a phoebe, but it wasn't bobbing its tail and had white wing bars. After consulting Peterson's, Sibley & Merlin decided it was an Eastern wood pewee. A new species for me!

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. Canada goose (2 + 4 goslings) WP, American crow (3) WP & yard, Northern cardinal (3), Tufted titmouse (2), Blue jay, Hairy woodpecker, Red-bellied woodpecker, Herring gull (30*) WP, Mourning dove (2), White-breasted nuthatch, Black capped chickadee (2), Mallard (4) WP, Mute swan (3), Osprey (WP), Tree swallow (6) WP, Common grackle (10*) WP & yard, Red-winged blackbird (8*) WP & yard, American robin (2), Bald eagle (WP), Common raven (WP), Ruby-throated hummingbird (2), Carolina wren, House wren, Baltimore oriole (2), Gray catbird (4), Eastern wood pewee. Cheers, Fether