

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

May 5, 2026

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Here's another fun compilation from near and far. Gone (mostly) are the sea ducks of winter from both lists.

The Afar list has a great assortment of migrants – especially warblers – but also rarely noted species like Maggie's Solitary Sandpiper and Dan's 4! Pileated Woodpecker.

Block Island's list, although not flush with warblers has some wonderful – I dare say rare – shorebird sightings. Heather's American Golden Plover and Wilson's Plover are standouts, along with the nearly missed May 5th sighting of Black-necked Stilt.

Peace, Kim

Remember, no matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day.

-
- 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

(49 species)

Canada Goose – 13+

Mute Swan – 3

Mallard – 41+

Common Eider – 6

Black Scoter – 100+/-

Red-breasted Merganser – 8

Ring-necked Pheasant – 6

Wild Turkey (feral) – 1

Common Loon – 1

Double-crested Cormorant – 20

Great Egret – 2

Turkey Vulture – 2

Osprey – 9

Marsh Hawk (N. Harrier) – 2

Black-necked Stilt – 1

American Golden Plover – 1

Wilson's Warbler – 1

American Herring Gull – 10+

Great Black-backed Gull – 17+

Mourning Dove – 24

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 12

Blue-headed Vireo – 1

American Crow – 13+

Blue Jay – 10

Fish Crow – 12

Common Raven – 1

Tree Swallow – 34+

Bank Swallow – 2

Barn Swallow – 14

Black-backed Chickadee – 6

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2

Carolina Wren – 2

American Robin – 58+

Gray Catbird – 5

European Starling – 5

Northern Yellow Warbler – 34

Myrtle² Warbler – 7

Rufus-sided Towhee – 23+

Song Sparrow – 18

Northern Cardinal – 11

Red-winged Blackbird – 79+

Common Grackle – 16

Brown-headed Cowbird – 11

Baltimore Oriole – 4

Purple Finch – 8

House Finch – 13

American Goldfinch – 36

House Sparrow – 4

From Afar South Kingstown, Newport, & Cumberland RI; Woodbury CT; Adams & Dalton, MA;
Tannersville, Malden Bridge/Columbia County, NY; Edinburgh, Scotland

(77 species)

Canada Goose – 32+	Least Flycatcher – 1	Black-and-white Warbler – 3
Mute Swan – 10+	Eastern Phoebe – 2	Common Yellowthroat – 1
Mallard – 2	Blue-headed Vireo – 4	American Redstart – 6
Wild Turkey (Eastern ecotype) – 8	Warbling Vireo – 3	Northern Parula – 1
Ring-necked Pheasant – 1	Red-eyed Vireo – 3	Blackburnian Warbler – 1
Common Loon – 5	Blue Jay – 13	Northern Yellow Warbler – 5
Green Heron – 1	American Crow – 13	Black-throated Blue Warbler – 5
Black Vulture – 3	Common Raven – 2	Yellow-rumped Warbler – 5
Turkey Vulture – 10	Tree Swallow – 10	Prairie Warbler – 1
Bald Eagle – 3	Barn Swallow – 2	Black-thr. Green Warbler – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1	Black-capped Chickadee – 15	Eastern Towhee – 2
Red-tailed Hawk – 5	Tufted Titmouse – 10	Chipping Sparrow – 21
Solitary Sandpiper – 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch – 3	Field Sparrow – 4
Ring-billed Gull – 1	White-breasted Nuthatch – 3	Song Sparrow – 14
Amer. Herring Gull – 3	House Wren – 6	White-throated Sparrow – 8
Mourning Dove – 4	Carolina Wren – 1	Dark-eyed ¹ Junco – 11
Barred Owl – 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1	Northern Cardinal – 12
Chimney Swift – 3	Eastern Bluebird – 4	Red-winged Blackbird – 30+
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2	Veery – 1	Common Grackle – 23+
Belted Kingfisher – 2	Wood Thrush – 2	Brown-headed Cowbird – 15
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 7	American Robin – 42	Baltimore Oriole – 2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 2	Gray Catbird – 18	House Finch – 5
Downy Woodpecker – 4	Northern Mockingbird – 4	Purple Finch – 4
Hairy Woodpecker – 1	European Starling – 28	American Goldfinch – 11
Pileated Woodpecker – 4	Ovenbird – 9	House Sparrow – 23
Eastern Wood-Pewee – 1	Blue-winged Warbler – 1	

Amy Keeler – Bird List May 5th 2026 Amy Keeler Viewing while out and about. All sightings on Mitchell Lane: 6 Cowbird, 2 Great Egret, 6 House Finch, 2 House Sparrow, 4 Gold Finch, 8 Grackle, 8 Mourning Dove, 14 RW Blackbird, 13 Mallard + 17 Mallard Duckling, 3 Osprey (flying), 2 Song Sparrow, 1 D. Woodpecker, 3 American Crow, 4 Cardinal, 3 Bluejay, 1 RB Nuthatch, 6 BC Chickadee, 2 BB Gull, 12 Tree Swallow, 8 Barn Swallow, 3 Catbird.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hello Kim, here is our rest-of-the-day list for yesterday [5/5]: Red-breasted nuthatch 1, Goldfinch 4 (3m, 1f), Cardinal 1, Red-winged Blackbird 3, American Robin 2, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 1. Many thanks for a great Coot-Walk! Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers – Gracies Cove/Dunn Town Rd.s loop, Washington, Rhode Island, US May 5, 2026 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 2.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, cool (50-53F) with SW wind. Participants: Sarah Pike, Carole Leslie, Margaret Haight, Chuck McMellon, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Will Young, Judy Gray, Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Faye Benedict, Nora Clark, Pat Saylor, Kim G. 35 species: Canada Goose 6, Mallard 4, Common Eider 6, Red-breasted Merganser 8, Wild Turkey (feral) 1, Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Mourning Dove 8, American Herring Gull 10, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Common Loon 1, Double-crested Cormorant 6, Turkey Vulture 2, Osprey 2, Northern Harrier 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 5, Fish Crow 12, Bank Swallow 2, Tree Swallow 2, Barn Swallow 6, Carolina Wren 2, European Starling 5, Gray Catbird 2, American Robin 40, House Sparrow 2,

House Finch 1, American Goldfinch 15, Song Sparrow 16, Eastern Towhee 12, Red-winged Blackbird 50, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, Common Grackle 8, Northern Yellow Warbler 30, Northern Cardinal 2.

Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, hope you had a great trip! I spent the morning of 5/5 hiking in the Mt. Greylock state reservation in Adams MA. Like all of New England, it was sunny and the warmest day of the year, with lots of birdsong along the trail. Some birds were IDed with the help of the Merlin app, and only new birds were counted on the return hike down. Adams, MA- 6 warbler species: 1 Blackburnian, 1 common yellow throat, 5 black throated blue, 4 yellow rumped, 3 yellow, 2 Black and white, 3 red breasted and 1 white breasted nuthatches, 4 pileated and 1 hairy woodpecker, 5 juncos, 4 black capped chickadees, 2 titmice, 9 ovenbirds, 1 blue-headed vireo, 2 warbling vireos, 1 barred owl, 2 phoebes, 2 wood thrushes, and 1 raven. In Dalton MA- 2 American redstarts, 1 red bellied woodpecker, 3 bluejays, 2 cardinals, 1 catbird, 1 ruby-throated hummingbird, 3 American robins, 1 mourning dove, 2 chipping sparrows, and 2 turkey vultures
Thanks and enjoy!

Darcy Thurrot – Hi Kim, Here's my list for wanderings today: 2 bald eagles (1 female on nest with 1 eaglet not seen) 1 male flying, 1 goldfinch heard, 1 warbling vireo heard, 1 Baltimore oriole, 1 yellow bellied sapsucker heard drumming, 1 tree swallow flying, 2 redstarts heard, 1 song sparrow singing. That's about it. Very very windy. Happy to hear oriole; FOY. Hope you enjoyed Iceland... Take care, Darcy

Ellen Davis – Good morning, Kim. Sorry to miss the Coot walk on Tuesday. Here are my sightings for that day, mostly from my dining room table on Amy Dodge Lane. Osprey - 4; trees swallows - 20 +/-; robins - 4; ring-necked pheasant - 1; great black-backed gull - 10; goldfinch (m) - 1; red-winged blackbird - 4 pairs; mallards - 4 prs; cormorants (double crested) - 14; Baltimore orioles - 2; Canada geese - 2; crows - many! I will work on distinguishing the difference between Fish and American crow and ravens; sea duck (?) - ~ 100 floating in a tight oval just off of seal cove [Black Scoter likely -Kg]. Look forward to joining you in person next time. Ellen.

Elspeth Crawford –. Hi Kim, I hope you had a good holiday. This morning at Dr. Neil's Garden, Edinburgh which rises above Duddingston Loch where swans and Canada geese are too many to count, as are the songbirds that I hear but do not see, this wonderful pheasant walked across my path. Best wishes, Elspeth

Heather Hatfield – May 5, sunny – windy. Old Town Rd.: Baltimore Oriole 2, House Finch 6, Purple Finch 8, Blue Jay 2, Cardinal 3, RW Blackbird 4, Mourning Dove 8, A. Goldfinch 12; Andy's Way: A. Golden Plover 1, Wilson's Plover 1; north end Corn Neck Rd.: Blue-headed Vireo 1, Yellow Warbler 4, Yellow-rump/Myrtle Warbler 7, Towhee 10+, Robin 10+.

Josie Merck – I saw a Baltimore Oriole today – Hooray!

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day at home: Mute Swan 3, C. Goose 5, Mallard 2, C. Raven 1, A. Robin 2, N. Cardinal 1.



Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hello Kim, May 2nd it was a great migration night so I started my day over at Miantinomi Park in Newport and here is my list: Mourning Dove 1, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, American Herring Gull 3, Common Loon 5, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Red-eyed Vireo 3, American Crow 3, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 2, Barn Swallow 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Northern House Wren 3, Gray Catbird 12, American Robin 16, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 1, American Goldfinch 5, Chipping Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 3, Eastern Towhee 2, Baltimore Oriole 1, Blue-winged Warbler 1, Black-and-white Warbler 1, American Redstart 2, Northern Parula 1, Northern Yellow Warbler 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Prairie Warbler 1, Black-throated Green Warbler 1, Northern Cardinal 6. Since this date I keep wanting to get back here but it's wicked hard to leave my county when I am competing for most # of species for the year!!!! I'm #2 right now. [Good luck! -kg]

Maggie Komosinski – Hello Kim! "Cinco de Mayo" found us in the New York Catskills for three days, celebrating our 27th wedding anniversary!

The Catskill mountains, forests and meadows have begun to green-out; the rivers, creeks and lakes, and numerous waterfalls, are a bit low due to last year's draught, but still impressive (the waterfalls) and serene (the lakes). We were a bit early (or in the "wrong" places) for warblers. We did see beautiful native trees, and the beginnings of wildflower bloom (e.g., purple trillium).

With your "OK", I'm merging my bird lists from both May 4 and May 5. Maggie

Tannersville, NY, May 4 & 5, 2026: C. Goose 15+, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Red-tailed Hawk 4, Turkey Vulture 7, Mourning Dove 2, Belted Kingfisher 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 3, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Tree Swallow 9, A. Crow 6, Blue Jay 5, B.C. Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 3, Carolina Wren 1, Eastern Bluebird 4, Northern Mockingbird 2, A. Robin 12, Veery 1, Blue-headed Vireo 3, Red-winged Blackbird 18, C. Grackle 8, European Starling 7, Chipping Sparrow 8, Field Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 6, Purple Finch 4, A. Goldfinch 3, House Sparrow 9, Slate-colored Junco 6, Northern Cardinal 2.

Penny Young – Black-necked Stilt! Seen but not identified by Penny Young at Red Gate Farm pond on May 5, 2026. On May 7th Heather Hatfield identified a Black-neck Stilt at Andy's Way.



Photos: Heather Hatfield 5/7/26



Nigel Grindley 5/8/26

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim - On May 5, Catbird was the word! They arrived the night before and have been chattering away ever since. Nice to have their company again. Chimney Swifts were another perfectly timed neighborhood arrival, although I had seen about 10 overhead on May 2, in the Lonsdale section of Lincoln. (That was a case of birding at a stop light.)

The first Baltimore Oriole appeared in the yard yesterday, on May 7. I went for walk at the Cumberland Monastery later on (still May 7) and saw a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Blue-winged Warbler and a Red-eyed

Vireo, to go along with the many catbirds and yellow warblers along the path. Hope that brief SW wind brought some action to your station! Best, Tim

May 5 - Neighborhood walk, Cumberland, RI: Red-shouldered Hawk – 1, Turkey Vulture – 1, Gray Catbird – 4, Chimney Swift – 3, House Wren – 3, Northern Mockingbird – 2, Common Grackle – 5, Red-winged Blackbird – 2, Brown-headed Cowbird – 5, European Starling – 6, American Crow – 1, Blue Jay – 4, Canada Goose – 3, Mallard – 2, Song Sparrow – 5, Chipping Sparrow – 7, White-thr. Sparrow – 1, House Sparrow – 12, House Finch – 4, American Goldfinch – 2, N. Cardinal – 2, Tufted Titmouse – 3, Black-capped Chickadee – 3, American Robin – 9, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2, Downy Woodpecker – 1

Tom Fetherston – Good evening, Kim – Greetings from Malden Bridge, Columbia County NY. I'm at my friend's farm for the annual turkey expedition. Saw plenty, but none close enough to make cutlets. The wind was awful, blowing 20-30 SW so many small birds were in thick cover. While sitting in the blind, I had Merlin running and received detections of yellow-rumped, Northern yellow and Nashville warblers but only saw the yellow. I also had a least flycatcher and ruby-crowned kinglet keeping me company, both very cute birds. Notes for this week: [The list below is from South Kingston, RI. I will list only the NY birds actually seek. -kg]

- Baltimore orioles have arrived at Wordens Pond, hitting both the hummingbird feeders and the orange feeder. So far, I've only seen a couple of males.
- The hummingbirds are back too. For the past couple of years there has been a melanistic male frequenting our feeders. He, or one just like him has set up camp.
- While swimming the Labs last week, an osprey grabbed a spawning alewife 100' from the dock. Yes, alewives are now spawning in Wordens Pond!!! The osprey headed north and seconds later an eagle dove in to try and steal the alewife. There was a battle royal, I believe the osprey won!

Here's the list [from Columbia County, NY -kg]. Estimates are noted with an asterisk (*) Birds in the field or at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes. American crow (3), Canada goose (4), Common raven, Green heron, Bald eagle, Red-tailed hawk, Black vulture (3), Song sparrow (2), Chipping sparrow (2), Field sparrow (2), Northern yellow warbler, Least flycatcher, Ruby crowned kinglet, Blue jay, Gray catbird, American robin (2), European starling (15*), Brown-headed cowbird (2), Red-winged blackbird (10*), Common grackle (10*), Wild turkey (Eastern ecotype) 8. Cheers, Fether

-
- 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.