

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

June 16, 2026

Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Another great list of observations from far and wide. Val's and Dan's list both include many species that may have been migrants here on Block Island a month ago, but are summer breeders in there home haunts.

It was great to have Bob's & Brenda's photo of a Painted bunting from a friend in NC. I long for the day that I see a Painted Bunting on the BI.

Alas, we on Block Island are suddenly too busy to easily fit in a little time afield birding, thus barely an incomplete list from Nigel, Cathy and Heather; and no observations from regular contributors Amy and Susan.

Volunteers are busy on the island monitoring the progress of nesting Piping Plover (threatened) and American Oystercatchers (species of concern). At the moment there are at least 4 A. Oystercatchers nests, and an astounding 7 Piping Plover nests around the island's beaches; and 4 active Osprey nests. All to say: we are well into the breeding season.



4 successful Piping Plover hatchlings feeding at Charleston Beach wrack line, but not yet fully fledged. Photo: Nigel Grindley July 3, 2026. Photo taken from quite a distance, therefore photo quality not perfect, but good enough to discern the happy existence of 3-week +/- baby Piping Plovers.

Have a great summer all.
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

(30 species!)

Canada Goose – 15
Double-crest. Cormorant – 1
White Ibis – 1
Glossy Ibis – 9
Osprey – 7
Piping Plover – 1
Laughing Gull – 30+
American Herring Gull – 7
Great Black-backed Gull – 1
Mourning Dove – 8
American Kestrel – 1

Great Crested Flycatcher – 1
American Crow – 1
Tree Swallow – 8+
Bank Swallow – 7
Barn Swallow – 10
Northern House Wren – 1
American Robin – 53+
Gray Catbird – 15
Cedar Waxwing – 1
American Redstart – 9
Northern Yellow Warbler – 9

Common Yellowthroat – 6
Rufus-sided Towhee – 5
Song Sparrow – 1
Northern Cardinal – 6
Red-winged Blackbird – 18+
Common Grackle – 2
House Finch – 3
American Goldfinch – 2

From Afar Cumberland & South Kingstown, RI; Cos Cob, CT; Westport & Williamstown, MA;
Rapid River, MI; Dix Park, NC; Sedbergh, England.

(70 species)

Canada Goose – 6
Mallard – 9
Great Blue Heron – 2
Unidentified Raptor – 2
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Amer. Herring Gull – 2
Mourning Dove – 6
Chimney Swift – 4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 6
Hairy Woodpecker – 3
Northern Flicker – 5
American Kestrel – 1
Eastern Wood-Pewee – 2
Alder Flycatcher – 1
Least Flycatcher – 1
Great-crested Flycatcher – 2
Eastern Kingbird – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 1
Blue Jay – 7
American Crow – 10
Fish Crow – 2

Common Raven – 1
Tree Swallow – 9
Barn Swallow – 6
Black-capped Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 7
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1
White-breasted Nuthatch – 7
Northern House Wren – 4
Carolina Wren – 3
Eastern Bluebird – 5
Veery – 2
Wood Thrush – 4
American Robin – 25
Eurasian Blackbird* – 5
Hermit Thrush – 1
Gray Catbird – 17
European Starling – 11
Cedar Waxwing – 2
Ovenbird – 8
Nashville Warbler – 1
Common Yellowthroat – 2
American Redstart – 6
Cape May Warbler – 2
Blackburnian Warbler – 2

Northern Yellow Warbler – 5
Black-throated Blue Warbler – 3
Pine Warbler – 1
Black-thr. Green Warbler – 1
Chipping Sparrow – 4
Clay-colored Sparrow – 1
Field Sparrow – 1
Vesper Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 7
Eurasian Bullfinch* – 1
Scarlet Tanager – 1
Northern Cardinal – 1
Painted Bunting – 1
Indigo Bunting – 2
Red-winged Blackbird – 16
Common Grackle – 15
Brown-headed Cowbird – 8
Baltimore Oriole – 3
House Finch – 4
Purple Finch – 2
American Goldfinch – 12
House Sparrow – 26

*English species



Bob & Brenda Desmarais – A friend took this painted bunting photo (left) at Dix Park, Raleigh NC show 6-8 am and evening. Tuesday a.m. Please share with group. Bob and Brenda Desmarais.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim. Again, we didn't do a proper list but on a bike ride to Settler's Rock I saw 8+ tree swallows, a yellow warbler, a dozen or so red-winged blackbirds and 25+ robins. Also we had 15 Canada geese (4 adults 11 goslings) on Warden's Pond, an osprey and a cardinal, in addition to multiple catbirds [3+/-] and robins [3+/-] in the yard.

Our birding highlight of the week was the sight of 5 piping plover hatchlings yesterday (along with the 4 adults); let's hope they all hang in to fledge!!

Many thanks for a wonderful season of bird walks; Tuesday's white ibis was a memorable ending!
All the very best, Cathy & Nigel.

Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers –Jun 16, 2026 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM Protocol: Traveling 0.75 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny and warm: 58-65, light WNW wind. We walked from Corn Neck down Minister's Lot Rd. to the beach and back with a stop at Dee's Tug Hole, thanks to an invitation from Mr. Hiennamen (sp.?). Participants: Pat Saylor, Nancy Miles, Heather Hatfield, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Susan Matheke, Ellen Davis, Amy Keeler, Socha Cohen, Joan Lubrann, Duncan & Allison Sanders-Fleming, Gia Campana, Sue King, Olga Verbeek, Cathy Doherty Byrne & friend, Alex McCabe & Claire, Katy & Veronica Blackwell, Kim G. 24 species: Mourning Dove 3, Piping Plover 1 (on a nest), American Herring Gull 4, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Double-crested Cormorant 1, White Ibis 1 (seen by a group of birders with a small flock of Glossy Ibis. Glossy Ibis and 1 White Ibis flew by and overhead. The birds were fairly low and distinctly seen.), Glossy Ibis 8, Osprey 1, American Kestrel 1 (Seen by several birders together. A. Kestrel is seen often in this area of Block Island presently, and the species has been a known breeder on the island.), American Crow 1, Bank Swallow 7, Barn Swallow 10, Northern House Wren 1, Gray Catbird 10, American Robin 25, Cedar Waxwing 1, Amer. Goldfinch 2, Eastern Towhee 5, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 1, Common Yellowthroat 5, American Redstart 7, Northern Yellow Warbler 6, Northern Cardinal 4.

Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, First of all, a short hike on the AT today near my house led to a rocky outcrop where I startled a female ruffed grouse and 5-6 chicks, with all of them flying around me and momma letting out a mournful sound to divert me towards her. It was exhilarating! On our last outing of the season(6/16) I was hiking pine cobbles in Williamstown MA. spectacular views of Mt Greylock and Vt Mts in the distance. Sightings included: 4 gray catbirds, 2 Northern flickers, 2 Hairy woodpeckers, 2 unidentified raptors , 3 bluejays, 3 Black throated blue and 1 Blackburnian warblers, 1 scarlet tanager, 6 ovenbirds, 2 wood thrushes, 2 veeries, 2 American robins, 4 American crows and, 5 redstarts. Enjoy your summer and thanks for all you do!!

Heather Hatfield – No report. I will say I remember a Glossy Ibis and a great crested flycatcher on the 16th but I didn't make a list.

Josie Merck – I submit my wood thrush and more oriole by ear.

Kim Gaffett – Going about my day at home: Yellow warbler 2, YT 1, Osprey 1, A. Redstart 2, Song sparrow 1, Herring gull 2, Laughing gull 30+; at Nancy Greenaway's: N. Cardinal 1, House finch 3, Red-winged Blackbird 1, C. Grackle 1, Mourning dove 3, Herring Gull 1; at Red Gate Farm: Mourning Dove 2, Gr. Catbird 2; on the osprey pole web cam 5 osprey (3 young, 2 adult).



[Laura Rosenzweig](#) – Hi Kim, I didn't get out to watch birds today but I have an almost daily conversation with the blackbird family [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eurasian_Blackbird/overview], particularly the mother. She usually pauses on the wall a few moments with a beak full of worms before going to her nest by the front door. The other day she came to the fence near where I was sitting and stared at Suki [dog] before flying off! The parents are very good — one keeps watch while the other goes to find food and if a dog or anything else comes too close the one keeping watch sets off a racket and flies in the opposite direction. I'm enjoying watching them and looking forward to seeing the four fledglings fly the nest (although they'll probably do that next week when I'm gone!)

And on June 18: Eating berries off my Amelanchier [Serviceberry] tree this morning, right outside the bedroom window! Eurasian Bullfinch <https://ebird.org/species/eurbul>.

[Lauren Miller-Donnelly](#) – Hi Kim. This list is from a walk behind my house before work on 6/16.

A pair of bluebirds are currently looking at an empty box in the back fields even though they still have fledged young hanging around! Two House Wren parents are furiously feeding their chicks all day long in the garden - When I am working in there, sometimes they are scared to go to the box to feed and just wait there with caterpillars in their mouth, waiting for me to leave. The indigo Bunting is a new occurrence at our house, one day the male sang from a tree all afternoon.

American Herring Gull 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 1, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Great Crested Flycatcher 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Fish Crow 1, Tufted Titmouse 2, Tree Swallow 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Northern House Wren 3, Gray Catbird 5, Eastern Bluebird 1, American Robin 2, Cedar Waxwing 2, House Sparrow 1, American Goldfinch 8, Chipping Sparrow 2, Red-winged Blackbird 10, Brown-headed Cowbird 1, Common Grackle 1, Common Yellowthroat 2, American Redstart 1, Northern Yellow Warbler 3, Northern Cardinal 1, **Indigo Bunting 1**.

[Tim Mooney](#) – Hi Kim. Cumberland neighborhood walk, June 16 Thanks for a great spring season of gathering birding observations from near and far. Our backyard Gray Catbirds seem to be nesting successfully, as I saw one fly off out of the bushes carrying a fecal sac the other day. We also had a few more crows around this week, including a Fish Crow that called most of the day on Tuesday. I'm not sure which crow visited the bird bath for a drink on June 16, but that was unusual for us. Speaking of unusual, I heard a Yellow-throated Vireo singing from the backyard treetops on June 18. I heard one at the Cumberland Monastery nearby about a month ago, but can't remember ever hearing one in the neighborhood. On June 19, a Northern Flicker was raiding the backyard ant hills. They have been scarce around here this season, so it felt noteworthy.

Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Gray Catbird 6, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Chimney Swift 4, House Wren 1, Carolina Wren 2, Common Grackle 4, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, European Starling 1, American Crow 2, Fish Crow 3, Blue Jay 2, Song Sparrow 4, Chipping Sparrow 1, House Sparrow 23, House Finch 4, Amer. Goldfinch 2, Northern Cardinal 2, Mourning Dove 2, Black-capped Chickadee 1, American Robin 14, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 2.

[Tom Fetherston](#) – 16 June 2026. Good evening, Kim – A beautiful day to be outside looking for birds. A bit windy, which may have limited sightings somewhat. Some usual residents were no-shows today but that's part of field work! Lots of juveniles around now. Notes for this week:

- The bluebirds have been shuttling back and forth a lot with food for the chicks. The male has become the yard enforcer, checking all the other bird houses to make sure they are vacant (think he drove the house wrens out) and saw him attack a house sparrow that was examining one box.
- The pond was oddly quiet. Yesterday there were the usual groups of gulls, ospreys hunting and even a small flock of least terns hitting the water. Today there was one gull (!) but a few geese and mallards.

- There were many cedar waxwings around for the past two weeks, mostly in the high canopy but some came low enough for photos. Today I had a Merlin detection but otherwise they decided to forage elsewhere.
- There are a lot of young birds about: tufted titmice, white breasted nuthatches, European starlings and downy woodpeckers. A pair of robins have nested in the trellis on the garage near the door. They sometimes spook when we go in and out, giving us a startle!

Here's the list. Birds seen around Worden's Pond will be noted with WP. 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, Canada goose (6) WP, Great blue heron (2) WP, Barn swallow (6*) WP, Tree swallow (8*) WP, Mallard (9) WP, American herring gull, House sparrow (2), Tufted titmouse (5), Gray catbird (2), Common grackle (10*), Mourning dove (4), Northern cardinal (4), Eastern bluebird (2), European starling (10*), Carolina wren, Baltimore oriole (2), Red-winged blackbird (6*), Hairy woodpecker, Downy woodpecker (4), Brown-headed cowbird (2), White-breasted nuthatch (4), Song sparrow (3), Chipping sparrow, American robin (4), Ruby-throated hummingbird (2). Cheers, Fether

[Val Heemstra](#) – Hi Kim, I was at Rapid River, Michigan (Delta County) today for birding in the afternoon (it rained in the morning). One area was a cross country ski trail through a mixed forest, though predominantly conifers. The other area was native prairie land a couple of miles beyond. I will combine the two lists. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Alder Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Kestrel, Northern Raven, American Crow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Indigo Bunting. [with no specific numbers listed, I will be making very conservative estimates for each species between 1 and 3 – in almost all cases it will be an undercount. -Kg]

-
- 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.