

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

March 21, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Here is another set of bird observations from near and far. With this compilation is surely the last of the winter season of mostly non-migratory birds. Several of the included lists here have a spring returning species, and some the last of the season. Examples would be Tim's Eastern Phoebe (spring return), Lauren's Brant (last of winter), and Curt's (wow) baby Anna's Hummingbirds. Block Island-wise Heather's Green-wing Teal could easily be the last of the season, while Susan's Killdeer, and the group sighting of American Oystercatcher represent spring returns and migrants.

Also of interest are the fun birds seen by Barby & Doug in the British Virgin Islands – I wonder what a Pearly-eyed Thrasher looks like? 😊

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

(41 species)

Canada Goose – 20
American Wigeon – 4
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 24
Green-winged Teal – 2
Ring-necked Duck – 8
Scaup species – 2
Bufflehead – 11
Common Merganser – 5
Red-breasted Merganser – 2
Ring-necked Pheasant – 7
Common Loon – 5
Horned Grebe – 2
American Bittern – 1
Northern Harrier – 1
American Oystercatcher – 3
Killdeer – 2
Herring Gull – 27
Great Black-backed Gull – 9
Mourning Dove – 33
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 6
Northern Flicker – 2
Blue Jay – 4
American Crow – 21
Fish Crow – 16
Black-capped Chickadee – 11
Carolina Wren – 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1
American Robin – 74+
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 55
Myrtle Warbler – 1 (Yellow-rumped warbler)
Song Sparrow – 30
White-throated Sparrow – 4
White-crowned Sparrow – 3
Northern Cardinal – 16
Red-winged Blackbird – 76
Common Grackle – 9
House Finch – 5
House Sparrow – 3

From Afar: Cumberland, Lincoln, Newport, & South Kingston, RI; Swansea, MA; Woodbury & Old Lyme, CT; Sarasota, FL; British Virgin Islands.
(76 species)

Brant – 6
Canada Goose – 14
Mute Swan – 45
Wood Duck – 2
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 2
Greater Scaup – 21
Lesser Scaup – 9
Bufflehead – 10
Common Eider – 1
Common Goldeneye – 5
Red-breasted Merganser – 3
Common Loon – 2
Brown Pelican – 3
Magnificent Frigatebirds – 3
Anhinga – 8
Double-crested Cormorant – 1
American Bittern – 1
Great Blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 5
Tricolored Heron – 6
Little Blue Heron – 3
Cattle Egret – 40
White Ibis – 40
Glossy Ibis – 2

Roseate Spoonbill – 1
Turkey Vulture – 16
Osprey – 6
Red-shouldered Hawk – 4
Broad-winged Hawk – 3
Sora Rail – 1
Black-necked Stilt – 1
Wilson Snipe – 3
Herring Gull – 72
Common Ground Dove – 9
Zenaida Dove – 5
Rock Pigeon – 5
Mourning Dove – 21
Nandy (Black-hooded) Parakeets - 12
Green-throated (Carib) Hummingbird – 3
Belted Kingfisher – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Northern Flicker – 1
Green Parrot – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Western Kingbird – 3
Purple Martin – 30+
Blue Jay – 10
American Crow – 18
Fish Crow – 3
Black-capped Chickadee – 3
Tufted Titmouse – 6
White-breasted Nuthatch – 4
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 3
Eastern Bluebird – 2
American Robin – 10
Pearly-eyed Thrasher – 3
European Starling – 25
Ovenbird – 1
Pine Warbler – 16
Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warbler – 2
Song Sparrow – 9
Swamp Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 4
Slate-colored Junco – 8
Northern Cardinal – 10
Painted Bunting – 3
Red-winged Blackbird – 12
Common Grackle – 23
Boat-tailed Grackle – 26
Brown-headed Cowbird – 10
House Finch - 6

House Sparrow – 10

Also seen: Lots of wild hens, roosters & chicks; 3 alligators and 2 Marsh Rabbits;

**British Pheasant is the same genus species as North American Ring-necked Pheasant (introduced in both places from Asia.

Barby & Doug Michel – Hi Kim, we are on Virgin Gorda, BVI. Here's our that we could identify: Zenaida Dove, Pigeons, Green parrot, Green throated hummingbird, Pearly eyed thrasher, Western kingbird, Broad-winged hawk, Frigate, Brown Pelican. Lots of wild hens, roosters, chicks. I send you a picture of our parrot. This was fun! Barby and Doug [I've guesstimated 3 individuals for each species (except Green Parrot), I'm hoping this is a conservative count. -kg]

Chris Blane – A text from Chris: "5 Common Mergansers in the Georgian Swamp - first time I have ever seen them in many years. used to see them in Fresh Pond once in a great while in the 1970s.

No sign of Tree Swallows yet - the latest I have seen them come is March 21st so I hope to see them soon. I did see a Ruby Crowned Kinglet up at Bill Curtiss's property last Thursday. Did you see the scaup in the Georgian Swamp this morning?



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Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Calf Pasture & Georgian Swamp, Corn Neck Rd, Washington, Rhode Island, US Mar 21, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:10 AM. Protocol: Traveling, 0.75 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny & cool. Georgian Swamp/Mitchell Farm lane to Vorhees; then to Calf Pasture overlooking GSP, Andy's Way to Hippocampus, and back to Corn Neck via Najmy driveway. Participants: Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Judy Gray, Sarah Gray, Molly Fitzpatrick, Chuck McMellon, Socha Cohen, Mena Hautau, Heather Hatfield, & Kim G. 25 species: Mallard 8, American Black Duck 2, Ring-necked Duck 6, Bufflehead 8, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Horned Grebe 2, Mourning Dove 16, American Oystercatcher 3, Herring Gull 12, Great Black-backed Gull 7, Common Loon 2, Northern Harrier 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, American Crow 8, Fish Crow 12, Black-capped Chickadee 5, Carolina Wren 3, European Starling 15, American Robin 35, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 21, Red-winged Blackbird 40, Common Grackle 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Northern Cardinal 4.

Curt Milton – I made it out! Weather has been nicer and we're starting to see more spring birds. Herewith, my report: **March 21, 2023:** Temps in the upper 40s, overcast. These birds are from my morning walks to get coffee in my Seattle neighborhood (Eastlake) and also a walk at the Union Bay Natural Area near the University of Washington. American Crow: numerous, Gull: 1 ... unknown species, Song sparrow: several, House finch: 1, Chickadee: several, Canada goose: 2, Bewick's wren: 1, Anna's Hummingbirds: several, including two chicks in the nest (photo attached), American Robin: 1, Bufflehead: 3-4, Coots: numerous, Mallards: numerous And here are those adorable hummingbird chicks: Thanks! See you soon! Curt



Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, the following is my list from 3/21/23, 9am-11am at Sarasota Audubon/celery Fields.

It was a very rewarding outing, possibly the most species I've ever seen there !

One each of the following: oven bird, swamp sparrow, roseate spoonbill, black necked stilt, American Bittern, sora rail, fish crow, Eastern bluebird and double crested cormorant. Also, 7 American crows, 3 Wilson's snipes, 12 black hooded parakeets, 3 ospreys, 2 red shouldered hawks, 9 common ground doves, 14 mourning doves, 3 painted buntings (2 male), 4 red winged blackbirds, many pine warblers (approximately 16), 2 yellow rumped warblers, 8 anhingas, approximately 40 cattle and 4 great egrets, 9 brown headed cowbirds, many (> 30) purple martins, 5 GBHS, 6 tricolored and 3 little blue herons, 11 turkey vultures, 3 blue jays, 2 cardinals, 2 starlings, 26 boat tailed, and 4 common grackles, and approximately 40 white and 2 glossy ibises.

Also 3 alligators and 2 marsh rabbits. Thanks so much! Dan

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim, We saw you & Scott today on Discover New England!! Banding at Laphams, Scott at Hodge Park. Pretty cool. Good for you. Went out for a brief walk on a beautiful Spring day. Not so many birds, but just great to be out. Didn't see ravens, but they built a new nest in same area, just different tree. See them or hear them daily. Hope you had a Spring day too! Best, Darcy 🐣.

North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, US (41.553, -73.21), Mar 21, 2023, 3:28 PM. Traveling 2.32 miles, 57 minutes. All birds reported? Yes. Comments: 7 American Crow, 1 Fish Crow, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 3 European Starling, 1 Eastern Bluebird, 3 American Robin, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, 7 Song Sparrow, 3 Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Common Grackle, 2 Northern Cardinal .

Gail & Shorty Cahill – Hi Kim, Only one for us today seen by Shorty on the Lieutenant River, Old Lyme CT.

1 - Osprey in a nest. Was a beautiful spring day here, hope it was for you all too!! G&S.

Heather Hatfield – 3/21/23, 40s, sunny. Red-winged Blackbird 11, Mourning Dove 7, Downy 3, Cardinal 3, Blue Jay 1, C. Grackle 3, BC Chickadee 2, White-throat 2, Song sparrow 3, House Finch 3, A. Bittern 1, Bufflehead 4, Mallard 6, Green-winged Teal 2, A. Crow 2, Fish Crow 4, Carolina Wren 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Robin 16, N. Flicker 2, Mockingbird 1. At the pond end of Gracies: Ring-necked Duck 2, A. Wigeon 4, Mallards 10.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Hi Kim, On March 28th I was feeling the pressure to get more species for my March list so I went to the Cole River Boat Ramp on my way into work. The Town of Swansea was working on the beach with bull dozers so that kind of messed up my plans for shorebirds. But I did get late season Brant and a very wet Great Egret. Here is my list: Brant 6, Canada Goose 8, Mute Swan 45, Mallard 2, Greater Scaup 15, Lesser Scaup 9, Bufflehead 9, Common Goldeneye 5, Red-breasted Merganser 3, Mourning Dove 3, Herring Gull 12, Great Egret 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, American Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 2, European Starling 20, American Robin 2, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 4, Dark-eyed Junco 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 6, Red-winged Blackbird 4, Northern Cardinal 2. Thanks, Lauren.

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce – Hi Kim, our personal bird list, seen around the yard enduring a brief walk to the beach at the end of Cooneymus: Canada Goose 2, Bufflehead 7, Red-breasted Merganser 2 (but no mallards 😊), Herring Gull 15, Great Black-backed Gull 2, Mourning Dove 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 11, Black-capped Chickadee 4, American Robin 3, Starling 10, Song Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 5, Red-winged Blackbird 25, Common Grackle 4, House Finch 2. Thanks for a great Coots walk. Cheers, Nigel & Cathy.

Susan Matheke – Hi Kim My list includes sightings on horseback at Ball Farm and sightings from our lane off West Side Rd. with Della. 2 Killdeer!!!! (sighted by me and Amy Keeler), 5 male Pheasants, not just heard but seen), 20+ Robins, 30+ Starlings, 3 white crowned sparrows, easily seen and identified, 4 cardinals, 2 male and 2 female, 18 Canada Geese, 5 song sparrows, 1 Blue Jay. Best, Susan Matheke

Tim Mooney – If you're still compiling birds, I have an undisciplined list of recent sightings...

Cumberland, RI - Around the yard, spring is here. American Robins start singing around 5:30 am, following shortly after that by a Song Sparrow or two. Common Grackles – 7, Red-winged Blackbirds – 1, Brown-headed Cowbird – 1, Fish Crow – 1, Tufted Titmouse – 3, Carolina Wren – 1, Northern Cardinal – 2, House Finch – 2, House Sparrow – 8, Song Sparrow – 2, White-throated Sparrow – 1 (singing), Dark-eyed Junco – 1, Blue Jay – 2, American Robin – 5, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Northern Flicker – 1, Turkey Vulture – 1

Cumberland Monastery (3/22/23): Red-shouldered Hawk – 2

Palisades Mill, Peace Dale, RI (3/23/23): Osprey – 2

Fort Adams State Park, Newport (3/26/23): Common Loon – 2, Common Eider – 1, American Black Duck – 2

TNC's Lime Rock Preserve, Lincoln (3/31/23): Eastern Phoebe – 1

Tom Fetherston – 21 March 2023. Good evening Kim! My first day back in RI, glad to be counting birds here again. Nothing exotic like my last one, but a good representation of the locals. before we left for Egypt, I was seeing large mixed flocks of “blackbirds”; grackles, red-winged and cowbirds but today just grackles showed up. I also had three nuthatches on a tree at once; two white-breasted and one red-breasted so comparing coloration and size was a snap. White-breasted are noticeably larger. After seeing mallards on the Nile River, I assumed there would be some local ones greeting me today but instead was surprised by a pair of wood ducks by the dock when I walked down this morning.

Here's the list. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP. Estimates noted with an asterisk * Birds at the feeders were counted as singles unless present simultaneously or different sexes. Canada goose (6) WP, American crow (3), White-throated sparrow (2), Slate-colored junco (4), Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay (5), Hairy woodpecker (2), Red-bellied woodpecker, Herring gull (60*) WP, Mourning dove (4), White-breasted nuthatch (2), Red-breasted nuthatch, Wood duck (2) WP, Black capped chickadee, Greater scaup (6) WP, Bufflehead (WP), Common grackle (8), Turkey vulture (4), Great blue heron (WP), Belted kingfisher (WP). Cheers, Fether.