

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

June 20, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Another fine day of bird observations far & wide. Almost exclusively these observations represent species breeding in the area of their observations. The exception is Black-bellied Plover, which breeds on the tundra. Sightings in June would be late migrants – or more likely – non-breeding individuals not seeking protected breeding grounds.

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

(28 species)

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Double-crested Cormorant – 15

Great Egret – 4

Black-crowned Night Heron – 1

Glossy Ibis – 1

Osprey – 2

American Oystercatcher – 1

Black-bellied Plover – 3

Willet – 7

Herring Gull – 6

Great Black-backed Gull – 30

Common Tern – 2

Mourning Dove – 4

Eastern Kingbird – 1

Blue Jay – 2

American Crow – 2

Bank Swallow – 20

Barn Swallow – 3

Black-capped Chickadee – 2

Gray Catbird – 3

Common Yellowthroat – 4

Yellow Warbler – 2

Eastern Towhee – 2

Song Sparrow – 8

Northern Cardinal – 3

Red-winged Blackbird – 11

House Finch – 2
American Goldfinch – 1

From Afar: Narragansett & South Kingston, RI; Fall River, MA; Southport, ME;
(69 species)

Canada Goose – 6
Mute Swan – 1
Mallard – 1
Double-crested cormorants – 8
Great Blue Heron – 3
Great Egret – 4
Snowy Egret – 3
Osprey – 11
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Willet – 3
Herring Gull – 17
Great Black-backed Gull – 11
Mourning Dove – 15
Chimney Swift – 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 2
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 5
Hairy Woodpecker – 4
Northern Flicker – 2
Pileated Woodpeckers – 5
Eastern Wood-pewee – 3
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Great-crested Flycatcher – 3
White-eyed Vireo – 1
Red-eyed Vireo – 6
Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 14
Common Raven – 1
Tree Swallow – 7
Barn Swallow – 4
Black-capped Chickadee – 11
Tufted Titmouse – 7
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 3
White-breasted Nuthatch – 5
Brown Creeper – 1
House Wren – 1
Carolina Wren – 5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
Eastern Bluebird – 6
Veery – 7
Hermit Thrush – 4
Wood Thrush – 1
American Robin – 60

Gray Catbird – 23
Northern Mockingbird – 2
European Starling – 15
Cedar Waxwing – 10
Ovenbird – 12
Northern Waterthrush – 4
Black-and-white Warbler – 1
Common Yellowthroat – 9
American Redstart – 1
Yellow Warbler – 7
Pine Warbler – 7
Black-throated Green Warbler – 4
Eastern Towhee – 5
Chipping Sparrow – 4
Song Sparrow – 22
Dark-eyed Junco – 1
Scarlet Tanager – 5
Northern Cardinal – 9
Red-winged Blackbird – 25
Common Grackle – 49
Brown-headed Cowbird – 7
Baltimore Oriole – 1
House Finch - 8
American Goldfinch – 12
House Sparrow – 18

Barby Michel & Lily & Grace Breunig – Hi Kim, we were on a little island off Southport Maine this week and saw and heard some interesting birds. Our cottage was right on the water with two osprey nests yards away. We heard their calls continuously! There was another nest on the swing bridge leading to Southport. The girls loved watching the osprey fly to the nest even when the bridge was moving. All the nests had chicks. Here are just some of the birds we observed hiking and from our cottage: 4 pileated woodpeckers - they were beautiful, 2 downy woodpeckers, 6-8 ospreys, 2 great blue herons, [10] herring gulls, [10] black-backed gulls, 2 black-throated green warblers, 1 dark eyed junco, 4 common yellow throats, [5] robins, [5] crows, [5] catbirds. - Barby, Lily, and Grace. [When no numbers were provided my conservative estimate.-kg]

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hello Kim, here is our bird list for yesterday in our backyard, mostly the "usual suspects": Red-winged blackbird: 5, Cardinal: 3, Blue Jay: 2, Black-capped chickadee: 2, Goldfinch: 1 (male), Catbird: 3, Eastern Towhee: 1 (male), American Crow: 1. Thanks for a great Coot-Walk! Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – West Beach south, Washington, Rhode Island, US

Jun 20, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Sunny, 60-63F, NE. Participants: Brooke, Anna Perenna, Cassander & Aurelian Santamaria, Cindy Davis, Donna & Shannon Groskoph, Will Young, Gail & Shorty Cahill, Karen Drena, Mary Lutz, Mike Faccioli, Nancy, Michael, Megan Kern, Ben Ralston-Daniel, Lorraine Nelson-Wolf, Godfrey Nelson, Barbara MacMullan, Judy Gray, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Cathy Joyce and Nigel Grindley, Heather Hatfield, John Formica, & Kim G.

26 species: Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Mourning Dove 4, American Oystercatcher 1, Black-bellied Plover 3, Willet 7, Herring Gull 6, Great Black-backed Gull 30, Common Tern 2, Double-crested Cormorant 15, Great Egret 4, Black-crowned Night-Heron 1, Glossy Ibis 1, Osprey 2, Eastern Kingbird 1, American Crow 1, Bank Swallow 20, Barn Swallow 3, European Starling 1, American Robin 2, Cedar Waxwing 3, House Finch 2, Song Sparrow 8, Eastern Towhee 1, Red-winged Blackbird 6, Common Yellowthroat 4, Yellow Warbler 2

Lauren Miller-Donnley – Oh my gosh Kim, will you take Monday's list!?!?

The Fall River Forest is just down the road from me and it is just so super special. They call it the "Bioreserve" and it's thousands of undeveloped acres, just amazing. Canada Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers, WINTER WRENS! *of course* I didn't get any of those species this day, but I did get some warblers that breed in the forest like black-throated green and black and white.

6/19 Fall River Forest: Mourning Dove 3, Chimney Swift 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 2, Eastern Wood-Pewee 3, Eastern Phoebe 2, Great Crested Flycatcher 2, White-eyed Vireo 1, Red-eyed Vireo 6, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 8, Tufted Titmouse 5, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Brown Creeper 1, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2, Carolina Wren 3, Gray Catbird 5, Veery 7, Hermit Thrush 4, Wood Thrush 1, American Robin 2, Cedar Waxwing 4, American Goldfinch 2, Chipping Sparrow 3, Eastern Towhee 5, Brown-headed Cowbird 2, Common Grackle 8, Ovenbird 12, Northern Waterthrush 4, Black-and-white Warbler 1, Common Yellowthroat 5, American Redstart 1, Yellow Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 6, Black-throated Green Warbler 2, Scarlet Tanager 5, Northern Cardinal 2

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim – On June 20, we were renting a house on Great Island, in the town of Narragansett, Rhode Island. As you know, it's mostly residential, with a mix of small and large (and getting larger) homes on relatively small lots. But there are a few brushy, swampy lots mixed in and there's some small areas of salt marsh and coastal pond edge. I took a leisurely, 2-mile walk around the central and southern parts of the island (on the road), about mid-morning. I knew there were a lot of robins around, but I never had a reason to count them before! I should have counted the eastern cottontails, just to see if there were more robins or rabbits. It would have been close! Perhaps the most interesting sight was of 3 Willets perched on the roof of house... I don't think I'd seen that before, but they looked big up there. Here's my list, in order of abundance: American Robin – 50, Common Grackle – 29, Red-winged Blackbird – 21, Song Sparrow – 21, House Sparrow – 18, European Starling – 14, Gray Catbird – 11, Mourning Dove – 9, American Goldfinch – 8, Double-crested Cormorant – 7, Herring Gull – 7, Cedar Waxwing – 6, House Finch – 6, Yellow Warbler – 5, Northern Cardinal – 5, Brown-headed Cowbird – 5, Great Egret – 4, Snowy Egret – 3, Willet – 3, Osprey – 3, Tree Swallow – 3, Blue Jay – 2, Northern Mockingbird – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 2, Barn Swallow – 2, American Crow – 2, House Wren – 1, Carolina Wren – 1, Chipping Sparrow – 1, Great Blue Heron – 1, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Great Black-backed Gull – 1, Belted Kingfisher – 1

Tom Fetherston – 20 June 2023. Good evening Kim - A fun day with another new species for me. I've been running the Merlin "Sound ID" app most mornings while I have my coffee on the side porch, watching what comes up. There are the common birds (tufted titmouse, common grackle, Northern cardinal, American redstart etc.) but also some that I only identified visually this year that consistently show up: warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo, Eastern wood pewee, Northern water thrush, Northern parula, great crested flycatcher, and one I hadn't seen, a pine warbler. This morning I went down to the pond early to check out what might be out there. It was quiet, not much moving when a flash of yellow caught my eye on the left. There, 20' away in a low hanging branch was a pine warbler. Eureka!!

I was hoping for another sighting of the Northern water thrush or the great crested flycatcher for today's list. I tried the playback calls that worked on the water thrush last week, but it didn't want to oblige. Tried the same for the flycatcher, which Merlin had detected this morning but nothing doing. I was sitting with Maggie & Mary having cocktails on the side porch before dinner when I thought I saw what might be the great crested flycatcher flitting through the trees in our back woodlot. I played the recorded call and in it came, landing on a branch nearby. Huzzah! I declared it a win and secured for the night 😊

This week's observations:

- I received a "Bird Buddy" camera feeder for Father's Day. It took a while for the birds to discover it but once they did there have been endless pictures. First came the titmice, then chickadees followed by bluebirds, catbirds, hairy woodpeckers and unfortunately the squirrels eventually found it. The feeder is on the side of our house, not sure how they get to it, but I'll have to find a way to stop them.

- Although Merlin classifies bluebirds as “uncommon” here, they haven’t sat in our yard. It’s rare NOT to have bluebirds at the feeders, in the birdbaths or hanging out in the trees. If the mealworm feeder is empty and I go fill it, before I’ve walked 10’ away bluebirds are swarming it. There are two adults and four juveniles that are becoming bluer by the day. The adults keep going to the house, so I assume there is another brood coming along. The juveniles are now very adept at using the cage feeder, and also frequent the Bird Buddy. Photo is from that.
- In addition to the nuthatch brood I mentioned last time there are three young robins following adults through the lawn hunting insects & worms. The adults will still feed them occasionally, but the kids seem to be doing well on their own.

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 (6) WP, American crow (5), Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (2), Blue jay, Hairy woodpecker (2), Mourning dove (3), White-breasted nuthatch (4), Black capped chickadee, Mallard (WP), Osprey (WP), Tree swallow (4) WP, Barn swallow (2) WP, Common grackle (12*) WP & yard, Red-winged blackbird (4) WP & yard, American robin (3), Ruby-throated hummingbird (2), Eastern bluebird (6), Carolina wren, Baltimore oriole, Gray catbird (2), American goldfinch (2), Song sparrow, House finch (2), Mute swan (WP), Double crested cormorant (WP)

Common raven, European starling, Eastern phoebe, Pine warbler ☺, Great crested flycatcher. Cheers, Fether.

JUVENILE BLUEBIRDS AT THE FEEDER

