

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

May 2, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Enjoy reviewing this compilation from May 2, 2023 – clearly reflecting spring migration movements.

It is fun to review the Scottish report from Elspeth & Molly. I love their unique approach to bird watching – web cams. Speaking of which, check out the Block Island Osprey web cam at <http://198.7.226.69:8023/#view> If this link doesn't work, you can get to it via the "Osprey" tab at www.Natureblockisland.org

In my admittedly inconsistent effort to focus more-or-less on the specified day of the walks, I have not included Tim Mooney's April 27 or May 5 observations in the From Afar list, but please check them out below – he had some fun migration-related sightings.

And finally, during the Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walk there were high expectations for spring migrants. Although *A Good Time Was Had By All*, the quote of the day by a participant was the good cheer exclamation - "No F***ing Warblers!!" 😊

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

(42 species)

Canada Goose – 14

Duck hybrid/Mottled – 5

Mallard – 2

Black Scoter – 200+

Red-breasted Merganser – 2

Ring-necked Pheasant – 3

Common Loon – 4

Northern Gannett – 1

Double-crested Cormorant – 6

Great Egret – 1

Osprey – 5

Northern Harrier – 3

Ring-billed Gull – 2

Herring Gull – 8

Great Black-backed Gull – 12

Mourning Dove – 18

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 15
Tree Swallow – 3
Bank Swallow – 1
Barn Swallow – 12
Black-capped Chickadee – 6
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 6
Carolina Wren – 15
Veery – 1
American Robin – 19
Brown Thrasher – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 2
European Starling – 18
Eastern Towhee – 20
Song Sparrow – 5
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Scarlet Tanager – 2
Northern Cardinal – 20
Red-winged Blackbird – 116
Common Grackle – 20
Brown-headed Cowbird – 4
Baltimore Oriole – 1
House Finch – 11
American Goldfinch – 17
House Sparrow – 1

From Afar: South Kingston, Jamestown, Newport, Cumberland, RI; Seattle, WA; Edinburgh+, Scotland.
(68 species)

Canada Goose – 4
Mute Swan – 2
Gadwall – 2
American Black Duck – 2
Mallard – 7
Common Eider – 2
Wild Turkey – 3
Northern Gannet – 100+
Double-crested Cormorant – 17
Great Blue Heron – 1
Great Egret – 2
Snowy Egret – 2
Glossy Ibis – 26
Osprey – 9
Bald Eagle – 2
Cooper's Hawk – 2
American Coot – 5
American Oystercatcher – 4
Willet – 1
Razorbill – 10+
Atlantic Puffin – 10+

Herring Gull – 68+
Great Black-backed Gull – 1
Mourning Dove – 6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1
Anna's Hummingbird – 5
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 5
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Northern Flicker – 1
Peregrine Falcon – 1
Blue Jay – 5
Eastern Kingbird – 1
American Crow – 18
Tree Swallow – 2
Northern Rough-wing Swallow – 1
Barn Swallow – 5
Bushtit – 3
Black-capped Chickadee – 10
Tufted Titmouse – 8
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Bewick's Wren – 1
House Wren – 10
Carolina Wren – 4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 2
Veery – 1
Hermit Thrush – 1
American Robin – 27
Gray Catbird – 10
Northern Mockingbird – 3
European Starling – 25
Black-and-white Warbler – 2
Wilson's Warbler – 1
Northern Parula – 1
Yellow Warbler – 5
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1
Eastern Towhee – 2
Spotted Towhee – 2
Chipping Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 14
White-throated Sparrow – 10
Northern Cardinal – 5
Red-winged Blackbird – 17
Common Grackle – 15
Brown-headed Cowbird – 10
Baltimore Oriole – 1
House Finch – 4
American Goldfinch – 9
House Sparrow – 10

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Hi Kim. Here is our bird list for today - all seen in and around our yard and feeders except for the ospreys. Osprey 3 (2 were on the Ruddle nest, the other flew very close to us towards that nest), Northern Harrier 2 (Both seen together - one came very close to catching a bird at our feeder!), Mourning Dove 3, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 3, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, American Robin 3, Eastern Towhee 1, Song Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 2, Northern Cardinal 8 (6m, 2f), Red-winged Blackbird 12, Baltimore Oriole (m) - landed on our window screen and demanded top billing on the list!! House Finch 4, Goldfinch 7. Many thanks for a fun walk, Cathy & Nigel.

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Dorry's Cove Road & yards, Washington, Rhode Island, US. May 2, 2023 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cloudy, light SW, 50F. Walk included Dorries Cove Rd., V. Ryan yard & property, including pond/tug hole. Participants: Cathy Joyce, Nigel Grindley, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Socha Cohen, Judy Gray, John Formica, Shorty Cahill, Faye Benedict, Laura Rosenzweig, Will Young, Dianne King, Debbie Martin, Chuck McMellon, Heather Hatfield, and Kim G. 31 species: Canada Goose 14, Mallard 2, Red-breasted Merganser 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 3, Ring-billed Gull 2, Herring Gull 8, Great Black-backed Gull 12, Common Loon 4, Northern Gannet 1, Double-crested Cormorant 6, Osprey 2, Northern Harrier 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 8, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Tree Swallow 3, Bank Swallow 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 2, European Starling 3, American Robin 6, House Sparrow 1, House Finch 3, American Goldfinch 8, Song Sparrow 3, Eastern Towhee 8, Red-winged Blackbird 100, Brown-headed Cowbird 2, Common Grackle 20, Northern Cardinal 3. [And, Amy K reminded me that we forgot to add 15 Mourning Dove -kg]

Curt Milton – It's a beautiful day for a bird walk here in Seattle today! My observations come from two walks: a short one in my neighborhood of Eastlake to get coffee and then a longer one at the Union Bay Natural Area on Lake Washington. Skies are clear and temps are in the low 60s. European starlings: 6, Anna's hummingbird: several, including one or two in a nest, American Crow: numerous, Canada Goose: 2, American Goldfinch: 1, Wilson's Warbler: 1, Bushtit: 3, Spotted Towhee: 2, Bald Eagle: 1, Gadwall: 2, Song Sparrow: numerous, Bewick's Wren: 1, Red-winged Blackbird: 2, American Coots: several. That's it. See you soon and thanks for compiling the list! Curt.

Elsbeth Crawford & Molly Fitzpatrick – Edinburg+, Scotland. Molly and I saw two eider duck - in separate places either side on North Berwick Harbour. The sea was choppy. On webcam at the Scottish Seabird Centre we saw an uncountable number of gannets on the Bass Rock, the world's largest gannet colony. Sadly we heard it has been hit by bird flu <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-61829551> On the webcam on Craighleith Island we saw puffins, herring gulls, and razorbills. The Seabird Centre Experience was well worth the visit. Elspeth.

Heather Hatfield – 5/2/2023 Clay Head evening 6 – 7:30. Scarlet Tanager 2 (FOY), Veery 1, A. Robin 10, Towhee 8, Carolina Wren 12, Cardinal 5, A. Goldfinch 2, Chickadee 2, Song Sparrow 1.

Kim Gaffett – Gracies Cove pond hybrid ducks 5, Great Egret 1,

Laura Rosenzweig – Lewis Farm & environs, Block Island – Flock of starlings just flew over farmhouse [15]. And a couple of flickers hanging about (white/black tail, grey plumage?) [Assuming N. Mockingbird not flickers. -kg] No swallows since this morning but there were dozens flitting about earlier this week. Also noticed there is no osprey pole here, it's just a regular pole. Would be a good location for ospreys me thinks. Hope your little hen can sleep soundly tonight! [All is well with the hen, Little Red. After a run-in with a neighbor dog she is now a bob-tail. None the worse for wear, and the tail feathers will grow back.-kg]

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – On May 2nd I stopped by two birding hot spots: Miantanomi Park, Newport first thing: NO MIGRANTS YET.... Mourning Dove 2, Herring Gull 2, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker 1, Eastern Kingbird 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, House Wren

7, Carolina Wren 2, European Starling 18, Gray Catbird 5, Hermit Thrush 1, American Robin 18, House Sparrow 3, American Goldfinch 4, Chipping Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 1

Then I popped into the Conanicut Island Sanctuary, Jamestown: SOME MIGRANTS! Mallard 4, American Black Duck 2, Mourning Dove 1, American Oystercatcher 4, Willet 1, Herring Gull 6, Double-crested Cormorant 3, Great Egret 2, Snowy Egret 2, Glossy Ibis 26, Osprey 5, Downy Woodpecker 1, Peregrine Falcon 1, Blue Jay 1, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 2, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1, Barn Swallow 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, House Wren 3, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 5, Northern Mockingbird 1, Veery 1, American Robin 4, American Goldfinch 3, White-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 2, Baltimore Oriole 1, Red-winged Blackbird 7, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, Black-and-white Warbler 2, Northern Parula 1, Yellow Warbler 5, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Northern Cardinal 2

Sheila Fuller – I'm seeing a large group of birds or ducks in the water. We are at the Casper House on the east side near Monica's. You visit here sometimes with Holly. Curious what kind of birds these are. Sheila Fuller & Clarence Casper. [After review and observations KG confirmed 200+ Black Scoter. -kg]

Tim Mooney – On May 2, I was working from home all day, so nothing fancy. 😊 We have a mockingbird pair nesting in a boxwood in the front yard. No eggs as of Sunday, 5/7. American Crow – 3, Blue Jay – 2, Common Grackle – 3, European Starling – 1, Northern Cardinal – 1, House Finch – 2, Song Sparrow – 1, White-throated Sparrow – 1, Tufted Titmouse – 1, House Sparrow – 7, Northern Mockingbird – 2, American Robin – 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Mourning Dove – 2

Other recent migrant sightings....

4/27, Moshassuck River Preserve, Lincoln: Louisiana Waterthrush – 1 (based on song and perched above a rushing stream)

5/5, Monastery Grounds, Cumberland: 5 Chimney Swifts, 1 Gray Catbird, 6 Yellow Warblers, 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 2 Wood Ducks (in flight).

5/5, Moshassuck River Preserve, Lincoln: 2 Ovenbirds, 2 Wood Thrushes, 3 Yellow Warblers, 6 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 1 Wood Duck (heard in a shrubby swamp). I was hoping that Wood Duck mama would cruise out into the open with her ducklings, but no luck!

Tom Fetherston – Good morning Kim - As always, some new sightings 😊 3 May 2023

Similar to the last list, dinner preparations preempted final compilation yesterday, but it's a beautiful, quiet morning, both dogs and the cat snoozing in my office, perfect for finishing up the report.

With showers and some gusty wind, I skipped going out on Wordens Pond first thing and instead headed to Meadow Brook Pond and then Meadow Brook in the Carolina Management Area trout fishing. I returned around 0930, then watched the yard and walked to the dock several times the remainder of the day. Periods of rain and high winds likely kept a lot of birds in cover on and off but there was still a fair amount of activity. This week's observations:

You noted that migration is underway, and it was certainly the case here. The hummingbirds arrived in the yard Monday; glad I had a feeder out. While sitting on the side porch having lunch that afternoon, I noted what looked like warblers "bugging" high in the trees. Very hard to catch them in the open long enough to identify, but one obligingly landed on a branch close by, and I could see it was a male yellow-rumped warbler! There had been one at my feeders two winters ago, but I'd never seen one in breeding plumage. Just a few minutes later another warbler flitted into the clear, possibly chased by the male bluebird nesting here who thinks he owns the place. That bird was gray-blue on the back with some yellow underneath and a russet "bib". Had to go to Peterson's to ID him as a male Northern Parula. A new "lifer" for me 😊 Unfortunately neither of them showed up yesterday so won't be on my official list.

I put out some mealworms in a feeder near the bluebird nest and they love them. The male will grab a few in his bill and fly to the house. The female pulls the mealworms out of the feeder, drops them on the ground then flutters down to pick them up. An interesting difference in feeding behavior.

During the heavy north winds over the weekend, Wordens Pond was full of whitecaps with surf along the shore. A pair of ospreys were in the trees by the dock. I wondered how they could hang on, never mind see anything in the murky water. Suddenly one dropped close to shore and returned with a pickerel! I kept an eye on them and each bird caught at least two. I'm guessing the pickerel were disoriented from being tossed around and probably pushed into the shallows where they became visible to the ospreys. Clever birds using the weather conditions to their advantage!

Here's the list. Birds seen on or around Worden's Pond are annotated with WP, birds observed around Meadow Brook Pond or Meadow Brook are (MB). 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) WP, American crow (3) WP, White-throated sparrow (2), Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (2), Blue jay, Hairy woodpecker (2), Downy woodpecker, Herring gull (50*) WP, Mourning dove (2), White-breasted nuthatch, Black capped chickadee (Yard & MB), Mallard (3) MB, Mute swan (2), Osprey (4) WP & MB, Tree swallow (2) WP, Barn swallow (3) WP, Common grackle (12*), Brown headed cowbird (5), Red-winged blackbird (8) Yard & MB, Eastern bluebird (2), American robin, Song sparrow, Chipping sparrow, House finch (2), Wild turkey (3), American goldfinch, Great blue heron (WP), Bald eagle (MB), Double-crested cormorant (14) WP, Ruby-throated hummingbird, Cooper's hawk. Cheers, Fether.

Viki Butlevska – I have a list from Tuesday: brown trasher, 5 Goldfinch, 2 cowbird, 3 towhee, 2 Bluejays, 4 cardinals, 4 Redwing blackbird, 3 red breast nut hatch, 1 white throat sparrow, 2 chickadee, 4 house finch, 4 am. Crow, 1 Carolina wren.