

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: May 5, 2020 (mostly)

A few notes on the lists:

~ Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).

~ We are strongly in the spring migratory season, and nearly everyone noted species that are either migrating through their respective areas, or have migrated to the area for summer breeding – see **bolded** species in each report at the end of the lists.

~ [Things in brackets are notes by me = kg]

Block Island

Canada Geese – 32+

Mallard – 14

Ring-necked Pheasant – 6

Northern Gannet – 30

Double-crested Cormorant – 2

Great Egret – 2

Snowy Egret – 7

Glossy Ibis – 3

Turkey Vulture – 1 [I think everyone's 1 TV is likely one individual, not multiple.]

Osprey – 3

Northern Harrier – 3

American Oystercatcher – 2

Black-bellied Plover – 8

Sanderling – 10

Dunlin – 7

Herring Gull – 12

Great Black-backed Gull – 3

Gull species – 70

Rock Pigeon –

Mourning Dove – 13

Downy Woodpecker – 4

Woodpecker species – loud – 1
Merlin – 1
Eastern Kingbird – 2
Blue-headed Vireo – 1
Blue Jay – 11
American Crow – 37
Fish Crow – 4
Tree Swallow – 28
Bank Swallow – 11
Barn Swallow – 11
Black-capped Chickadee – 6
Carolina Wren – 10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 2
American Robin – 80
Gray Catbird – 11
Brown Thrasher – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 9
Cedar Waxwing – 1
Black-and-white Warbler – 1
Yellow Warbler – 5
Black-throated Blue Warbler – 1
Myrtle Warbler – 16 (a.k.a. Yellow-rumped)
Rufous-sided Towhee – 14
Chipping Sparrow – 3
Song Sparrow – 14
White-throated Sparrow – 1
Sparrow species – 1 [LBJ/little brown job]
Northern Cardinal – 29
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 3

Bobolink – 1

Red-winged Blackbird – 67

Common Grackle – 23

Brown-headed Cowbird – 22

Baltimore Oriole – 3

House Finch - 12

American Goldfinch - 73

House Sparrow – 27, eggs – 5

From Afar Narragansett, RI; Portland, CT; Cambridge, MA; Great Gull Island, New York; Delray Beach, FL; near St. Croix River, WI; Eugene and Roseburg, OR; Seattle WA; Sedbergh, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Norway.

*=European species. When I was sure that the species are the same in both the Old and New World (ex. Mute Swan) I did not distinguish as *European. However, when the bird seems to be the same, I assumed the species might be different based on location and therefore indicated that it was the European species: for instance Coot and Moorhen. And, in Europe there are several types of crows (Hooded Crow, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw and Rook) – but not American Crow as we in the U.S. know it. Happy to be corrected and enlightened further.

Canada Goose – 26

Mute Swan – 2

Wood Duck – 6

Mallard – 30

Hooded Merganser – 7

*Goosander – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2

Great Blue Heron – 20+

Turkey Vulture – 6

Red-tailed Hawk – 1

*Coot – 1

*Moorhen – 5

Gull species – 8

Terns, mixed species – 27,000

Rock Dove, a.k.a. Pigeon – 3

Mourning Dove – 14+

*Tawny Owl / Kattugle / Cat owl – 1

Barred Owl - 1

Chimney Swift – 10+

Anna's Hummingbird – 2

Belted Kingfisher – 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1+

Downy Woodpecker – 6

Acorn Woodpecker – 2

Woodpecker species – 1

Northern Flicker – 1

Great-crested Flycatcher – 2

Eastern Kingbird - 2

*Wagtail (Linerle) – 2

Blue Jay – 5

Stellar's Jay – 5

Western Scrub-jay – 2

*Crow species – 2

American Crow – 21

Common Raven – 2

Purple Martin – 2

Tree Swallow – 10+

Barn Swallow – 32

Black-capped Chickadee – 10

Tufted Titmouse – 3

Bush Tit – 2

White-breasted Nuthatch – 1

House Wren – 4

Carolina Wren – 3

Eastern Bluebird – 2
Wood Thrush – 2
American Robin – 9
*Song Thrush – 1
Gray Catbird – 25+
Northern Mockingbird – 5
European Starling – 12
Cedar Waxwing – 6
*Blackcap Warbler – 1
Blue-winged Warbler – 1
American Redstart – 3
Yellow Warbler – 8
Wilson’s Warbler – 1
Spotted Towhee – 1
Field Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 16
White-crowned Sparrow – 5
Sparrow species – 1 [LBJ/little brown job]
Oregon Junco – 1
Northern Cardinal – 4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 2
Black-headed Grosbeak – 2
Eastern Meadowlark – 6
Common Grackle – 4
Boat-tailed Grackle – 8
Orchard Oriole – 1
Baltimore Oriole – 2
House Finch – 5
American Goldfinch – 4
House Sparrow – 2

Amy Keeler: All day birdwatching Mitchell La, Center Rd., and Lakeside. A lot of action today !! 1 Pheasant, 2 Yellow Warbler, 1 Eastern Kingbird, 28 Tree Swallows, 13 Robins, 7 Grackles, 13 R W Blackbirds, 1 Great White Heron [Great Egret], 4 Carolina wren, 2 Blue Jays, 2 Cardinals, 8 Starlings, 2 Song Sparrows, 12 House Sparrows, 2 House Finch, 8 Gold Finch, 1 Osprey (fishing at Seneca Swamp), 65 Herring and Black Back Gulls (Fresh Pond), 2 Fish Crow, **1 Black-and-White Warbler**, 2 Chickadee, 7 Mallard Duck(hanging around chicken coop), 5 American Crow, 8 Cowbird, 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Turkey Vulture, 2 Catbird, 3 Mourning Dove, 17 Canada Geese, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Towhee, 2 Yellow Rump Warbler.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley: Our bird report for today, observed around our yard [off Cooneymus Rd. & near Wardens' Pond] plus a brief walk down Cooneymus to the swamp. Canada Geese - 2 family groups (i) 2 adults plus 6-8 goslings (ii) 3 adults with 1 gosling, Double-crested Cormorant – 2, Turkey Vulture – 1, Great Black-backed Gull – 2, Mourning Dove – 1, Blue Jay – 2, American Crow – 11, Bank Swallow – 1, Barn Swallow – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 2, Carolina Wren - 2 (seen), American Robin – 8, Gray Catbird – 1, European Starling – 1, Eastern Towhee – 1, Song Sparrow – 10, Northern Cardinal – 3, **BOBOLINK – 1**, Red-winged Blackbird – 35, Common Grackle – 7, Brown-headed Cowbird – 3, House Finch – 3, American Goldfinch – 7, House Sparrow – 2.

As an aside, yesterday we saw a Black & White Warbler, a Yellow Warbler and an American Kestrel (plus several Myrts and Tree Swallows in full breeding splendor) mostly around the Hodge Preserve. We hope you had some great banding - can't wait to hear what you got!

Chris Littlefield, May 7: Saw [Northern] **Gannets** of the southeast this am. Not a ton, maybe 30, but definitely looked like they were working a baitball. Also, heard a weird croaking call here at the farm a little while ago, I have heard it a few times before. I think it is a bird but I have no idea which one.

Curt Milton, Seattle WA. Good afternoon! Here is my first batch of birds for today. Thinking I'll take a walk after lunch and look for the Stellar's Jay I saw the other day near Lake Union. Weather: It's a beautiful day, clear and sunny with just a bit of wind. Temperatures are in the low 60s right now and expected to hit upper 60s by the end of the afternoon. And here are the birds! Rock pigeons: 3, Robin ... numerous, Crow ... numerous, Junco: 1, **Anna's Hummingbird: 2**, House finch: 3, House sparrow: 2 ... male and female, Gull: ... numerous, Bushtit and also a nest, Starling:2, Song sparrow ... numerous, Barn swallow: 2, White-crowned sparrow: 3, Possible American goldfinch male. I'd love to be sure on that goldfinch. It was in the park where I photographed the female on Sunday so ... I may swing back there. I can hear tons of birds in the trees but ... who put all those leaves in my way? 😊 That's it for now! [Numerous = 5, kg]

And a few more from the afternoon's perambulation: Steller's Jay's: 2, 7 adult Canada geese and 7 goslings, Mallard, Wilson's warbler. Is it cocktail hour yet? 🍷😊 https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Annas_Hummingbird

Debbie Martin, my driveway off Graces Cove Road, 3:00 to 7:00p.m.: **6 towhees**, 3 cardinals , 2 pheasants.

Ellen Davis, Delray, FL - Well, it's become very evident that either the shore birds have flown north or they are self quarantining. The beach, closed to the public, was clear of any birds. Not even a gull was in sight. I did spy several turtle nesting areas that have been marked off so as not to be disturbed. I hear that there are more nests this year than in the recent past. Perhaps it's because of the lack of activity on the beaches? As my bird list is small, I've included some other natural observations. Hope everyone's doing well. This is always a lot of fun. Birds 5/5/20: Crow- 4, **Purple Martin - 2** (I thought they were swallows of some kind but when I looked them up, I think they are martins. Thoughts?), Common Grackle – 4, Mockingbird – many [5], Sparrow -1, Boat tailed grackle (male and female) – 8, Cardinal male 1, Mourning dove 4, Turtle nests – 3, Magnolia and camellia (so fragrant!) in bloom.

Elliot Taubman: "Crazy Response. Breezy Point: Instead of the usual birds, marsh hawks and herring gulls, had Some infrequent guests, 1 male cardinal, 2 female cardinals, Unusual sparrow possibly seaside sparrow, **3 Goldfinches**. Fast bird small that went by so fast could not see maybe junk. Male ring-necked pheasant. Hopefully we can do group soon.

[Elsbeth Crawford](#), Edinburgh, Scotland - This morning [5/8] I took my daily exercise by cycling to Blackford Pond - about 15 minutes south of where I live, by bike mostly downhill, and I do not go often as the return is of course mostly uphill. However, this morning after I parked the bicycle and walked all the way round the pond I thought of you, and wished I had a better camera. First off - a **Coot**, then a [Mute?] swan couple, one on the nest in the island in the middle that I could see clearly but does not show on photos, the other swimming lazily around. Lots [7] of mallards and a few [3] gulls, and several [5] moorhens. I think a couple of those were young, as they seemed much smaller and fluffier than the one that was by the pond edge, but were way out in the middle beyond the camera capability. Eyes are better - you know you taught me ways to look. Happy birding to all coots.

[Erica Anderson](#), Eugene, OR - One of the song sparrows was feeding it's fledge who had the cutest short tail and most annoying buzzy whine for more food as the flitted through the underbrush. The tree swallows are flying great circles around the fields and each other. The bushtit is still feeding its chicks in its nest. The turkey vultures roost in some trees at one end of our road and in the woods on the other side. The geese swimming across the river in a line, probably headed to the neighbor who feeds them and the flicker is drumming on my metal chimney, the vent covers on the house and today the plastic skylight on the porch. He must be getting desperate. My list: Stellar Jay 5+, Song Sparrow 5+, Tree Swallow 5+, **Black-Headed grosbeak 2**, Bushtit 1, Black capped Chickadee 5, Turkey Vulture 3, Goldfinch - male 3, Canada Geese 2 adult, 7 goslings, Belted Kingfisher 1, Northern Flicker Male 1.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-headed_Grosbeak/overview

[Faye Benedict](#): From my bird walk at Lone today - on the veranda! Dug out my good camera (but without a long enough lens) to try to get you a usable pic of the **Linerle** (wagtail) who kept me company at sundown. I suspect they are nesting in my old wall. Very common migrants that came back a week or so ago, they are super sweet, friendly birds that flit around catching flies. Also: 1 song thrush looking for worms, 1 cat owl (kattugle) [Tawny Owl] in the forest, 2 crows courting. This list is neither diligent nor complete, just a sampling of some of the birds I am able to identify with any certainty. You must be getting tons of birds on BI now. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZldF_L7chw

[Gail & Shorty Cahill](#): Monday May 4th I know not the bird walk day but saw an Oyster Catcher down at the North Light on the beach right before the parking area. Just fun to see! Tuesday May 5th A mixed day of chores didn't do an actual walk. [Chore-birding] 2 crows (large) in a nest in one of the trees on the dump road just up from the entry to the transfer station. Home: **1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, 20 Goldfinch, 1 Osprey, 5 House Sparrow eggs in a nest on the ground next to a little Maple tree that is fenced in, 1 House Sparrow, 6 Cowbirds, 1 Catbird, 6 Robins, 1 Cardinal. Bike Ride from home to Airport and back: 2 Robins, 5 Gulls, 3 Red-winged Black Birds, 1 Blue Jay.

[Heather Hatfield](#): ~ My house, Old Town Rd.- 2 Blue Jays, 11 Cardinals, 6 Common Grackle, 7 RW Blackbird, 9 Goldfinch, 7 House Finch, 2 Rose breasted Grosbeak, 9 House Sparrow, 3 Baltimore Oriole, 1 Towhee, 2 Mallards, 1 White throated sparrow, 3 BC Chickadee. ~ Dunn's Cartway- 10 Robin, 7 Goldfinch, 2 song Sparrow, 2 Crows, 1 C Grackle, 3 are Blackbird, 1 Brown Thrasher, 4 Mourning Doves, 3 BC Chickadee, 1 Harrier, 1 Downy woodpecker, 1 Towhee, 1 Yellow Warbler. ~ West Side Rd. - 1 Cedar Waxwing. ~ Maze- 1 Turkey Vulture, **1 Blue headed vireo**, 2 Blue gray Gnatcatchers, 2 Cardinal, 1 Black-throated Blue warbler, 4 BC Chickadee, 13 Myrtle Warblers, 2 Yellow Warblers, 1 Carolina Wren. A great day.

[Helen Hays](#), NYC & Great Gull Island: "The **Terns** are back! On Wednesday, May 6th Captain Main and his son estimated that 27,000 terns were feeding near Great Gull Island." http://www.greatgullisland.org/Main_Page.html

[Judy Gray](#): Bird sightings for our virtual *Crazy as a Coot* walk, May 5, 2020. I live at the very end of Sands Pond Road, on "the plains." 5/4/2020 @6pm, **1 osprey** - hovering over a pond near painted rock. 5/5/2020: 1 Harrier [a.k.a. Marsh Hawk] - cruising our yard (9am), 1 chickadee - Sands Pond Road (3:30pm). Yard Count at around 4pm: 1 osprey - cruising our yard (maybe the same one, since we are near painted rock?), 8 crows - our regulars, ~12 robins - our regulars but they were busy moving around so tough to count, 1 barn swallow, 4 herring gulls, 1 great black-back gull.

[Kim Gaffett](#), Loose birding between Lapham house at Clay Head and home off CT. Ave., including a stop at Andy's Way. 3 Canada Geese, 5 Mallard, 2 R-N Pheasant, 4 Mourning Dove, 1 A. Oystercatcher, 8 Black-bellied Plover, 10 Sanderling, **7**

Dunlin, 3 Herring Gull, 1 Great Egret, 7 Snowy Egret, 1 Turkey Vulture, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Merlin, 1 Eastern Kingbird, 3 Amer. Crow, 2 Fish Crow, 10 Bank Swallow, 3 Carolina Wren, 2 Gray Catbird, 1 N. Mockingbird, 10 Amer. Robin, 3 House Sparrow, 5, Red-wg. Blackbird, 5 Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Common Grackle, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 4 N. Cardinal.

[Kira Stillwell](#), Narragansett, RI: **White-crowned sparrows [2]** at the feeder ground the last few days! Wow their stripes are bold!!!

[Laura Rosenzweig](#), Sedburgh, England. A Goosander [a Merganser] flew off pretty quickly but was definitely one of these [photo provided]. Today when I went the same way I saw three male Mallards and one female with two quite mature ducklings swimming in her wake. Is it usual for mallards to be in groups like this? [And on 5/7]: I just heard something singing above me and finally saw it — **a blackcap warbler**. Haven't seen one of these in a long time (probably because I wasn't looking) but something in me said 'blackcap' (not that it's hard to remember this when you see the bird) and I came in to see if I was correct. Beautiful song. Very happy I've seen a 'new' bird in the garden.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/blackcap/>

[Martha Veili-Gass](#), Fresh Pond, Cambridge, MA. [A verbal report that on May 5 Martha was thrilled to see – among other spring birds – a Baltimore Oriole and an **Orchard Oriole** together! A great opportunity for comparison.]

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Orchard_Oriole/id

[Mena Hautau](#), Carpenter Nature Center, near the St Croix River, WI. Weather is cool, in the 50's and cloudy. It was supposed to rain but it never materialized. We spent a fair amount of time in the prairie just observing the Meadowlarks. They would dive into the grasses and catch insects and then fly up to perches, where we could enjoy their songs. **6 Eastern Meadowlarks**, 2 bluebirds, 5 tree swallows, 2 pheasants (heard not seen), 2 house wrens, 1 song sparrow, 2 field sparrows, 2 crows, 1 turkey vulture, 1 robin, ?woodpeckers (heard but not seen) . It's fun seeing everyone's reports!

[Penny Lapham](#), Roseburg, OR. **2 Acorn Woodpeckers**, 2 Western Scrub-jay, 2 Turkey Vulture, 1 White-breasted nuthatch, 10 Starlings, 1 Spotted Towhee, 2 Common Ravens, 3 Male Hooded Mergansers, 4 Female Hooded Mergansers, 3 Male Wood Ducks, 3 Canada Geese, 3 Female Mallards, 2 Male Mallards, 7 Baby Mallards.

[Susan Matheke](#): Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 AM Della's pasture and 7:30AM Ball Farm: 4 blue jays, 5 catbirds, 5 herring gulls, 7 goldfinch (seem to be so many goldfinches visible now), 7 American Robins, **8 Barn swallows** – I think, 3 Towhee, 1 loud woodpecker, couldn't find him/her to view, 6 American crows having a distinct conversation, 1 mourning dove, 12 - at least - American Robins, 1 turkey vulture. Hope we can see each soon - with appropriate distance of course!!!!

[Tracy Finn](#): I stopped and watched the **Glossy Ibis** on my walk down the neck! Love them!

[Will & Penny Young](#): Pen and I finally had a good morning [May 7]. Portland Rookery Portland CT. 10:30 - 12:45 Don't know if you want to include it but I wanted to report it. Wood duck 3, Rose breasted grosbeak 2, **Blue winged warbler 1**, Yellow warbler 8+, Redstart 3+, Great Crested flycatcher 2 1heard 1 seen, Eastern King bird 2, Red belied woodpecker 1 seen several heard, Downy woodpecker 6+, Tufted titmouse 3+, Mallard duck 3, Baltimore oriole 1, Chimney swift 10+, Barn Swallow 30+, Chickadee 5+, Great blue heron 20+ several with chicks, Catbird 25+, Robin 3+, Barred Owl 1, Kingfisher 1 heard, Mourning dove 10+, House finch 5+, Song sparrow 5+, Red Tail hawk 1, Cedar waxwings 6+, Northern Cardinal 3+, Carolina wren 3+ heard, House wren 2+ heard, Blue Jay 5+, American Crow 10+, Wood thrush 2+ heard