

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

April 14, 2026
Incidental Notes

Hi Everyone,

Enjoy this Where-on-Earth & Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walk compilations. As always it is interesting and fun to see what is being seen in other parts of the world.

It is especially fun to see Erica & Wade's report from the southwest juxtaposed with Kim and Laura's report from the North Atlantic.

And, closer to home, it is great to read Tim's off schedule report of spring bird arrivals in Rhode Island.

Happy Spring. Peace, Kim

Remember, no matter where on earth you are, enjoy the birds and the day.

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- 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

(28 species)

Canada Goose – 8+	Mourning Dove – 18	Northern Cardinal – 6
Mute Swan – 1	Woodpecker species – 1	Red-winged Blackbird – 47+
Mallard – 6+	Northern Flicker – 1	Common Grackle – 17
Bufflehead – 20	American Crow – 6+	Brown-headed Cowbird – 5
Ring-necked Pheasant – 10	Blue Jay – 4	Purple Finch – 5
Common Loon – 2	Black-backed Chickadee – 2	House Finch – 7
Double-crested Cormorant – 15	Carolina Wren – 4	American Goldfinch – 4
Marsh Hawk (N. Harrier) – 1	American Robin – 16	House Sparrow – 1
American Herring Gull – 5+	Song Sparrow – 1	
Great Black-backed Gull – 1+	White-throated Sparrow – 3	

From Afar South Kingstown & Cumberland RI; Berkshire County, MA; Willcox, AZ; Torshaven, Faroe Islands; Egilsstadir to Lake Myvatn Iceland.

(71 species)

Canada Goose – 18	Ring-necked Duck – 10	Great Blue Heron – 1
Wood Duck – 1	Greater Scaup – 10	Great Egret – 1+
Mallard – 5+	Bufflehead – 10	Cattle Egret – 1+
Cinnamon Teal – 1+	Ruddy Duck – 1+	White-faced Ibis – 1+
Northern Shoveler – 1+	Pied-billed Grebe – 1	Osprey – 2

Bald Eagle – 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Black-necked Stilt – 1+
American Avocet – 1+
Long-billed Dowitcher – 1+
Wilson's Phalarope – 1+
Ring-billed Gull – 100+
Amer. Herring Gull – 100+
Mourning Dove – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 4
Tree Swallow – 3
Blue Jay – 8
Belted Kingfisher – 3
American Crow – 14
Fish Crow – 5
Black-capped Chickadee – 5
Tufted Titmouse – 5
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Carolina Wren – 2
European Starling – 13
American Robin – 31+
Canyon Towhee – 1+
Chipping Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 8
White-throated Sparrow – 5
White-crowned Sparrow – 1+
Dark-eyed¹ Junco – 5
Northern Cardinal – 20
Red-winged Blackbird – 40+
Common Grackle – 50+
Brown-headed Cowbird – 15
House Finch – 1+
American Goldfinch – 16
House Sparrow – 4+

Common Eider – 8+
Barrow's Goldeneye – 2
Rock Ptarmigan – 3
Eurasian Oystercatcher 2
Common Redshank 1+
Northern Fulmar – 10+
Black-headed Gull – 10+
European Herring Gull – 5
Great Black-backed Gull – 2
Hooded Crow – 2
Common Raven – 2
Eurasian Blackbird – 3
E. Starling – 1
Redwing - 6
House Sparrow – 1

ICELAND & FAROE ISLANDS

SEE BELOW FOR LOCATION SPECIFICS

Pink-footed Coose – 1
Graylag Goose – 10+
Whooper Swan – 5+

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Cathy's and my 'rest of the day' list:

Canada Goose 2, Double-crested Cormorant 1 (on Warden's Pond!), Mourning Dove 3, Blue Jay 3, American Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 1, Song Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 6, Red-winged Blackbird 16, Common Grackle 4, Brown-headed Cowbird 4, Purple Finch 1, House Finch 3, American Goldfinch 3. We're looking forward to hearing your birds of Iceland and hope you have been having a wonderful trip. See you in May! Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot bird walkers – Hi Kim. This morning's walk went remarkably well! The following participated: Faye Benedict, John Formica, Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Socha Cohen, Chuck McMellon and a new couple - Teresa Twomey and Drew Harris - and of course, Cathy and me.

The birds seen were (27 species): Canada Goose 4, Mute Swan 1, Mallard 2, Bufflehead 20, Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Common Loon 2, Double-crested Cormorant 14, Herring Gull 5, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Mourning Dove 12, Woodpecker sp. 1 (heard, not seen), Northern Flicker 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 3, Carolina Wren 3, American Robin 15, Northern Mockingbird 1, Song Sparrow 5, White-throated Sparrow 4, Northern Cardinal 5, Red-winged Blackbird 25, Common Grackle 13, Brown-headed Cowbird 1, Purple Finch 1, House Finch 4, American Goldfinch 1, House Sparrow 1.

Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, I Hope you had a wonderful trip! I was out on the bike trail in Berkshire County MA which transects 4 towns on 4/14 AM. The sounds of birds were constant and raucous, a sure sign that spring has arrived. Sightings included: 1 Osprey, 3 Belted kingfishers, > 30 red winged blackbirds, American robins and common grackles, 18 Northern cardinals, 5 Blue jays, 11 American crows, 7 song, 2 chipping, and 3 house sparrows, 14 goldfinches, 10 European starlings, 10 ring [billed necked] ducks, 2 mallards, 3 red bellied woodpeckers and 1 each hairy and downy woodpeckers, 16 Canada geese, 4 phoebes, 2 tufted titmice, 3 chickadees, 3 juncos, and 1 sharp shinned hawk. Thanks and enjoy! Dan

Erica Anderson & Wade Thompson Hi Nigel & Cathy, Hope you had a great walk on Tuesday. Here's my from where in the world report. We were in Tucson Az for a vacation and birding in an area around Willcox, Az, east of Tucson. The weather was coolish and quite windy the day we headed out but comfortable once out of

the wind. We stopped at Chochise Lake which is a part of the Willcox Playa. There were many ducks, waders and other birds in this small lake in the middle of an open plane. To get there you had to drive past a huge border patrol station and a golf course. Very strange surroundings but lots to see. From there we headed south into the hills to Chiricahua National Monument for some birds and lots of amazing environmental changes. Driving up to the top view point of the monument you go through four different ecological zones and then there's the rock formations. Highly recommend this place if you are out this way.

Cochise Lake: Northern Shovler, Wilsons Phalarope, Long Billed Dowitcher, Black Necked Stilt, Ruddy Duck, Mallard, American Avocet, White Faced Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, Cattle Egret, Great Egret.

Chiricahua National Monument: House Finch, White Crowned Sparrow, Canyon Towhee. [Since no indication of number of each species, these birds have all been counted as 1+. -KG]

Kim Gaffett & Laura Rosenzweig – April 14 mid-day to April 15 mid-day: Birds in Torshaven, Faroe Islands: Whooping Swan 5, Redwing 3, House Sparrow 1, Eurasian Oystercatcher 2, Common Raven 1, Hooded Crow 2, Eurasian Blackbird 3, E. Starling 1, Common Eider 8+, Black-headed Gull many; on board ship headed to Seydisfjordur, Iceland: Northern Fulmar – many swooping and arching just above the water across the ocean, European Herring Gull-several, and GBBG 2. April 15. On drive from Egilsstadir to Myvatn: Redwing 3+, Rock Ptarmigan 3+, Barrows Goldeneye 2, Pink-footed Goose 1, Graylag Goose 10+, Common Raven 1, Common Redshank 1 (Merlin heard many nearly everywhere). To learn more about Common Redshank go to <https://ebird.org/species/comred1>

Susan Matheke – 6:30 AM Corn Neck Rd. and Ball Farm from Susan Matheke: 5 male pheasants, 2 Canada Geese, 4 Mallards, 2 pairs male and female, 6 Red Wing Blackbirds, 3 Mourning Doves, 2 American Crows, 1 Northern Harrier

Tim Mooney – Hi Kim - On second thought, I don't have a list for April 14. I may not have gone out that day. I was thinking of April 21, when the first House Wrens showed up in Cumberland. I'll get back on track next Tuesday. I visited the Ell and Long Pond area in Hopkinton on Monday and Tuesday of this week, working on the new trailhead signage. Encountered a variety of migrants in those woods:

Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Plus 2 calling Barred Owls. On Monday afternoon, I was also at the Carter Preserve where I saw or heard Yellow Warbler, Tree Swallow and 2 American Kestrels (m/f).

On April 24, I started at the Potter Hill fishway on the Pawcatuck River in Hopkinton: Osprey - 3, Bald Eagle - 1, Black Vulture -1, Double-crested Cormorants - 50+. Same day at the Gilbert Stuart Museum: Osprey - 1 (eating a big bass) and Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 1.

So I've been getting out. Today is a computer day though. [Terrific list noting the changing seasons; however since the observations were not on April 14 I have not listed them in the From Afar list. Included here for interest and an encouraging sign of spring. -kg]

Tom Fetherston – 14 April 2026. Good evening from Wordens Pond, South Kingstown RI –

A beautiful day to be outside. More summer birds showing up, but many that were being detected by Merlin (towhees, waxwings, phoebes, pine & yellow-rumped warblers) I didn't see. Still some new arrivals like tree swallows and lots of old friends who are still hanging around – white throated sparrows in particular.

Notes for this week:

- I have a seagull problem. Most of the time the gulls on the pond are American herring gulls. They will aggregate in large numbers out in the middle where it's hard to see them clearly but those that fly over and are classified by Merlin are herring gulls. In the winter, particularly when there is ice, I often see ring-billed gulls on the pond, but not during the spring and summer. However, today Merlin detected both herring and ring-billed gulls. There was an aggregation of around 200 birds mid-pond. I observed both herring and ring-billed gulls flying past the dock, but since both species will join in mixed flocks, I have no idea how many of the gulls were of each species. For the count, I therefore split the number in

half for my best estimate, although my gut feeling is that there were more herring than ring-billed gulls present.

- The bald eagle and crows all did fly-bys over the house. Yes, they were within 100 yds of the pond, but I didn't count them as being over it.
- Speaking of the crows, that's another niche partitioning question that keeps bothering me. How do fish crows and American crows not directly compete or interbreed since at least here they are in the exact same habitat. I had both in the yard today, on two occasions at the same time.
- I've seen white-throated sparrows chasing each other frequently, seemingly a dominance behavior associated with breeding. According to Sibley, this is the southern fringe of their nesting range which could explain the aggression and their consistently large numbers.

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 herring gull (100*) WP, Ring-billed gull (100*) WP, Fish crow (5), American crow (3), Pie-billed grebe WP, Canada goose (2) WP, Mallard (2) WP, Bufflehead (10*) WP, Greater scaup (24*) WP, Wood duck WP, Great blue heron WP, Tree swallow (3) WP, Bald eagle, Osprey WP, White-throated sparrow (5), Song sparrow, House sparrow, Dark-eyed junco (2), American goldfinch (2), Northern cardinal (2), Tufted titmouse (3), Blue jay (3), White-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren (2), Black-capped chickadee (2), Mourning dove (2), American robin, European starling (3), Brown-headed cowbird (15*), Red-winged blackbird (10*), Common grackle (20*), Downy woodpecker, Red-bellied woodpecker, Northern flicker. Cheers, Fether

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- 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.