

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

April 4, 2023

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

With these observations I can safely say that we are well into the spring migration season, and in some places into the nesting season. (See various comments below about nesting Hummingbirds, Bushtits, Bluebirds, raven and others.)

If you are aware of the movement to rename the National Audubon Society and other Audubon groups, and are interested in knowing a little about the perspective that supports the change check out this opinion [Opinion: Why the 'Audubon' Decision Hurts | BirdNote](#). And for a broad report of the issue see this NPR story [Audubon faces a backlash over keeping a name that evokes a racist enslaver : NPR](#)

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

(47 species)

Canada Goose – 34

Mute Swan – 1

Green-winged Teal – 2

White-winged Scoter - 10

Long-tailed Duck – 4

Bufflehead – 35

Red-breasted Merganser – 18

Ruddy Duck – 200

Ring-necked Pheasant – 5

Common Loon – 3

Horned Grebe – 2

Double-crested Cormorant – 8

Great Egret – 3

Black-crowned Night Heron – 1

Osprey – 5

Northern Harrier – 7

Sharp-shinned/Coopers Hawk – 1

Red-tailed Hawk – 1

American Oystercatcher – 2

Piping Plover – 1

Herring Gull – 25

Great Black-backed Gull – 75

Mourning Dove – 17
Belted Kingfisher – 2
Woodpecker species – 4 (all heard not seen, likely Downy)
American Kestrel – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Blue Jay – 3
American Crow – 32
Fish Crow – 3
Tree Swallow – 3
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 8
American Robin – 62
Northern Mockingbird – 2
European Starling – 54+
Black-and-white Warbler – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 12
White-throated Sparrow – 1
Northern Cardinal – 15
Red-winged Blackbird – 150+
Common Grackle – 14
House Finch – 6
American Goldfinch – 1
House Sparrow – 6

Also seen/heard: Spring Peepers!!!

From Afar: South Kingston, Portsmouth, Jamestown, North Kingstown, RI; Woodbury & Greenwich, CT; New York City & Jamesport NY; Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA.
(86 species)

Brant – 2
Canada Goose – 46
Mute Swan – 2
Wood Duck – 4
American Black Duck – 5
Mallard – 5
Blue-winged Teal – 18
Green-winged Teal – 5
Black-bellied Whistling Duck – 50
Greater Scaup – 40
Bufflehead – 10
Hooded Merganser – 6
Red-breasted Merganser – 4
Horned Grebe – 2
Anhinga – 4
Limpkin – 1
Double-crested Cormorant – 5
Great Blue Heron – 2

Great Egret – 9
Snowy Egret – 6
Little Blue Heron – 2
Cattle Egret – 40
Black-crowned Night Heron – 2
White Ibis – 7
Glossy Ibis – 8
Black Turkey Vulture – 2
Turkey Vulture – 14
Osprey – 10
Bald Eagle – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 1
Gray-headed Swamphen – 2
Purple Gallinule – 3
Common Gallinule – 15
American Coot – 10
Sandhill Crane – 3
American Oystercatcher – 2
Killdeer – 4
Greater Yellowlegs – 1
Ring-billed Gull – 1
Herring Gull – 104
Great Black-backed Gull – 1
Common Ground Dove – 6
Rock Pigeon – 25
Mourning Dove – 35
Nandy (Black-hooded) Parakeets - 8
Anna's Hummingbird – 5
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Pileated Woodpecker – 1
American Kestrel – 1
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Great-crested Flycatcher – 1
Purple Martin – 40+
Blue Jay – 8
American Crow – 28
Tree Swallow – 1
Bushtit – 3
Black-capped Chickadee – 16
Tufted Titmouse – 2
White-breasted Nuthatch – 3
Bewick's Wren – 2
Carolina Wren – 4
Eastern Bluebird – 4
American Robin – 21
Brown Thrasher – 1
Northern Mockingbird – 12

European Starling – 3
Common Yellowthroat – 1
Pine Warbler – 11
Spotted Towhee – 1
Savannah Sparrow – 1
Song Sparrow – 8
Swamp Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 1
Golden-crowned Sparrow – 1
Slate-colored Junco – 2
Northern Cardinal – 8
Red-winged Blackbird – 18
Common Grackle – 34
Boat-tailed Grackle – 10
Brown-headed Cowbird – 16
House Finch – 3
American Goldfinch – 1
House Sparrow – 1

Also seen: Chipmunks & squirrels;

[Amy Keeler](#) – Out and about with [Susan Matheke](#), Tuesday 4/4: 2 Great Egret, 18 Canadian Geese, 4 Carolina Wren, 50+ Starling, 50+ RW Blackbird, 4 Mallard Duck, 3 Cardinal, 1 Black White Warbler, 2 Grackle, 1 Northern Harrier, 6 House Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow, 2 Savannah Sparrow.

[Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley](#) – Hi Kim. We did get to look out the windows and spy some interesting birds: Osprey 2 - sitting together on the platform at Nancy Ruddle's and flying around together checking out the ponds, Northern Harrier 2 (an adult pair over the house and towards Win Dodge), Mourning Dove 2, American Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, American Robin 2, Song Sparrow 4, White-throated Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 5, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Common Grackle 2, American Goldfinch 1. Sorry to have missed Coots and we hope you had a successful bird outing. Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

[Corrie Heinze](#) – Hi Kim. My best of the day was my morning walk down to the end of Payne's dock and saw and heard 3 long tailed ducks just off the end of the dock. Two kingfishers, an immature/ non breeding plumage black crown flying overhead; 3 loons swimming together in trims pond; 1 piping plover Charlestown Beach; 2 AMOY [American Oystercatcher] at cormorant cove; Red tail hawk in my back yard along with Osprey back flying around my yard; 1 great egret today in trims and as many as 3 together early in the week. I keep seeing the northern Harriers very active - today at my house, over the dunes at Charlestown beach and by mosquito beach [3]. The peepers are off the rails tonight. Hope all is well, Best corrie

[Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers](#) – Bush Lot Hill/TNSWhitman/GoldenGrv/Sachem, Washington, Rhode Island, US
Apr 4, 2023 8:00 AM: Traveling 1.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Meet at bottom of Bush Lot Hill-dirt road to SRisom & beyond-TNS Whitman land via S. Risom-ClayHead Trail-Golden Grove-Corn NeckRd along Sachem Pond. Sunny, 50F, light SW wind. Participants: Carlos & Anne Salinas, Viki Butlevska with Georgia, Cindy Davis, Chuck McMellon, Amy Keeler, Susan Matheke, Heather Hatfield, Socha Cohen, Mena Hautau, Andrew Duff with daughter (Emma?) and 2 nieces, and KG. Highlights included watching A. Kestrel go down on a rat and take it back to a utility pole to eat; and watching an Osprey eating a large fish. Note: unidentified woodpecker was likely Downy, but all four were heard pecking, not seen. 32 species (+2 other taxa). Canada Goose 16, Mute Swan 1, Mallard 11, White-winged Scoter 10, Long-tailed Duck 1, Bufflehead 35, Red-breasted Merganser 18, Ruddy Duck 200, Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Horned Grebe 2, Mourning Dove 15, Herring Gull 25, Great Black-backed Gull 75, Double-crested Cormorant 8, Osprey 2, Northern Harrier 1, Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk 1, woodpecker sp. 4, American Kestrel 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 3, American Crow 30, Fish Crow 3, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Tree Swallow 3, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 4, Northern

Mockingbird 2, American Robin 60, House Finch 6, Song Sparrow 7, Red-winged Blackbird 100, Common Grackle 10, Northern Cardinal 7.

Curt Milton Good afternoon! I had a good morning's Where In the World Walk at Union Bay Natural Area here in Seattle. Lots of birds out and it seems like the spring migration is on. Two highlights: Watching two black-capped chickadees clearing out a nest space in a rotting tree branch and seeing an Anna's Hummingbird sitting on the nest that two weeks ago had two chicks in it. I see from online sources that Anna's can have two or three broods in a season so this isn't unusual. Also saw a bushtit [left below] emerging from its nest. Cool! I'll attach some photos. Here is my list: **Location:** Union Bay Natural Area and Eastlake neighborhood. **Weather:** Temps in the mid-40s, clear skies, no wind. Downy Woodpecker: 1, Anna's Hummingbird: several, American Crow: numerous, Bewick's Wren: 2, Bushtit: 3, American Robin: numerous, Black-capped Chickadee: numerous, Canada Goose: numerous, Wood Duck: 2, European Starling: 1, Golden-crowned Sparrow: 1, Song Sparrow: several, American Coot: numerous, Spotted Towhee: 1, American Goldfinch. Thanks! Curt.



Dan Kasuba Hi Kim, I got out yesterday from 7:30 am-10am at Sarasota Audubon/celery fields. Sightings are as follows: 1 each of the following: brown thrasher, common yellow throat, limpkin, American kestrel, pileated woodpecker, and great crested flycatcher. Also, 2 black crowned night herons, 2 killdeers, 2 black and 14 turkey vultures, 2 purple headed swamp hens [Gray-headed Swamphen? -KG], 3 purple and 15 common galinules, 3 ospreys, 6 common ground doves, Approx 40 cattle egrets, 9 brown headed cowbirds, 11 pine warblers (yellow-rumped and blue gray gnatcatchers have headed North!), 2 great crested cormorants [Great or Double-crested? I have assumed Double-crested. -KG], approximately 50 black bellied whistling ducks, 18 blue winged teals, 8 black hooded parakeets, many mourning doves? 30, 11 mockingbirds, 3 sandhill cranes, 4 anhingas, 2 great blue and 2 little blue herons, many purple martins, (40-50), approximately 40 cattle [double count -KG], 7 great and 5 snowy egrets, 13 common and 10 boat tailed grackles, 7 white and 8 glossy ibises, 5 cardinals and 7 blue jays Thanks and enjoy!

Darcy Thurrott – Good Spring morning to you Kim. Warm & sunny here and birds are happy. No ravens today, but think their eggs?? may have hatched as it's been 18-21 days since I heard her "begging" from nest on March 10. 54° glorious degrees, with little breeze. Enjoy your day! North Cemetary Woodbury, Connecticut, 4/4/23, 10:35 AM. Traveling: 2.19 miles, 55 minutes. All birds reported? Yes.
1 Killdeer -- FOY - flying while calling, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5 American Crow, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Tufted Titmouse, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Carolina Wren, 1 European Starling, 2 Eastern Bluebird, 2 American Robin, 2 House Finch, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Song Sparrow, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 3 Common Grackle, 2 Northern Cardinal. Darcy.

Josie Merck – Osprey 2 over nest at ct Re station [Greenwich railroad station?]; Immature Red tail hunting at my home pond for chipmunks and squirrel. NYC - pigeons galore [25].

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – April 4th, I stopped at a few birding locations on my way to the Great Swamp: First to Boyds Lane Marsh and Gull Cove in Portsmouth, then to Marsh Meadows Preserve in Jamestown and on my way over to the mainland I observed the bald eagles nesting on the Route 138 clover leaf in North Kingstown. Here is my list for the morning: Bald Eagle 1, White-throated Sparrow 1, European Starling 1,

Carolina Wren 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Belted Kingfisher 1, Snowy Egret 1, Double-crested Cormorant 1, American Oystercatcher 2, Red-breasted Merganser 4, Green-winged Teal 5, Canada Goose 36, Northern Cardinal 1, Northern Mockingbird 1, Tufted Titmouse 1, Great Egret 2, Great Black-backed Gull 1, Common Grackle 3, Red-winged Blackbird 10, Song Sparrow 1, House Finch 1, House Sparrow 1, American Robin 5, Black-capped Chickadee 3, American Crow 13, Blue Jay 1, Osprey 4, Herring Gull 4, Ring-billed Gull 1, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Killdeer 1, Mourning Dove 1, Horned Grebe 2, Hooded Merganser 1, Bufflehead 8, American Black Duck 5, Mallard 1, Brant 2.

Maggie Komosinski – Hi Kim, Happy springtime and happy easter! I'm not submitting a "list" from either March walks; however, some interesting recent sightings: The spring peepers are loud and plentiful, and our Osprey are here in force and courting/calling/nest attending. Just last evening two were perched in a couple of old oaks in the neighborhood campground. We see and hear 4-6 Osprey daily, right overhead. A Turkey Vulture visited my compost pile; it likely was attracted to the egg shells I throw in along with yard material and veggie scrapes. I had a Cooper's Hawk sitting atop the chicken coop when I went to check for eggs yesterday. It apparently had caught a Mourning Dove but dropped its prey. After dissuading our ex-feral BI cat from the carcass, I left the dove where it lay. A short while later it was gone. Happy hawk, I assume!

Finally, on last Saturday's walk through Hallock State Preserve we had a very close (but careful) view of a lingering Saw-whet Owl and a distant view of a Great Horned Owl sitting on her egg(s); she and her mate had taken over an old Red-tailed Hawk nest. We also had Gannets flying above the LI Sound; a bit unusual here as they generally are seen on the ocean (south) side of the island. Best as always, Maggie. [I loved receiving & sharing this report from Maggie, but did not include in the tally of birds as the observations were from a sweep of recent sightings. None-the-less the observations of Great Horned Owl, Osprey, Coopers Hawk, Turkey Vulture and Saw-whet Owl etc. are fun and intriguing. -KG]

Tom Fetherston – Hi Kim - A fun day and some new neighbors 😊

Good evening Kim! Every bird list is different and often there are firsts! Such is the case today.

When I got back from Egypt, I cleaned out the five bird houses in our yard. A little behind schedule but didn't see any evidence of new construction. The usual occupants are wrens, mostly house wrens but sometimes Carolina wrens grab one although they typically build their nests in trellises next to the house. A favorite birdhouse is one that hangs on a metal arbor at the entrance to the cutting garden. By May the clematis that covers the arbor is in full leaf and the house is well concealed. I've seen wrens have two broods there during the summer. When I went to clean that house out, I noticed the hole had been chipped open to 1 1/2" from the original 1" diameter. Figured it was probably rodents during the winter. The next day I noticed a flash of metallic blue in the side yard. A male bluebird! I've had them at the feeders some winters but never this time of year. It was chasing another male and disappeared over the fence. Later that afternoon, he was back, sitting on the arbor over the bird house, with a female next to him. She hopped down and popped into the house! I've seen plenty of bluebird houses, normally set up in fields. They are always much deeper than the house hanging on the arbor, but evidently this pair doesn't mind. They have been busy gathering material in the yard and building the nest. The male often seems to stand guard duty while the female goes in and out of the house. I've never had bluebirds nest in the yard, it's a real treat to have them as neighbors 😊

Maggie and I started the list before sunrise while fishing on the pond, then I kept watch by the dock and around the yard. 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 (14) WP, American crow (15*) WP, White-throated sparrow (2), Slate-colored junco (5), Northern cardinal (3), Tufted titmouse (2), Blue jay (2), Hairy woodpecker (2), Herring gull (100*) WP, Mourning dove (4), White-breasted nuthatch (2), Wood duck (2) WP, Black capped chickadee (2), Greater scaup (40*) WP, Bufflehead (2) WP, Mallard (4) WP, Hooded merganser (5) WP, Mute swan (2) WP Double-crested cormorant (2) WP, Osprey (WP), Tree swallow (WP), Common grackle (15*), Brown headed cowbird (6), Red-winged blackbird (8*), Eastern bluebird (2), American robin (4), Song sparrow (2), Savannah sparrow, Swamp sparrow, Carolina wren (2), Eastern phoebe Cheers, Fether.