

SD Crazy-as-a-Coot

Bird Walks: April 21, 2020 (mostly); April 22 observations are identified.

Block Island

Canada Geese – 22

Mallard – 40

Ring-necked Pheasant – 10

Common Loon – 4

Northern Gannet – 15

Double-crested Cormorant – 3

Great Egret – 5

Snowy Egret – 3

Turkey Vulture – 1

Osprey – 2

Northern Harrier – 3

Red-tailed Hawk – 1

Buteo species – 1

Herring Gull – 30

Great Black-backed Gull – 65

Gull species – 6

Rock Pigeon – 1

Mourning Dove – 14

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 4

Northern Flicker – 3

Merlin – 1

Blue Jay – 5

American Crow – 27

Fish Crow – 5
Tree Swallow – 22
Barn Swallow – 6
Black-capped Chickadee – 12
Winter Wren – 2
Carolina Wren – 21
Hermit Thrush – 1
American Robin – 66
Northern Mockingbird – 1
European Starling – 39
Black-and-white Warbler - 1
Rufous-sided Towhee – 5
Song Sparrow - 20
White-throated Sparrow – 10
Slate-colored Junco – 2
Northern Cardinal – 20
Red-winged Blackbird – 87
Common Grackle - 8
Brown-headed Cowbird - 11
House Finch - 18
American Goldfinch - 25
House Sparrow – 35

From Afar: Cumberland, RI; Delrey Beach, FL; near St. Croix River, WI; Eugene, OR; Seattle WA; England, Norway.

*=European species. When I was sure that the species are the same in both the Old and New World I did not distinguish as *European, for instance Great Black-backed gulls. However, some

species, for instance Pheasant, which may be the same here and there I did separate until I can do some further research.

Canada Goose – 1

Mallard – 5

*Pheasant – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 1

Wild Turkey – 1

Cormorant species – 1

Cattle Egret – 1

*Buzzard – 1

Turkey Vulture – 5

Bald Eagle – 1

American Coot – 2

Brown Pelican – 1

Great Black-backed Gull – 2

Gull species – 1

Cooper's Hawk – 1

Rock Dove, a.k.a. Pigeon – flock

Mourning Dove – 8

Eurasian Collared Dove – 2

*Wood Pigeon – 6

Anna's Hummingbird - 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 4

Downy Woodpecker -

Hairy Woodpecker – 1

Northern Flicker – 3

Northern Shrike – 5

Blue Jay – 4

*Crow – 4

American Crow – 3

*Jackdaw – 1

*Magpie – 1

Black-capped Chickadee – 3

Tufted Titmouse – 3

*Blue Tit – 2

*Coal Tit – 1

*Wren – 1

Eastern Bluebird - 3

American Robin – 11

*European Robin – 2

*Blackbird (in England a thrush) – 1

Nashville Warbler – 1

Wilson's Warbler – 2

Song Sparrow – 6

White-throated Sparrow – 3

Oregon Junco – 1

Northern Cardinal – 6

Red-winged Blackbird – 3

Eastern Meadowlark – 1

Common Grackle – 15

Boat-tailed Grackle – 2

House Finch – 2

House Sparrow – 6 (FYI, a native bird in England)

Amy Keeler, Mitchell Lane Area: 23 RW Blackbirds, 4 Cowbirds, 20 Tree Swallows (hard to count while they are dive bombing), 1 Cardinal, 3 Canadian Geese, 18 Starlings, 6 Mallards, 2 Grackle, 2 Goldfinch, 24 Robins, 12 House Sparrows, 4 Song Sparrows, 60 Blackback Gulls(Fresh Pond), 4 Herring Gull, 3 American Crow, 1 N. Flicker, 4 Carolina wren, 3 Pheasant, 1 Black and White Warbler (eating bugs in between boards on my deck, thank you), 1 Snowy Egret, 1 Mockingbird.

Curt Milton, Seattle, WA: It's an overcast morning here, cool with temperature around 50 and a touch of dampness in the air. I could hear lots of birds on my walk to get coffee but wasn't able to see many. I'm including two pix here of birds I can't identify. LBBs! Sparrows, maybe. Saw the following:, 1 Anna's Hummingbird, Couple of crows, A gull, Possibly a couple of house finches, Flock of pigeons, Two squirrels. And these two babies below. [Song Sparrow, Oregon Junco -kg]. I'll take a walk this afternoon and see what I find in the lake ... mallards, no doubt! Maybe some coots or, if I'm lucky, an egret but ... haven't seen any egrets for a while.

Results of the afternoon walk: **2 coots!** Pretty sure they were coots. See photos below. 1 Canada goose, 3 mallards, 2 female and 1 male, 1 cormorant ... pretty sure it's a cormorant. See pix ... The coots were surprised by the cormorant popping up right between them and they took off. Cormorant looks like a small Loch Ness Monster! [Definitely a Cormorant. -kg]

Ellen Davis, Delrey Beach, FL: Happy earth day! It was so good to be outside with a mission. Here's my list which isn't too exciting this time. I think a lot of birds are on their way up to you! Birds 4/22/20: Grackles 12, Mourning dove 4, Eurasian collared dove 2, Cardinal - male 1, Boat-tailed grackle 2, Cattle egret 1, Brown pelican 1

Erica Anderson, Eugene, OR: I saw 2 male Wilson's warblers and a Nashville warbler yesterday. First time I've ever seen them here. Too rainy to go out today. No pics though, they move too darn fast through the leaves.

Faye Benedict: Reporting in from Drangedal, Norway, this beautiful little bird Rødstrupe = European robin. <https://ebird.org/species/eurrob1> About 6 of them right by my house. They returned quite early this year, and are singing like a symphony orchestra from bushes, apple trees and the tops of pines.

Gail Cahill: Walked the loop from my house past the Hollow up to Woods overlook (absolutely crystal clear looking to Montauk) out to Old Mill Road, back to Cooneymus, took path across from Closter's towards Fresh Pond came out on Peckham Farm road and back home. 5pm - 6pm, 4/22: 3 Crows, 4 Pheasants (heard), 1 Cowbird (heard) pretty sure, 1 Red-winged Blackbird, 6 some sort of sparrow identified by flight (?) big question mark on this, 6 Goldfinch, 2 Mourning Dove, 6 gulls, 2 Towhee, 1 Robin, 1 Starling, 5 deer, 1 Rock Rat. And the best in my yard are the baby wrens, a nest in a lawn ornament that sits on our porch at the cottage, can hear the babies, Carolina Wren [5] goes in and out the backside. Tried to attach pic of lawn ornament wouldn't work will try with phone. Thanks for another bird walk!

Heather Hatfield - April 21, overcast and windy. At VR property off Dorrie's Cove Rd.: N. flicker 1, Red-wg. Blackbird 2, Robin 7, Cardinal 2, Goldfinch 5, House Finch 4, A. Crow 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, BC Chickadee 3, N. Harrier 1, Mallard 6. At home feeder and yard: Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, BC Chickadee 1, Cardinal 4, House Finch 9, Goldfinch 6, House Sparrow 16, C. Grackle, Red-wing Blackbird, Blue Jay 2, Towhee 1, Song Sparrow 1, Brown-headed Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow 2.

On April 22: Saw Red-tailed Hawk again today getting mobbed by the crows.

Kim Gaffett: did surveys at Lapham's to Stump Pond, Dorrie's Cove, and Meadow Hill Trail to home loop – before and after heavy rail. Saw the following: Canada Geese, 6; Mallard, 20; Black Scooter 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 6; Ring-neck Pheasant, 3; Common Loon, 4; Northern Gannet, 15; Double-crested Cormorant, 3; Northern Harrier, 2; Herring Gull, 5; Great-backed Gull, 2; Rock Pigeon, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 3; American Crow, 8; Fish Crow, 5; Tree Swallow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 10; Hermit Thrush, 1; American Robin, 12+; European Starling, 15+; Rufus-sided Towhee, 2; Song Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Northern Cardinal, 5; Red-winged Blackbird, 20+; Common Grackle, 5+; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; House Finch, 2; American Goldfinch, 3+; House Sparrow, 6.

Laura Rosenzweig, Sedbergh, England: Very windy here for the past few days but I see you got walloped by another big storm. I haven't seen a lot of our feathered friends today because I'm out at the wrong time of the day no doubt, but this is what I have seen (yesterday and today): 1 x jackdaw, a handful of crows, 1 x magpie each day, probably the same one, 1 x coal tit, 2 x blue tit, 1 x blackbird, 2 x robin, 1 x wren, 6 x dove — I got my mourning dove wrong last time, they're not found around here, so it must have been a collared dove because the call was distinct from our most prevalent doves which appear to be Wood Pigeons [Yes.-kg]. This number - 6 - refers to the pigeons which are roosting in our yew tree. 1 x pheasant - male - also roosting in the yew tree. It appears every evening around 8pm, struts across the grass then launches itself into the tree where it stays the night and is gone by the time I get up! We also have a tawny owl which resides year round in said yew tree. I haven't seen it this week but I believe it's raising another chick as it appears at odd times of day occasionally. The last three years I've rescued a chick that has fallen out of the nest, but haven't been able to save any of them so far. It's been a rare privilege to get up close and personal to a young owl. 1 x hawk — I think this was a buzzard, 2 x mallard on the river.

Mena Hautau: Sixty degrees and sunny today in WI (it's coming your way hopefully) so I set off for a hike at the Carpenter Nature Center near the St Croix River. Happy Earth Day! Here's my list: 1 Meadowlark, 1 wild turkey, 5 Northern Shrikes, 2 cardinals, 1 crow, 1 pheasant, 3 blue birds, 3 song sparrows, 2 red-bellied woodpeckers, 1 bald eagle, 5 turkey vultures, 5 robins.

Nancy and Malcolm Greenaway: On [Harris Point, a.k.a.] Breezy Point and thereabouts, [we] saw: 10 Robins, 4 [American] Crows, 2 [Carolina] Wrens, 6 [Mallard] Ducks, 12 [Herring] Gulls, 4

[American Great White] Egrets, 2 Snowy Egrets, 6 Song Sparrows, 4 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 2 Pheasants, 6+ unidentifiables

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce: did our birding today almost exclusively in our yard. We saw the following: Herring Gull – 1, Greater Black-backed Gull – 2, Mourning Dove – 2, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Northern Flicker – 1, American Crow – 1, Black-capped Chickadee – 3, American Robin – 1, Song Sparrow – 2, White-throated Sparrow – 5, Northern Cardinal – 8, Red-winged Blackbird – 8, Brown-headed Cowbird – 3, House Finch – 3, American Goldfinch – 9, House Sparrow – 1. We also took a binocular-free walk this afternoon in Turnip Farm/Nathan Mott and saw a Northern Harrier (male) with nesting material, and heard at least 3 Carolina Wrens (saw 1) and at least 3 Ring-necked Pheasants.

Socha Cohen: Yesterday (4/22/20) I returned to check out the osprey nest [MacDougall/Sachem Pond]. It took a bit of a beating from the last wind storm, but the birds were actively communicating with each other as well as hunting for food. While there, I also spotted 4 robins, 2 mallards (a male and female), ring-necked pheasant (sound only), 3 red-winged blackbirds, and six herring gulls. [What, no Carolina Wrens? Your specialty. -kg]

Susan Matheke: Yesterday I decided to limit my looking and reporting to what I could see standing for ten minutes - as the horses were munching their morning hay - at Ball Farm. This is the report for 7:45 - 7:55 AM at Ball Farm with a naked eye. 7 American robins, 6 swallows - barn I think-, 2 herring gulls, 1 black back gull, 9 mourning doves, 13 Canada geese, 6 red wing blackbirds, 1 pheasant – male, 5 starlings, 1 great egret. Also Willie (Feuer) reported 3 raptors over Rodman's Hollow at 8:00AM: 1 turkey vulture, 1 Merlin, 1 unidentified but thought it might be a red shouldered hawk. Amy and I did a short horse/bird ride and I think she will report in. Peace and Happiness to you.

Tim and Paul Mooney: I haven't even stepped out of the house today. I'm resigned to saving the planet from my laptop. I did see a Cooper's Hawk out my front window in Cumberland, so that's something. Actually I had 2 Cooper's sightings today, but I'm guessing it was the same bird. Also a mourning dove, 2 Song Sparrows and 3 American robins. And a Blue Jay – can see one now as I'm typing.

But my dad did keep a backyard list as his Earth Day activity, also in Cumberland. Paul Mooney, if you keep track: Blue Jay, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker (I'll vouch for him on Hairy vs Downy, I've seen them in the yard) , Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird , Mourning Dove, American Robin, White-throated Sparrow , Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee. [Note: in the absence of species count I will make conservative estimates of 3 per species, except Hairy Woodpecker which I'll count as 1. Please let me know if changes are needed. -kg]