

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

April 19th, 2022

Incidental Notes.

Hi Everyone,

Here are the reports from bird observations on April 19th. As always it is super interesting to note the species that folks are seeing from around the country and the earth.

Some observation highlights (not in any particular order):

- The weather on Block Island and the northeast of was blustery, rainy and cold – not great bird watching conditions, and likely contributed to low numbers in these areas.
- It is interesting to note how many species of Dove (and Pigeon) there are in southern states. The Sibley Guide to Birds illustrates 14 species.
- Also, there are increasing numbers of parrot and parakeet species (also see The Sibley Guide), perhaps most famous are the Parrots of Telegraph Hill
<https://www.allthingsnature.org/what-are-the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill.htm>
- And again: †Gray-headed Swamphen is a fun “where on earth” did that come from observation. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gray-headed_Swamphen/overview#
- And, on Block Island the Ruddy Shelduck was observed by many in the vicinity of Connecticut & Ocean Avenues. Whether this exotic was an escapee from the local Draper aviary or from a collection of decorative fowl from further afield is difficult to know. <https://ebird.org/species/rudshe>

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, +=10+, +++=10++.

Block Island

(30 species)

Canada Geese – 7

Mallard – 11

Ring-necked Pheasant – 5

Great Blue Heron – 1

Great Egret – 4

Snowy Egret – 1

Osprey – 4

Mourning Dove – 7

Snowy Owl – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Northern Flicker – 5
American Kestrel – 1
Blue Jay – 7
Common Raven – 3
American Crow – 22
Fish Crow – 4
Black-capped Chickadee – 3
American Robin – 53
Gray Catbird – 1
European Starling – 26
Eastern Towhee – 3
Song Sparrow – 3
White-throated Sparrow – 5
Northern Cardinal – 13
Red-winged Blackbird – 81+
Common Grackle – 18
Brown-headed Cowbird – 6
House Finch – 21
American Goldfinch – 21
House Sparrow – 6

From Afar Wakefield, South Kingston, RI; Fall River, MA; New York, NY; Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA; San Francisco, CA.
(88 species)

Canada Goose – 9
Mallard – 13
Blue-winged Teal – 2
Northern Shoveler – 25
Bufflehead – 5
Red-breasted Merganser – 1
Pied-billed Grebe – 3
Brown Pelican – 19
Magnificent Frigatebird – 2
Double-crested Cormorant – 5
Cormorant species – 100+
Anhinga – 8
Least Bittern – 1
Great Blue Heron – 4
Great Egret – 9
Snowy Egret – 4
Little Blue Heron – 4
Tricolored Heron – 1
Cattle Egret – 10
Green Heron – 3
Glossy Ibis – 10
White Ibis – 5
Wood Stork – 3

Black Vulture – 2
Turkey Vulture – 9
Osprey – 5
Bald Eagle – 3
Golden Eagle – 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1
Virginia Rail – 1
Sora Rail – 5
**Gray-headed Swamphen – 3*
Purple Gallinules – 7
American Coot – 1
Sandhill Crane – 2
Black-necked Stilts – 2
Least Sandpiper – 2
Herring Gull – 102
Gull species – 100+
Mourning Dove – 34
Common Ground Doves – 5
White-winged Dove – 11
Rock Pigeon – 30
Black-hooded Parakeets – 6
Parrot species (“Telegraph Hill”) – 50+
Eastern Screech Owl – 1
Borrowing Owl – 4
Eastern Phoebe – 3
Great-crested Flycatcher – 1
Loggerhead Shrike – 3
Anna’s Hummingbird – 4
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Blue Jay – 9
American Crow – 15
Fish Crow – 7
Purple Martin – 10
Black-capped Chickadee – 9
Tufted Titmouse – 5
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Brown Creeper – 5
Carolina Wren – 1
Bewick’s Wren – 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 6
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3
Eastern Bluebird – 1
Hermit Thrush – 25
American Robin – 24
European Starling – 32

Common Yellowthroat – 1
Pine Warbler – 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 3
Yellow Warbler – 1
Eastern Towhee – 1
Chipping Sparrow – 2
Song Sparrow – 7
White-throated Sparrow - 8
Swamp Sparrow – 2
Northern Cardinal – 7
Red-winged Blackbird – 62
Common Grackle – 50
Boat-tailed Grackle – 28+
Brown-headed Cowbird – 34
American Goldfinch – 2
House Sparrow – 32

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley - Hello Kim, Thanks for the April 5th bird list, which just landed in my in-box. It had me worried for a moment - I thought we had "missed the boat" for today's bird reports!!! Here is Nigel's and my list for today (April 19th) in our backyard: Mourning Dove 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 5, Black-capped Chickadee 2, American Robin 2, European Starling 4, Eastern Towhee 1 (m), Song Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 5, Northern Cardinal 8 (6m, 2f), Red-winged Blackbird 40, Common Grackle 3, Brown-headed Cowbird 1 (m), House Finch 14, American Goldfinch 16. Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers – Corn Nk Clay Head trail Corn Nk, Washington, Rhode Island, US
Apr 19, 2022 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM. Protocol: Traveling 1.0 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cloudy and cool - approx. 48F & strong wind from SW. Rain ended at approx. 7:30 (just before the walk) but wind continued as fierce. Participants: Susan Matheke, Diane King, Chuck McMellon & Kim G. 20 species: Canada Goose 2, Mallard 11, Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Mourning Dove 2, Herring Gull 5, Great Black-backed Gull 3, Osprey 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 2, American Kestrel 1, Blue Jay 3, American Crow 10, Fish Crow 1, Carolina Wren 4, European Starling 20, American Robin 40, Eastern Towhee 1, Red-winged Blackbird 25, Common Grackle 12, Northern Cardinal 1

Chuck McMellon – Kim, here's my first effort on a Third Tuesday backyard bird count.
On my morning walk on Westside road: 5 crows, 6 robins, 1 cardinal, 2 Canadian geese
At my back yard feeder: 6 redwing blackbirds, 2 cardinals (male and female), 1 bluejay, 1 dove, 2 crows
Near the feeder but not feeding from it: 1 black capped catbird (in the tree), 1 eastern towhee (below feeder the grass eating fall out), 1 raven (below feeder on grass eating fallout)
There were a few more birds that I could not identify. Chuck

Curt Milton – Good afternoon!

Report for the Where-In-The-World Walk in Seattle today: As always, I went to the Union Bay Natural Area on Lake Washington. Cool and partly overcast with temps in the upper 40s and low 50s.

Not as many birds out today, possibly due to the recent cold weather. I heard lots of singing but didn't see as many birds as two weeks ago.

The two Anna's Hummingbird chicks in our courtyard fledged last weekend and are gone. They grow up fast! (I'll attach a photo of a different Anna's I saw today on my walk.)

Here is my list: Song sparrow: 5; Brown Creeper: 1; American Robin: 2 ; Bewick's Wren: 1 ; Pie-billed grebe: 2 ... one sitting on a nest; American Coot: 1; American Crow: numerous, Anna's Hummingbird: 3; Black-capped Chickadee: 1 ... heard numerous [counted as 5 -KG]; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Northern Shovelers: numerous; Red-winged Blackbird: 2; Bufflehead: 1; Mallard: 1. Thank you for organizing the walk and ... I'll see you in a couple of weeks! Curt



Anna's Hummingbird, Curt Milton

Dan Kasuba – Hi Kim, Well, the warblers have pretty much disappeared from down here, but I know that's good news for everybody up North ! Here's my list from yesterday. Take care and enjoy !

Sarasota Audubon/celery Fields nature park. Sarasota Florida, 9AM - 11:00 AM

3 loggerhead shrikes, 3 great herons [since GBH are listed below, I am assuming this is Great Egret – kg] ,2 least sandpipers, 2 Sandhill cranes,5 sora rails, 1 Virginia rail, 2 swamp sparrows, 3 bald eagles, 2 ospreys, 1 least bittern, 1 Eastern bluebird, 3 gray-headed swamp hens, 7 purple gallinules, 2 black necked stilts, 3 GBHs, 2 blue winged teal, 1 common yellow throat and 1 pine warbler, 6 black hooded parakeets, 5 common ground doves, 1 great crested flycatcher, 1 Eastern screech owl, 1 tricolored heron, 3 little blue herons, and many of the following: glossy ibises, boat-tailed grackles, red winged blackbirds, mourning doves, cattle egrets and purple martins.

Faye Benedict - Kim and friends: here are a few amazing birds seen in San Francisco the past few days: hundreds of gulls and cormorants roosting on Alcatraz. 1 Anna's hummingbird, 1 golden eagle (not 100% sure but pretty sure) that landed very heavily and perched for a moment on my sister's 25th floor balcony railing. At least 50 wild parrots in the park.

Heather Hatfield – 4/19/22 Marco Island, FL. 80sF. Burrowing Owl 4, Boat-tailed Grackle 18+, Anhinga 8, White-winged Dove 11, Little Green Heron 2 [assuming Green Heron-kg], Brown Pelican 19, Snowy Egret 4, White Ibis 5, Frigatebird 2, Cardinal 2, GBH 1, Great Egret 6, Black Vulture 1, Turkey Vulture 8, Little Blue Heron 1, Wood Stork 3,

Kim Gaffett – At Ocean Ave & Negas Park: Great Egret 3, Snowy Egret 1, Great Blue Heron, C. Raven 2, Osprey 2. At home yard - including what appeared to be a post storm feeding frenzy - and in the field & pond: Canada Geese 3, Gr. Egret 1, N. Flicker 2, A. Robins 5, Fish Crow 3, Mourning Dove 3, BC Chickadee 1, N. Cardinal 1, Song Sparrow 2, Blue Jay 2, House Finch (one quite yellow) at least 7, Brown-headed Cowbird at least 5, Red-winged Blkbrd. 10+, C. Grackle 3, Starling 2, House Sparrow at least 6, A. Goldfinch at least 5.

And, on April 20: a Ruddy Shelduck at Rose's yard (corner of Ocean Ave. & Connecticut Ave.)



House Finch w/ yellowish coloration.

[Lauren Miller-Donnelly](#) – Yesterday April 19th I headed to the Fall River Forest and it was so windy that there were very little birds: Black-capped Chickadee 3, Tufted Titmouse 2, Brown Creeper 1

[Tim Mooney](#) – Hi Kim – In anticipation of this week's Where in the World Bird Walk, with great weather on a Monday and lousy weather for Tuesday... I spent the morning with a TNC/DEM science team, as they prepared to tag 100 river herring. The purpose is to track fish migration up the Saugatucket River, through three fish ladders, to Indian Lake. There was a fair amount of "standing around" time, but the few hardy, just-budding maples overhanging the river (in an otherwise built environment) were full of surprises. Two male Yellow-rumped Warblers, in astonishing breeding plumage, alternated between "hawking" insects and chasing each other. Tracking one of the yellow-rumps with binoculars on the far side of the river, a Yellow Warbler popped into my view. WOW! It was an electric burst of color. Just upstream, we watched two ospreys dive talon-first into the river and emerge with a herring. Two attempts, two herring taken. A Herring Gull quietly slipped into the rushing falls beneath the dam and emerged with... yes, a herring, already half-way down its gullet. It was impressive. Double-crested Cormorants patrolled the calm waters above the dam, diving now and then, but coming up empty. The sunlight was at just the right angle to pick up the soft, iridescent green on their black necks. At one point, we walked upriver along the boardwalk a short distance, to record short interviews about the project. We could hear a soft tap, tap, tap from above. Looking up... a male Downy Woodpecker in an ornamental pear tree, going about its business just a few feet over our heads. The final surprise of the morning was higher in the sky... what first appeared to be "just another" Turkey Vulture was instead a Black Vulture, much less common here. It pays to check those wings every time!

Main Street Dam, Wakefield, RI: Black Vulture – 1, Turkey Vulture – 1, Osprey – 3, Mallard – 2, Double-crested Cormorant – 5, Herring Gull – 2, Fish Crow – 7, Blue Jay – 2, Brown-headed Cowbird – 4, Eastern Phoebe – 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler – 2, Yellow Warbler – 1, Song Sparrow – 1, White-throated Sparrow – 2, Tufted Titmouse – 1, Black-capped Chickadee – 1, Northern Cardinal – 2, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1.

[Tom Fetherston](#) - Good morning Kim – Back from trout fishing, three more in the bag. Another blustery, cold day. Yesterday the wind was blowing a gale, Wordens Pond full of whitecaps and most of the water birds I'd been seeing recently (kingfishers, herons, cormorants, ospreys etc.) were absent. I think the wind made birding challenging in general, and smaller species that had been all over the yard during the past week were hunkered down in the shrubs.

Some new species this week: Eastern phoebe, chipping sparrow and red-shouldered hawk, a first for me ☺ As in some other cases, I'd probably seen them before but doing this list makes me look much more closely. The

hawk was in a tree near the pond. When Maggie and I approached it flushed, circled overhead and flew into the woods to the south. What struck me was that it was a buteo, but the bird was smaller than a red tail. Noted the white crescents by the wingtips and upon returning looked in both Peterson and Sibley. The habitat description in Sibley (woodland, usually found near water) also checked out.

Birds are pairing up around the yard. Phoebes are building a nest under our front porch overhang, house sparrows are occupying a bird house in the garden, tufted titmice, chipping sparrows, song sparrows and wrens appear to be following suit.

A sharp-shinned hawk crashed the party at the feeders mid-morning. Appeared to miss this time but I've found a couple of piles of dove feathers in the area.

As usual birds on or adjacent to Worden's Pond will be noted with WP and estimates with * Birds at the feeders were counted as singles unless they were different sexes or present simultaneously. Here's my list: Tufted titmouse (2), Northern cardinal (3), Herring gull (100*) WP, Eastern phoebe (2), Canada goose (4) WP, Red-winged blackbird (50*) WP & yard, Pie billed grebe WP, Common grackle (50*) WP & yard, Sharp-shinned hawk, Mallard (2) WP, Brown-headed cowbird (30*), Starling (2), American robin (2), American crow (5) WP & yard, Carolina wren, Blue jay (2), White-breasted nuthatch, Downy woodpecker (2), Song sparrow, Mourning dove (4), American goldfinch (2), Red-shouldered hawk WP, House sparrow (2), White-throated sparrow, Chipping sparrow (2)

[Wiki Butlevska](#) – I will text you if I can get any list. My brother saw a snowy twice yesterday. Still here!!

[Will & Penny Young, Anne & Ron Walker](#) – Kim, Below is our list we were in the northern section of Central Park, the ducks were in the reservoir in Central Park. Participants were Will Young, Penny Young, Anne Walker, Ron Walker. And Pearl our beagle. We were in the park about 2 hours.

Kinglet RC 5-7, Kinglet OC 3, Hermit thrush 25 +, Northern shoveler 15+, Bufflehead 4, Mallard duck 8, Rock dove +++, Mourning dove++, Red breasted Merganser, English sparrow +++, White throated sparrow 5, Robin ++, Starling +++, [I counted each "+" as 10 -kg] Eastern towhee, Brown creeper 3, Blue Jay 5, Harry wp 2, YB Sapsucker 1, Canada goose 5

April 19 Preview

Chris & Pam Scranton: [April 12, 2022](#) – Pam and I just got back from Lapham's. Here is what we saw.

Palm warblers - at least a dozen, Eastern Phoebe- 6, Pheasants- heard at least 4 Turkeys Vulture- 1, Song sparrow- many White-throated sparrow- 4, Savannah sparrow- 2, Swamp sparrow- 1, Northern harrier- 1,, Hermit Thrush- 10, Eastern, kingbird- 1, Ruby crowned kinglet- 6, Golden crowned kinglet- 3, Brown creeper-2, Robins- many

Barn swallow- 1

American crow-2

Common eider- 2

Red breasted merganser- 6

Black Scoter- 2

Large raft way out that appeared to be Long tailed ducks. Over 50

Black-backed gull

Herring gull

I think that's it. Daffodils looking good. Where are you meeting next Tuesday for the bird walk?

Chris and Pam