

## Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: May 4, 2021

### Incidental Notes.

- Big thanks to Laura Rosenzweig and Tim Mooney for holding up the From Afar list.
- You can definitely tell that spring has arrived with the first real “push” of spring migrants on the island. The BI list is a bit inflated by accepting lists from days on either side of the May 4<sup>th</sup> target, and with Corrie Heinz and Chris Littlefield submitting lists from multiple places and days. I feel it is important to be a “little relaxed” with the date of reports around the primary day, so as to create an overall picture of what is actually happening on the island – bird wise – at this time.
- The individual Block Island lists are reduced as the Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walk on Block Island has resumed, thus generating one list from one walk location, rather than separate lists from a variety of locations. (For the time being the in-persons walks will be limited to 10 people, with, of course, mask-wearing and other Covid-19 protocols.) Thanks to the “Coot Walkers” who also submitted observations. At this time of year it is especially great to get as much coverage of the Island’s haunts and habitats as possible.
- 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

## **Block Island**

( 71 species)

Canada Goose – 8

Mute Swan – 1

Mallard – 39

Common Eider – 4

Red-breasted Merganser – 5

Ring-necked Pheasant – 6

Common Loon – 4

Northern Gannet (dead) – 1

Double-crested Cormorant – 4

Great Cormorant – 1

Cormorant species – 14

Great Blue Heron – 3

Great Egret – 6

Snowy Egret – 3

Green Heron – 3

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 20

Osprey – 4

Turkey Vulture – 5

Marsh Hawk – 6  
Cooper's Hawk – 1  
American Oystercatcher – 3  
Black-bellied Plover – 50  
Piping Plover – 2  
Killdeer – 1  
Greater Yellowlegs – 1  
Willet – 51  
Sanderling – 100+  
Dunlin – 30  
American Woodcock – 1  
Herring Gull – 2  
Great Black-backed Gull – 15  
Gull species – 15  
Mourning Dove – 9  
Belted Kingfisher – 2  
Downy Woodpecker – 4  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3  
Northern Flicker – 1  
American Kestrel – 1  
Peregrine Falcon – 1  
Olive-sided Flycatcher – 1  
Eastern Phoebe – 1  
Eastern Kingbird – 1  
Blue Jay – 1  
American Crow – 13  
Fish Crow – 2  
Tree Swallow – 1  
Barn Swallow – 1  
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 12  
Black-capped Chickadee – 4  
House Wren – 1  
Carolina Wren – 10  
Wren species – 2  
Wood Thrush – 1  
American Robin – 19  
Gray Catbird – 2  
Northern Mockingbird – 1  
European Starling – 1  
Black-and-white Warbler – 1  
N. Parula – 1  
Yellow Warbler – 1  
Rufus-sided Towhee – 14  
American Tree Sparrow – 1  
Song Sparrow – 7  
White-throated Sparrow – 27  
Summer Tanager – 1  
Northern Cardinal – 8  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1

Red-winged Blackbird – 39  
Common Grackle – 3  
Purple Finch – 5  
House Finch – 4  
American Goldfinch – 31  
House Sparrow – 5

## **From Afar** Cumberland, RI; Sedbergh, England

(26 species)

Canada Goose – 2  
Mallard – 1  
\*Grey Heron – 1  
\*Wood Pigeon – 3  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1  
\*Swallow – 4  
Chimney Swift – 1  
Blue Jay – 3  
American Crow – 2  
\*Crow species – 3  
\*Nuthatch – 1  
Carolina Wren – 1  
Northern Mockingbird – 2  
American Robin – 8  
\*Blackbird – 3  
Chipping Sparrow – 5  
Song Sparrow – 4  
Northern Cardinal – 3  
European Starling – 5  
Red-winged Blackbird – 2  
Common Grackle – 9  
Brown-headed Cowbird – 2  
\*Goldfinch – 2  
\*Chaffinch – 2  
House Finch – 1  
House Sparrow – 7

**Corrie Heinz** – May 3: In my yard Monday - 3 osprey, 1 turkey vultures, 1 great blue, 2 wrens ( in wood shop ) [Probably Carolina Wren, but House Wren is also possible. -kg]. Andy's way Monday - 50 plus Willets, 30 plus Dublin, 2 piping plovers, 50 plus black bellied plovers, 3 American oyster catchers, 100 plus sanderlings, 2 northern harriers, 3 great blue herons, 5 great egrets, 2 snowy, 20 plus black crown night (Beane), 15 gull nests on north west side of Beane, 14 cormorant on break wall, 1 towhee, 2 Canada Geese, 2 turkey vultures (being harrassed by willets). On way to Bonnell in Filippi pond - 2 green herons and 1 black and white warbler.

May 5 Today walked Charlestown beach, 1 dead gannet, 3 loons [assuming & recorded above as Common Loon -kg], 5 red breasted mergansers, 3 eiders [assuming & recorded above as Common Eider -kg], 1 northern harrier, 2 piping plovers and a lot of tattooing (north end of beach

**Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walkers** – eBird report: Dorry's Cove Road & yards, Washington, Rhode Island, US. May 4, 2021 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM. Protocol: Traveling 0.5 mile(s). Checklist Comments: Cloudy & rainy. Walked Dorries Cove Rd. to, and around, Vin Ryan property and pond. Participants: Heather Hatfield, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Gail & Shorty

Cahill, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Debbie Martin, Pat Campbell, & Kim Gaffett. 32 species: Canada Goose 5, Mallard 14, Ring-necked Pheasant 5, Mourning Dove 8, Herring Gull 2, Great Black-backed Gull 15, Double-crested Cormorant 3, Turkey Vulture 1, Northern Harrier 2, Belted Kingfisher 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 1, Blue Jay 1, American Crow 12, Fish Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 9, Carolina Wren 7, Gray Catbird 1, American Robin 16, House Sparrow 4, House Finch 2, Purple Finch 1, American Goldfinch 20, American Tree Sparrow 1 (Sightings of several individuals around Block Island May 2-6), White-throated Sparrow 8, Song Sparrow 5, Eastern Towhee 10, Red-winged Blackbird 32, Common Grackle 2, Northern Cardinal 4.

[Chris Littlefield](#) [Sent May 6] “Rest of week until this am Christine’s, 754 Corn Neck, 725 Corn Neck, Andys Way” – [Info and list submitted on May 6. A great list, but no numbers and day & location missing/unclear, therefore 1 of each species has been recorded in the BI list above. Note: only Killdeer and Olive-sided Flycatcher were not also seen by another observer during the May 3-6 time frame. -kg]

Parula, Wood thrush, Yellow warbler, Cardinal, B. kingfisher, Mockingbird, Osprey, Great Egret, Green Heron, Towhee, Kingbird, Am. Woodcock, Ring-necked pheasant, Song sparrow, Common crow, Fish crow, Snowy egret, Willett, Greater yellowlegs, Carolina wren, House wren, Harrier, Cooper’s hawk, Turkey vulture, Barn swallow, Tree swallow, RW blackbird, Common grackle, Summer tanager, Olive sided flycatcher, Phoebe, Chickadee, Peregrine, Am. Robin, Goldfinch, Purple finch/house finch, Common loon, Common eider, Starling, House sparrow, Catbird, Cowbird, Red-br. Nuthatch, Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Flicker, White—throated sparrow, Killdeer, Mute swan, Double crested cormorant, Great cormorant, Canada goose

[Laura Rosenzweig](#) – Here’s A day late as yesterday was pouring rain and gales. But today, after snow overnight on the hills, I have seen: 2 x goldfinch, 1 x nuthatch, 4 x swallow, 2 x chaffinch, along with the usual blackbirds, crows, [Wood] pigeons and a blue-grey heron that visits us almost daily at the moment, in search of tadpoles or frogs or newts that live in our pond. [See photo of Britain’s Goldfinch. Nuthatch similar to U.S. Red-br. Nuthatch; Swallow equivalent to the America’s Barn Swallow; Britain’s Blackbirds are thrushes (like a black American Robin); Grey Heron (Britain) is the same species — as Great Blue Heron (U.S.); when number not indicated, I conservatively recorded 3. -kg]



[Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce](#) – Here’s our home list for this afternoon: Mourning Dove 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Wren 2, Am. Robin 2, Eastern Towhee 2, White-throated Sparrow **18 (no kidding - all seen at once under the feeders)**, Song Sparrow 1, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (f), Cardinal 3, Red-winged Blackbird 6, Purple finch 4, House Finch 2, Am. Goldfinch 10. Great walk and breakfast this morning - very many thanks!! Cheers, Cathy & Nigel

[Tim Mooney](#) – Hi Kim, my list for this week, just in the yard and walking around the neighborhood in Cumberland. Around mid-morning, I was distracted from work by very close alarm calls from a robin. They nest every year in the rhododendron right in front of our house, so I got up to look out. To my surprise, there was a crow in the rhododendron, about 5 feet from my window! I’d never seen one that close to the house. Well, my parental instincts kicked in and I intervened, shooing the crow off. Curious, I went out later and found a 3-egg robin’s nest. We keep the rhody trimmed to about 4-4.5 feet tall, so it’s always a little precarious for the robins that nest there. Last year the fledglings made it, so we’ll see what happens. Best, Tim

American Crow – 2, Blue Jay – 3, Common Grackle – 9, Red-winged Blackbird – 2, Brown-headed Cowbird – 2, European Starling – 5, Northern Mockingbird – 2, Chipping Sparrow – 5, Song Sparrow – 4, House Sparrow – 7, House Finch – 1, Northern Cardinal – 3, American Robin – 8, Carolina Wren – 1, Chimney Swift – 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1, Canada Goose – 2 (flyover), Mallard – 1 (flyover)