

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: September 15, 2020

~ September 15+/- Note: The individual observations below are great value-added comments to the lists; especially Tim Mooney's bees in a bird bath report, and Laura Rosenzweig's who seems to foretell dwindling birds post-migration.

~ Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).

~ [Things in brackets are notes by me = kg]

Block Island

Canada Goose – 11

Mute Swan – 3

American Black Duck – 16

Mallard – 3

Ring-necked Pheasant - 11

Double-crested Cormorant – 13

Great Blue Heron – 2

Great Egret – 11

Snowy Egret - 7

Little Blue Heron – 1

Yellow-crowned Night-heron – 4

Turkey Vulture – 1

Osprey – 1

Northern Harrier – 1

American Oystercatcher – 3

Black-bellied Plovers – 6

Semi-palmated Plovers – 3

Willet – 3

Sanderling – 5

Least Sandpiper – 3

Laughing Gull – 29

Herring Gull – 175+

Great Black-backed Gull – 130+

Gull species/large imm. – 50

Mourning Dove – 13

Belted Kingfisher – 3

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Northern flicker – 3

Merlin – 1

Peregrine Falcon – 1

Eastern Phoebe – 2

Red-eyed Vireo – 2

White-eyed Vireo – 1

Blue Jay - 4

American Crow – 18

Fish Crow – 10

Tree Swallow - 4

Black-capped Chickadee – 5

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 7

Carolina Wren – 11

House Wren – 4

American Robin – 2

Gray Catbird – 20

European Starlings – 10

Cedar Waxwing – 45

Black-and-white Warbler – 1

Common Yellowthroat – 5

American Redstart – 3

Cape May Warbler – 3

Yellow Warbler – 1

Blackpoll - 6

Rufous-sided Towhee – 9

Song Sparrow – 9

Northern Cardinal – 7

Red-winged Blackbird – 6

Common Grackle – 3

Brown-headed Cowbird – 6

House Finch - 2

American Goldfinch – 12

From Afar Cumberland, RI; Bethesda, MD; Sedbergh, England

*=European species.

Mallard – 2

Merganser – 1

*Grey Heron – 1

Oystercatcher - 1

*Wood Pigeon – 1+

Rock Dove – 3

Mourning Dove – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1

American Crow – 2

*Crow species – 1+

Blue Jay – 12

Black-capped Chickadee – 1

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1

White-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Carolina Wren – 1

American Robin – 1

European Starling – 1

House Sparrow – 20+

Drew & Eartha Wheelan & Mike Tucker, 9/15/20 with Mike Tucker and Eartha Wheelan , Sachem Pond and adjacent properties: 16 Black Ducks, 3 Mute Swan, 11 Canada Geese, 1 Ring-necked Pheasant, 5 Mourning Doves, ~125 Great Black-backed Gull, ~ 160 Herring Gull, 20 Laughing Gulls, 8 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Great Egret, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Merlin, 2 Eastern Phoebe, 2 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 9 Fish Crows, 3 American Crows , 4 Tree Swallows, 5 Black-capped Chickadees , 7 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 6 Carolina Wrens, 2 American Robins, 11 Gray Catbirds, 22 Starlings, 45 Cedar Waxwings, 2 House Finches, 12 American Goldfinches, 9 Song Sparrows, 7 Eastern Towhees, 6 Red-winged Blackbirds, 3 Common Grackles , 1 Black and White Warbler, 5 Common Yellowthroats, 1 American Redstart, 6 Blackpoll Warblers, 3 Cape May Warblers, 7 Northern Cardinals

Laura Rosenzweig Sedbergh, England, 9/22 -- I know it's not our coot day but I was out this morning so thought I'd send in a report anyway! I saw ducks a-plenty while wandering along the river with Suki — 3 x Mallard pairs and one merganser fraternising with two of them and then a lone oystercatcher went flying by calling for its friends. Otherwise it's very quiet on the bird front here. There are plenty of the usual noisy crowd — wood-pigeons and crows — but very few song birds recently. They've all gone very quiet so I'm less aware of them I suppose. I did see a small flock of house sparrows (I think, LBJs for sure) in the elderberry bush yesterday, gorging on the yummy ripe berries. I haven't seen a robin or a thrush or even any blackbirds in quite a while. Two days ago Suki scared up a grey heron in a field but even the pheasants have disappeared. If we go over towards Ravestonedale we occasionally see grouse on the higher moors.

Heather Hatfield — Pending

Kim Gaffett — Slow morning at Clay Head included 1 catbird, 2 A. Redstarts and a Carolina Wren in the nets. But, N. Flickers (saw 3) were everywhere and numerous, heard: 5 A. crows, 1 Fish Crow, 2 Blue Jays, 2 R-N Pheasant, and 1 Osprey with a fish on a utility pole driving out the Lapham driveway.

Nina Tang Hello!! I've unfortunately been missing our social distance bird walks because of a heavy wave of work over the past couple weeks, but I was able to get outside a little today! Today in Bethesda, MD from ~9:45-10:30am, I saw 2 blue jays, 1 Euro starling, 1 red-bellied woodpecker, 2 house sparrows, and 1 mourning dove! Hope you're well, Kim :)

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce Cathy & I went for a low-tide walk from Andy's Way to Beane Point. As we drove along Andy's to the parking area we were welcomed by a Ring-necked Pheasant crossing the dirt road - an auspicious start! We saw the following birds: Mallard – 1, Ring-necked Pheasant – 1, Double-crested Cormorant – 5, Great Egret – 4, Snowy Egret – 7, **Little Blue Heron** - 1 (juv.) [A really good look], Yellow-crowned Night Heron - 4 (juv.), Northern Harrier – 1, **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 (A really good look), Black-bellied Plover – 6, Semi-palmated Plover – 3, American Oystercatcher – 3, Willet – 3, Sanderling – 5, Least Sandpiper - 3 (ID from photo), Laughing Gull – 9, Herring Gull - 15 (mature adults), Great Black-backed Gull - 5 (mature adults), Large Gull sp. (imm.) – 50, Mourning Dove – 1, **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 [A really good look], American Crow – 8. To cap off the excursion, we were greeted by another Belted Kingfisher as we drove back up our driveway! A great ending to a beautiful afternoon!

Susan Matheke & Amy Keeler This is our bird list for Tuesday/Wednesday - riding out with Amy Keeler on Tryggur and Falki . --- and Wednesday early in Della's field. ---no binoculars and no glasses for my nearsighted eyes. 8 pheasants, adults and juveniles, 6 Great Egrets, 2 mallards, 1 yellow warbler, 12 mourning doves, 2 Towhee, 4 Carolina Wrens, 8 catbirds, 10 Starlings, 2 great blue herons. Della's field: 6 brown headed cowbirds at her feet while she was grazing, 1 fully adult and 5 juveniles that were a bit mottled coloring, 2 blue jays, 4 house wrens, 2 American crows, 1 turkey vulture, way over head

Tim Mooney - I forgot to send you my Tuesday backyard bird list last week: Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1 (it was the first sound I heard when I woke up that morning.), White-breasted Nuthatch – 1, Downy Woodpecker – 1, American Robin – 1 , Blue Jay – 5, American Crow – 2, House Sparrow – 16, Carolina Wren – 1, Black-capped Chickadee – 1, Rock Pigeon – 3. Birdbath note: Since mid-summer, I've been observing honeybees come to our birdbath for a drink. Last week, they

set a “record” of 13 honeybees at the birdbath at once. Nothing fancy – just a plain cement birdbath filled with water. A neighbor around the corner keeps bees and they must be coming from there. The sparrows and other visitors don’t seem to be put off by them.