

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: November 3, 2020

~ November 3, 2020 Note: So grateful for all the reports. Together we have observed an impressive number of species. Please be sure to check out the individual notes – there are many beautiful descriptions, and the activity was clearly a welcome distraction on Election Day.

~ 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

(45 species)

Canada Geese – 27

Mallard – 10

Common Eider – 10

Black Scoter – 12

Bufflehead – 7

Hooded Merganser – 4

Red-breasted Merganser – 2

Ring-necked Pheasant – 2

Pied-billed Grebe – 1

Northern Gannet – 3

Double-crested Cormorant – 6

Great Blue Heron – 2

Great Egret – 1

Turkey Vulture – 1

Northern Harrier – 3

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Cooper's Hawk – 1

American Woodcock – 1

Herring Gull – 16+

Great Black-backed Gull – 10+

Mourning Dove – 9

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 8
Blue Jay – 5
American Crow – 26
Fish Crow – 2
Common Raven – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 16
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Brown Creeper 2
Carolina Wren – 7+
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3
Hermit Thrush – 1
American Robin – 70+
Gray Catbird – 1
European Starling – 13
Myrtle Warbler (a.k.a. Yellow-rumped Warbler) – 4
Song Sparrow – 3
White-throated Sparrow – 5
Slate-colored Junco – 7
Northern Cardinal – 14
House Finch – 8
Pine Siskin – 45+
House Sparrow – 6

From Afar Tiverton, RI; Jamesport, NY; Surry, NH; Newark, DE; Pleasant Hill, OR; Mallaig, Scotland.
(35 species)

Canada Geese – 6

Wild Turkey – 17

*Cormorant – a convention (12)

Black Vulture 3

*Buzzard (*Buteo bueto*) – 1

Red-tailed Hawk - 1
Hawk species – 1
Sanderling – a swirl (24)
*Gull species (Herring, Lesser Black-backed...) – 100s
Mourning Dove – 4
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Blue Jay - 5
Steller's Jay – 5+
Black-capped Chickadee – 8
Tufted Titmouse – 2
White-breasted Nuthatch – 4
Brown-creeper – 1
Pacific Wren – 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1
Eastern Bluebird – 8
American Robin – 8
Gray Catbird – 1
Cedar Waxwing – 1
Song Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 2
Sparrow species – 3
Slate-colored Junco – 7+
Northern Cardinal – 4
House Finch – 2
American Goldfinch – 17
Evening Grosbeak – 4
*House Sparrow – 2

Erica Anderson – Pleasant Hill, OR. Hope the fall is beautiful on the island. The maples out my front window are turning yellow and the light in the house is incredible because of it. Birds: It was a sunny fall afternoon at my house, temp in the mid 60s. The leaves are falling from the trees so what I thought were birds fluttering several times were just leaves

falling. Things were pretty quiet except for the Stellar Jays who were letting the neighborhood know they were here! A new find for me was the Pacific Wren. Haven't seen it before. It spent most of its time flitting from stem to stem and running along the forest floor but came surprisingly close to where I was standing watching it. Steller's Jay 5+, Black Capped Chickadee 3, White Breasted Nuthatch 2, Pacific Wren 1, Hawk (probably a red tail but couldn't quite see it well enough) 1.

Gail Cahill - Didn't do any this week really. On Tuesday I did see a great blue heron in the spring house pond as driving by. But thanks for checking in. Hanging in there, waiting like the rest of the country.

Kim Gaffett – Nov. 3, Election Day. Incidental birding as I went through the day. Home/Mill Tail Swamp Pond: Mallards 8, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Herring Gull 10+, GBBG 8+, N. Flicker, A. Crow 3, Carolina Wren 2, chickens 14. Clay Head: GCK 3, Robins 20+, Hermit Thrush 1, Pheasant 2, A. Crow 7+, Fish Crow 2, Song Sp.1, N. Cardinal 2, N. Flicker 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Brown Creeper 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Myrtle Warbler 4, Marsh Hawk 1, TV 1. A. Woodcock flying between Andy's Way and Greenaway house 1. And, friend, Tom Fetherston saw a Raven fly over the monument towards the Lapham House.

Laura Rosenzweig – This report is from Mallaig, Scotland, between 8am and 10am this morning (I'm now back in Sedbergh. I drove up yesterday to take mum home after she'd been here for 6 weeks. Put her on this morning's boat then turned right around and drove all the way home again, before England goes into another national lockdown on Thursday). I spied all of these while drinking a cup of coffee in the parking lot!: a gaggle of geese (6, Canada?, generally heading south), a gathering of gulls (100s, herring, lesser black back, the ubiquitous 'seagull' for those of us who can't tell one from the other!!), a swirl of sanderlings (that was my favourite sighting, about 24 of them skittering low over the water), a convention of cormorants (about 12, in and out of the water), a split-second sighting of two sparrows diving under cars looking for scraps, and a buzzard as I headed out of town and got on the road.

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Here is the summary of my bird walk today. Pocasset Ridge Conservation Area, Tiverton RI. 11/3/2020 at 11:02 AM. I decided I wanted to take a bird walk on a TNC property so I chose Pocasset Ridge Conservation Area, which is fairly close to where I live. I have seen the trail head on the side of the road in Tiverton before but have never stopped. The hike on the property starts off level and quite easy as you skirt behind some of the homes along the road-front. I heard my first birds chipping away above a beautifully restored stonewall behind a private landowner's home, two Red-breasted Woodpeckers and a White-breasted Nuthatch. After crossing the footboards in an area that clearly gets periodically wet, the trail turns 90 degrees towards the ridge. Along this part of the trail I found a Gray Catbird near a small wetland and heard a pair of Cardinals and a White-throated Sparrow. The trail parallels a stonewall for about 100 yards, then starts the ascent to the ridgeline. At this point the trail becomes moderate. Some careful walking here through glacial erratics and large stones enveloped by the earth, I discovered some rock tripe grasping to and some evergreen ferns popping out of the large rocks here. When I got to the ridge an overwhelming feeling of vertigo hit me when I realized how high off the ground I was. I looked out (trying not to look down again) and could see above the tree line, and counted three black vultures, a turkey vulture and a red-tailed hawk. On my way back I found a golden-crowned kinglet, a brown creeper, some titmice and I saw two birds that I had to use my bird book to confirm the ID: they were two juvenile yellow-bellied sapsuckers! I certainly did not know that juveniles had brownish heads. Overall I really enjoyed the walk and loved how the American Beech became dominant on the ridge line. The total length of my hike was just over 2 miles and it took me about an hour. Below is the list from Ebird for my trip. Happy birding!

Black Vulture	3
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2
Blue Jay	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Tufted Titmouse	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1

Brown Creeper	1
Gray Catbird	1
American Robin	8
Cedar Waxwing	1
American Goldfinch	2
White-throated Sparrow	2
Song Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	3

Maggie Komosinski – From Jamesport, NY, on Election Day. This morning: 17 Wild Turkey in my front yard!!! Two flew into the back yard; I thought I would need to herd them back to the gate before letting the dogs out. It was clear, however, they weren't so happy after a short while (being separated from the flock) and so strode to the fence and flew over - 😊

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce – We mostly watched from home and the highlights were several raptor sightings with definitive IDs for a beautiful mature adult Sharp-shinned Hawk and a juvenile Coopers Hawk (both perching around our feeders). We have also had a Pied-billed Grebe on Warden's Pond but it was not seen on Tuesday! Our list: Mallards 2, Bufflehead 7 (seen on the long, narrow pond east of Lakeside between Mitchell Lane and Mohegan Trail), Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 6, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 10, Black-capped Chickadee 8, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 1 (seen, several more heard), Song Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 5, Dark-eyed Junco 1, Northern Cardinal 10, House finch 8, Pine Siskin 40-50 (large flock flying around Cooneymus; 6+ at our feeder), House Sparrow 6. All the best.

Stephanie Baute – Surry, NH – Hi Kim. From Surry NH at my bird feeders. Latest birds to arrive here: Juncos 7+, 4 evening grosbeaks 2 male, 2 female. At least 8 bluebirds at one time, Goldfinch 15+, Chickadees. 5, Mourning doves 4, White breasted nuthatch 1, Red bellied woodpecker 1 male, Downy woodpecker eating a hole in my house, Hairy woodpecker 1, Bluejays 3, I have three bluebird feeders and fill them every day.

Susan Matheke – Nov.3/Election Day. Ok this is a quick view of Della's fields and Ball Farm as I was trying to calm my nerves. 27 Canada Geese, 3 blue jay, 13 Starlings, 1 white breasted nuthatch, 1 Northern Harrier, 3 Mourning doves, 5 black capped chickadee, 3 Carolina wren, 1 great egret, 1 great blue heron.

Vicki & Lawrence Kiiuchi – Fun day to be out , breezy and sunny. Thanks for the inspiration. In mid-morning, Lawrence and I were at the Maze. Here is the list: 2 cardinal, 1 catbird, 3 bc chickadee, 6 dc cormorant, 6 common crow [American Crow], 10 common eider, 2 red brst merganser, 4 hooded merganser, 4 yellow shafted flicker, 6 herring gull, 2 gbb gull, 1 marsh hawk (harrier now?), 6 junco (what is it now, northern?) [Slate-colored – kg] , 3 gannet, 50 robin, 12 common scoter [assuming Black Scoters, but could have been White-winged, but Black S. have been being seen. – kg] Yay. Not bad for a couple of lay-a-beds. Fun!

Vicki & Tom Carter – Not a very successful day today at our backyard feeder in Newark, Delaware. It was sunny but cold and very windy. We saw one male cardinal, 3 sparrows and 2 house finches. This was around mid-day.