

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: August 18+/-, 2020

As seen in Nigel and Cathy's observations this is a great time to see migrating shorebirds at low tide – Andy's Way and Cormorant Cove are good Block Island low tide spots these days. And, to answer the question " what the heck is a Dowitcher" check out this episode of BirdNote <https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/short-billed-dowitcher>

~ August 18+/- Note: The individual observations below are great value-added comments to the lists.

~ 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 Geese – 20

Mallard – 3+

Ring-necked Pheasant – 13+ (10+ chicks, 2 hens)

Double-crested Cormorant – 3

Great Egret – 4

Egret species – 5

Black-crowned Night Heron – 1

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – 2

Night Heron species – 2

Glossy Ibis – 2

Turkey Vulture – 1

Osprey – 4

Northern Harrier – 3

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Cooper's Hawk – 1

American Oystercatcher – 3

Black-bellied Plovers – 23

Semi-palmated Plovers - >75

Greater Yellowlegs – 3

Willet – 5
Ruddy Turnstone – 10
Sanderling – 18
Least Sandpiper – 1
Semi-palmated Sandpiper – 4
Peeps – 5
Short-billed Dowitcher – 2
Laughing Gull – 6
Ring-billed Gull – 1
Herring Gull – 9
Great Black-backed Gull – 3
Gull species – 5, plus many HYS
Mourning Dove – 4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Peregrine Falcon – 1
Great-crested Flycatcher – 1
Eastern Kingbird – 2
Blue-headed Vireo – 1
American Crow – 12
Fish Crow – 7
Crow species – 3
Barn Swallow – 25
Black-capped Chickadee – 5
Carolina Wren – 3
American Robin – 9
Gray Catbird – 20
European Starling – 3
Northern Waterthrush – 1

Common Yellowthroat – 5

Yellow Warbler – 5

Rufous-sided Towhee – 6

Song Sparrow – 12

Northern Cardinal – 7

Red-winged Blackbird – 5

Common Grackles – 9

House Finch - 2

American Goldfinch – 23

House Sparrow – 22

From Afar East Providence/Barrington, RI; Essex, CT; Seattle WA; Roseburg, OR; Sedbergh, England

*=European species.

Canada Goose – 7

Mallard – 5

Double-crested Cormorant – 9

Great Blue Heron – 1

*Grey Heron – 1 (same genus as Great Blue Heron in America)

Great Egret – 1

Snowy – 3

Green Heron – 2

Black-crowned Night Heron – 2

Turkey Vulture – 1

Osprey – 1

Cooper's Hawk – 1

American Oystercatcher – 1

Semipalmated Plover – 1

Willet – 1

Herring Gull – 18

Great Black-backed Gull – 7, one eating an eel

Rock Pigeon – 4
Anna’s Hummingbird – 3
Acorn Woodpecker – 2
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Black-capped Chickadee - 5
American Crow – 6
Fish Crow – 1
California Scrub Jay - 1
American Robin – 8+
Gray Catbird - 2
Northern Waterthrush – 1
Spotted Towhee – 1
Bullock’s Oriole – 1
House Finch – 3
House Sparrow – 17

Curt Milton, Seattle, Washington: Not a lot of birds around today. But I found a few! Seems like it’s too hot and humid. And the fall migration hasn’t started. Temps in the mid 70s and clear. I walked to Interlaken Park in Seattle, which is a beautiful piece of forest right in the middle of the city. I could hear birds ... but they were way up in the canopy so didn’t see much. Here we go! Crow: 6, Rock pigeons: 4, House sparrows: 12, Black capped chickadee: 1, Anna’s Hummingbird: 3, Robin: 2, House finch: 3 females, two were fledges. That’s it from Seattle!

Drew Wheelan w/Eartha My daughter and I meandered along old town rd and Connecticut Ave birding and picking berries from 12:45- 14:00. Highlights were a young Peregrine being chased by a young Sharp-shinned Hawk above Club Soda, and a Blue-headed Vireo at the boy scout camp:12 Canada Goose at Mill Tail Pond, 2 Herring Gulls, 1 Peregrine Falcon , 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Downey Woodpeckers , 4 Barn Swallows, 5 American Crows, 7 Fish Crows, 12 Gray Catbirds, 7 American Robins, 6 Song Sparrows, 4 Eastern Towhees, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 6 Common Yellowthroats, 2 Yellow Warblers, 2 Red-winged Blackbirds, 9 Common Grackles, 18 American Goldfinches, 2 House Finches, 3 European Starlings, 13 House Sparrows. + I forgot that we also had a Belted Kingfisher, near Old Island Pub. + It was great to have a little nudge to pay attention! I otherwise might have missed seeing so much. Also, I forgot 2 Chickadees!

Ellen Davis - Besides a couple of cardinals, crows and catbirds, I didn’t see too much this go round but I look forward to “bumping into you” [soon].

Erica Anderson - OR: So, we went camping in the Wallowa Whitman National forest and it was some of the worst birding ever! We could hear birds for about 5 minutes in the early morning and as the sun set but didn't really hear them during the day. I suppose it's partly because the trees are so tall they are way up in the canopy. I was bummed because there are some species up there we don't get at home. Ah well, camping was nice and the scenery was pretty. The trees are very different and there were some late wildflowers so there was other stuff to see.

Next Tues we are going to be on upper Klamath Lake boating. It's one of the stop overs on the migration route so I have high hopes for next week!

Gail Cahill I didn't get out to look about until Friday [8/21 kg], if too late I understand. Small list. Roadmans Hollow trail from Peckham Farm, out to Black Rock via Jones Trail (?) and back up Black Rock Road: 1 – Towhee, 5 – Gulls, 1 - Barn Swallow, 1 – Catbird, 2 – Pheasant, 1 – Osprey

Heather Hatfield Wednesday August 19, West Side: 1 Glossy Ibis, 1 Great Egret, 3 Osprey, 1 Ruby throated hummingbird. Maze: 2 Eastern Kingbird, 3 Common Yellowthroat, 4 Cardinal, 3 BC Chickadee, 1 Great Crested Flycatcher. This is mostly a highlights list. I'll keep a more complete list soon. Hopefully we can bird together soon!

Jon Peterson – Essex, CT, 8/15 (early): Hi Kim: Read your message. I'm not around for your walk, but your comments on early Fall migrants sparked a realization that what I saw here two days ago at Essex Meadows in our swampy area was a Northern Waterthrush. You are right. They are on the move and have hit the Connecticut coast line region.

Kim Gaffett – 8/19 (late) OVF Pavilion: Carolina Wren 1, Amer. Robin 2, Catbird 5, Northern Waterthrush 1, YT 3, Yellow Warbler 3, Song Sparrow 3, RS Towhee 1; & home: Mallard 3+, Canada Geese 10 [probably same ones seen by DW, therefore not in list.] Downy woodpecker 1, Amer. Crow 5, Carolina Wren 2, Song Sparrow 3, House Sparrow 9, N. Cardinal 2, RW Blackbird 3, Cooper's Hawk eating a rat, and tooooo many chickens 😊

Laura Rosenzweig – 8/17 (early) Sedburgh, England: I'll see what I can do tomorrow but today I had the great pleasure of getting up close and personal to a Grey Heron. It didn't fly off when we (me and Suki) got near so I could take a good look at it and just enjoy it being there. I didn't have a camera so I just watched for a while, while Suki meandered about the river's edge. At one point it 'yawned'! It was very grey so I think it was an immature bird judging by what I can see online. 8/18 - It's pouring here today, no sign of it letting up. I'm not going out, but if I see any birds from the window I'll let you know. [So happy to hear about the 8/17 Grey Heron.]

Nigel Grindley & Cathy Joyce - Cathy and I went for a low tide GSP walk. By some bizarre oversight, we both left our binoculars behind; nevertheless we had a great bird walk and saw: Canada Geese – 8, Double Crested Cormorants – 3, Night Herons - 4 (of which we were reasonably confident that 2 were Yellow-Crowned), Great Egrets – 3, Egret sp. - 5 (too distant for a definitive ID), Northern Harriers - 2 (at the same time), Black-bellied Plovers – 23, Semi-palmated Plovers - >75 (by far the most numerous bird seen), American Oystercatcher - 2 (both adults), Greater Yellowlegs – 3, Willets – 5, Ruddy Turnstones – 10, Sanderlings – 18, Peeps - 10 including at least 1 Least Sandpiper and 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers – 2, Laughing Gulls – 6, Ring-billed Gull – 1, Herring Gulls – 7, Greater Black-backed Gulls – 3, (Large Gull Species - many juveniles), Mourning Doves – 2, Crow sp. – 3. We had a great walk. Hey, who needs binoculars!!

Penny Lapham – Roseburg, OR. Wandering around the house and river: 1 California Scrub-Jay, 2 Acorn Woodpeckers, 4 Black-Capped Chickadees, 5 House Sparrows, 1 Female Spotted Towhee, 5 + Robins, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Green Heron, 7 Canada Geese, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Vulture, 1 Female Bullock's Oriole, 5 Male Mallard Ducks

Susan Matheke – Once again I am late in reporting so if not listed I understand. [Obviously, I'm late too in getting around to the report. kg] Monday evening [8/17] at West Beach looking over towards Andy's Way: many Snowy Egrets, a few Great Egrets, and many young Egrets, 1 Night Heron. [Many = 5, few = 3. kg] Willie swimming at Dories Cove, swam into a flock of ??? black headed gulls, small maybe Bonaparte or Laughing gulls (he looked in the book as soon as he came home and thought they were Bonaparte).[More likely Laughing Gull at this time of year and in that number. kg] Della's Fields: many Goldfinch's, I am sure we had some nesting pairs because we truly have a flock of Goldfinch, Turkey Vulture circling overhead, Ball Farm: at least 20 Barn swallows on the wire, 2 Mourning doves, and so many baby pheasants, at least 10 with two female pheasants.

Tim Mooney - Combined from various locations on the East Providence/Barrington, RI waterfront: Gray Catbird – 2, American Robin – 1, Herring Gull – 18, Black-backed Gull – 7, one eating an eel, Osprey – 1, Fish Crow – 1, Double-crested Cormorant – 9; Hunt's Mills, Ten Mile River: Black-crowned Night Heron – 1; Mouth of Mussachuck Creek in Barrington (gulls omitted, already counted above): Cooper's Hawk – 1, American Oystercatcher – 5, Willet – 1, Semipalmated Plover – 1, Green Heron – 1, Great Egret – 1, Snowy Egret – 3

Will Young - We did Andy's Way Monday, 8/17. Immature BkNH and Oyster C. Plus the usual suspects no RT or willets. One Harrier. 8/18 Just spotted a glossy ibis 3rd sighting this week. Flying south above Center Rd.