

## Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: September 1+/-, 2020

~ September 1+/- 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**

Duck species – 3

Common Eider – 4

Double-crested Cormorant – 60

Great Egret – 1

Great Blue Heron – 2

Osprey – 3

Northern Harrier – 1

Cooper's Hawk – 1

Piping Plover – 1

Killdeer – 2

Black-bellied Plovers – 4

Semi-palmated Plovers – 1

Ruddy Turnstone – 30

Sanderling – 30

Least Sandpiper – 80

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – 1

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 15

Herring Gull – 15

Great Black-backed Gull – 40

Gull species – 15

Northern flicker - 3

Common Nighthawk – 0

Eastern Kingbird – 2  
American Crow – 15  
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 3  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1  
Black-capped Chickadee – 13  
Carolina Wren – 9  
American Robin – 25  
Gray Catbird – 16  
Common Yellowthroat – 5  
Rufous-sided Towhee – 10  
Song Sparrow – 9  
Northern Cardinal – 7  
Brown-headed Cowbird – 8  
American Goldfinch – 13  
House Sparrow – 22

**From Afar** Cumberland, RI; Seattle WA; Klamath Falls Wildlife Refuge, OR; Drangedal, Norway

\*=European species.

Canada Goose – 10+  
Wood Duck – 1  
Eared Grebes – 2  
American White Pelican – 50+  
Great Blue Heron – 5+  
Great Egret – 5+  
White-faced Ibis – 5+  
Turkey Vulture – 2  
Osprey – 1  
Bald Eagle – 1  
Killdeer – 3  
Black-necked Stilt – 1

Ring-billed Gull – 1  
Gull species – 1  
\*Forest Dove – 4  
Rock Dove – 2  
Mourning Dove – 1  
Chimney Swifts – 2  
Anna’s Hummingbird – ~5  
Downy Woodpecker – 2  
Northern Flicker (Western, Red-shafted) – 1  
Northern Flicker (Eastern, Yellow-shafted) – 1  
Belted Kingfisher – 1  
American Crow – 11+  
Fish Crow – 1  
\*Magpies – 10  
\*Crow species (likely Hooded) – 15  
\*Raven – 2  
Stellar Jay – 1  
Blue Jay – 5  
Black-capped Chickadee – 10  
Carolina Wren – 2  
\*Fossekall a.k.a. Dipper – 1  
\*European Robin – 5  
European Starling – 2  
Nashville Warbler – 1  
\*White Wagtail a.k.a. Linerle – 12  
Common Grackle - ~50  
Baltimore Oriole – 1  
American Goldfinch – 4  
House Sparrow – 11

**Curt Milton & Adam Reinhard**, The Crazy-As-A-Coot Seattle team — Curt Milton and Adam Reinhard, former MSN News co-workers — ventured to [Ballinger Lake Park](#) in Mountlake Terrace, Washington, just north of Seattle. This former golf course has lots of water access and shows potential for bird watching. We had clear skies and temperatures in the mid-70s. And here's our list: Crow: Numerous (10+), Anna's hummingbird: Numerous, Black-capped chickadee: Numerous, Canada geese: Numerous and they were in the air, so they may already be migrating, Downy woodpecker: 1, Wood duck, female: 1, Possible Western Flicker: 1; We heard this bird and may have seen it so ... not a solid count but worth mentioning. And that's the news from here! And ... adding one gull to the list.

**Faye Benedict** Norway: Kim, sorry I have been absent for the past few walks. Having trouble concentrating and letting myself go with a birdwalk, with so much going on here, there and everywhere. However today I did focus on a bird. A raven, again. Actually 2. They were tumbling down through the air together and when one of them pulled its/his/her wings together on the dive, (s)he also made this weird deep clucking noise! Not just once, but several times. Of course I googled it and discovered that ravens make a lot of sounds, they can also learn to "talk" and imitate many sounds, and that you can spend a lot of time on YouTube exploring this. And they are just about the most intelligent birds around. No wonder Edgar Allen Poe was inspired to write a poem about them. Even though their beaks are scary, if they are in a good mood they are apparently very delightful company when tamed. I want one, but how do I catch it and tame it?

I know this is not really a bird walk result, but I thought you might be interested in my bird musing anyway. There are not many birds here now. They are starting to think about going south, or have begun. To the 2 ravens I could add an estimated 4 forest doves, 5 European robins, 15 crows, 12 wagtails (linerle), 10 magpies and one Norwegian national bird - the absolutely delightful streamside resident who dives, the fossekall!

<https://artsdatabanken.no/Taxon/Cinclus%20cinclus/4158>

**Erica Anderson** - OR: Hi, We are visiting the Upper Klamath Falls Wildlife Refuge for a couple of days. It coincides with the crazy as a coot bird walk nicely. The weather was sunny, hot and beautiful today. We were out on our small runabout boat on what is known as the canoe trail and also in an area called Pelican Bay. The American White Pelicans have been spectacular. Large flocks, 50+ are gathered here. In the early morning they were dipping their beaks into the lake, feeding on the algae or plants or whatever lived in the algae or plants. We watched a Great Blue Heron stalking fish at the end of the dock, walk towards us, then deliberately and carefully climb on board a boat moored at the dock, stalk along the transom and fish off the end-successfully spearing and swallowing a fish. The migration season is just gearing up and the temperatures are supposed to get into the mid 90s over the next couple of days. Not birds but so cool - 4 otters flitting in and out of the reeds. Eating something because we could see their teeth and hear the crunching of the shells. 50+ American White Pelicans, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 5+ Great Egrets, 1 Stellar Jay, 5+ Great Blue Heron, 2 Eared Grebes, 1 unidentified bat, flying in daylight eating bugs, 2 Turkey Vultures, 1 Black Headed Stilt, 5+ White Faced Ibis, 1 Mature Bald Eagle, 1 Osprey, 3 Killdeer, 1 Ring billed gull, 1 Nashville Warbler. Erica Anderson, Wade Thompson, Ruth Wise, Tracy Wise. Not birds but so cool - 4 otters flitting in and out of the reeds. Eating something because we could see their teeth and hear the crunching of the shells.

**Kim Gaffett & Friends (Cathy J., Ellen D., Gail & Shorty C., Heather H., Josie M., Martha V-G., Nigel G., Susan M.)** – 9/1 at 6:30pm at Rodman's Hollow/Black Rock Rd.: Gull species 15 (late & too dark for species ID), Marsh Hawk 1, American Crow 2, Black-capped chickadee 5, Carolina Wren 4, Eastern Towhee 2, Song Sparrow 3, American Robin 2, Gray Catbird 2, Common Yellowthroat 3, American Goldfinch 5, Common Nighthawk 0, and one glorious rising full moon. 😊

**Lynne Normandia** at Cow Cove & Sandy Point on 8/31: I sent a note to the general tncBI address but happily found yours in the BITimes this morn. We'd attended one of your bird-banding talks last year and found you once at the airport. So sorry activities are on hold! But the idea of socially distanced birding is great! Wanted to share my ebird list with you only because we were thrilled to get a positive ID and photo on the one buff-breasted sandpiper at North Lighthouse we found. I don't usually submit so am not sure if it went into the system. Hoping to see you around,

Hi Kim!..... from our sailboat in New Harbor.... Delighted to receive your eloquent reply. I've linked my ebird list from Aug. 31 at the North Lighthouse. So happy it can be included in your SD walk! I was upset I'd missed it by a day; haven't seen a BI Times at the Oar store so wasn't aware of your continued activities. [Reply to my email that I probably would not have recognized the Buff-breasted] Haha that you wouldn't have been sure if it was a buff breasted. I sure wasn't so

sent the photo to my brother in law who is an expert. He gave me the positive ID. The bird was still there yesterday, by the way. Saw a pair of killdeer, too. Yes, please alert the rare bird woman. My sighting was mentioned to Shai Mitra. He's a celeb birder who even came here in Feb.

FYI, we've been seeing a piping plover at Mansion for the past week. The experts tell me it's highly unusual that one is here this late. It was so nice being here last week when we were one of the few boats anchored. Now it's a power boat bumper party so we'll be leaving Tues. I hope they all go home tomorrow. One more peaceful night will be a treat. So wonderful the Nature Conservancy is still working to save the planet. If only our own government felt the same way. Enjoy your wonderful island. It is a blessing to be here.

4 common Eider, 30 Ruddy Turnstone, 30 Sanderling, 80 Least Sandpiper, 1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 15 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 10 Herring Gull, 10 Double-crested Cormorant. [This list was posted on eBird, and photo of Buff-breasted Sandpiper was confirmed. I included Piping Plover and Killdeer in the BI list.]

**Tim Mooney** - Hi Kim - here's my Cumberland backyard list. 2 Chimney Swifts (circling much higher than usual – if they were twittering, they were out of earshot), ~50 Common Grackles, 2 European Starlings, 1 Baltimore Oriole, 2 Carolina Wrens (busy in the rhododendron, right by the front window of the house), 11 House Sparrows, 1 Mourning Dove, 2 Rock Pigeons, 4 American Goldfinches, 5 Blue Jays, 1 American Crow, 1 Fish Crow, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker

**Vicki Butlevska** - My list for social distance birding from Clay Head & bird feeders, is as follows: Am. Crow 12, Blue Jay 4, Robin 22, Northern Flicker 3, Carolina Wren 5, YT 2, Catbird 10, Towhee 6, Cardinal 7, Coopers Hawk 1, East. King bird 2, Osprey 3, Goldfinch 8, Grey heron [assume Great Blue Heron] 2, White [Great] egret 1, Chickadee 6, Blue grey gnatcatcher 1, Song sparrow 4.

**Vicki & Lawrence Kikuchi** - Pretty quiet this morning at 9:30 haha. We went to the beach south of Cow Cove briefly, then the trails east of Chagum Pond to Clay Head Trail. What is the purple flower that looks like heather? Monarchs love it. Bird report: Black belly plover 4, Semi palpatated plover 1, [Double-crested] Cormorants 50, Black back gull 40, chickadee 2, Catbird 4, Cowbird 8, Robin 1, Song sparrow 2, Red breasted nuthatch 3, Herring gulls 5, [American] Crows 1, ~~Northern~~ [Eastern] towhee 2, Ducks small far away 3, Seals 7. Thanks for the motivation!