

## Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: July 21, 2020 (mostly)

A few notes on the July 21 lists:

It is always great fun for me to see all the lists, from all over. And, to hear and read about how each of you approach the outing of bird watching. It is also great to see growth of interest and skills. ***I encourage you to read the notes/lists of each participant below (much more interesting than reviewing the lists alone.)*** In just a few short sentences I get to glimpse you and your habitat.

One bird reported I did not put in the BI list: **Lark Bunting**. Jane Emsbo observed a bird which may have been a Lark Bunting, a very unusual bird for BI, but not unheard of. However, since no photo could be gotten, and because Jane could not say “for sure” it was a Lark Bunting, I’ve decided not to add it to the lists of birds seen. This decision does not mean that I think Jane is mistaken. An adult Lark Bunting has very distinctive markings, that makes it difficult to confuse with something else. [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lark\\_Bunting/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lark_Bunting/id) And, Lark Bunting has been seen on BI in the past during fall migration.

The bottom line is that observing birds can result in wonderful discoveries, and even more wonderful – spending time afield (or looking out your window) observing closely and appreciating whatever happens-by. Never mind that you might not be able to name it, just enjoy its presence in whatever corner of earth you happen to find yourself in.

~ 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 – 33

Mallard – 20

Ring-necked Pheasant – 4

Double-crested Cormorant – 4

Great Egret – 6

Snowy Egret – 3

Osprey – 7

Northern Harrier – 1

American Oystercatcher – 2

Great Black-backed Gull – 15+

Herring Gull – 15+

Gull species - 5

Tern species – 9

Mourning Dove – 10

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1

Belted Kingfisher – 1

American Kestrel – 1

American Crow – 18

Fish Crow – 3

Blue Jay – 4

Barn Swallow – 46

Bank Swallow – 3

Tree Swallow – 5

Swallow species – 5

Black-capped Chickadee – 6

Carolina Wren – 10

American Robin – 14

Gray Catbird – 16

European Starling – 17

Yellow Warbler – 4

Common Yellowthroat – 3

Rufous-sided Towhee – 10+

Song Sparrow – 3+

Northern Cardinal – 5

Red-winged Blackbird – 23+

Common Grackle – 4

House Finch – 4

American Goldfinch – 19

House Sparrow – 3

**From Afar** Seattle WA; Bethesda, MD; Sedbergh, England, Edinburgh, Scotland;

\*=European species.

Mute Swan & cygnets –13+

Canada Geese

\*Greylag Geese

Mallard – 10

Great Blue Heron – 1

Gull species – 1+

Mourning Dove – 1

\*Great Spotted Woodpecker – 1

American Crow – 3+

Blue Jay – 2

Black-capped Chickadee – 6

Chestnut-backed Chickadee – 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1

American Robin – 3

European Starling – 2

Common Grackles - 3

House Sparrow – 8

**Barby Michel and Lily Bruening.** Here's what I wrote down for Tuesday: pheasant, Osprey, Northern harrier, great egret, Canada geese, herring gull, black backed gull, robin, chickadee, towhee, crow, catbird, goldfinch, housefinch, barn swallow, tree swallow, yellow warbler, Carolina wren. hope we're not too late! [Not too late! I too am not working on "all cylinders". I will put in a conservative guess-timate for each species. -kg]

**Curt Milton,** Seattle, Washington: 7:40pm It was a quiet day here for birds. Probably too hot. Temps were in the low 80s by the time I got out this afternoon. I did try a new spot: the Washington Park Arboretum on Lake Washington here in Seattle. Saw a couple of interesting birds there: a great blue heron and, a first for me, a chestnut-backed chickadee. Heard others but they were high up in the trees. Here's my list: Black-capped chickadee... At least 6, Chestnut-backed chickadee, Gull, Crows: 3, Mallards: numerous, Robins: 3, Great Blue Heron. I have posted two photos in the Western Washington Birders group on Facebook to see if anyone knows what they are (one is a fledgling, I think). If I get a response, I'll pass those along. Thanks for being our leader!

10:09pm - Two people on the Facebook group think this is a fledgling golden crowned kinglet ... which I kind of wondered about. They're calling for a third opinion from someone. Here is the photo. See what you think. I'll let you know if I hear any more.

10:13pm - And yes, a third person says fledgling golden crowned kinglet so ... wheee! I need to go back to the Arboretum. Good birds there! Add that one to my list. I don't know that I've ever seen a GCK here but certainly lots of them at Block Island.

**Elspeth Crawford** – Edinburgh, Scotland: Getting around to letting you know the birds seen on tuesday - this is Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh. Too many waterbirds to count. Greylag geese, canada geese, mallards, swans. there are swans with cygnets on all the water places, the lochs, ponds and the canal. My bird book indentified the greylag and the swans are "mute swans" as far as I can tell. All well - hope to "see" you again soon. [I think it best for me not to assign estimate number on the list as I am unfamiliar with the area and therefore cannot make an educated, conservative guess-timate. But, I love that I can add the species to the list and my imagination. -kg]

**Gail & Shorty Cahill** - Hope this isn't too late I forgot all about it, and I hope kayaking counts for counting! We were from Champlins up to Coast Guard, Cormorant Cove. Saw: 4 large Egret, 2 smaller Egret, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Oyster Catchers, 1 Cormorant, 20 brown ducks. thinking maybe immature mallards? Someone was feeding them all from a boat.

**Jane Emsbo** – Hi Kim, think it was a **Lark Bunting** who was visiting here yesterday. I looked in my book for ID and became sure when I read "gregarious" the visitor seemed friendly and rather unafraid. Keep up your good work.

**Kim Gaffett (with Nigel G., Cathy J. Gail & Shorty C.)** – Town road at Breed land (Corn Neck Rd. to West Beach. Double Crested Cormorant 3, Great Egret 1, Osprey 5 (3 young w/ 1 adult on nesting platform, a second adult on nearby snag), Canada Geese 8, Black Backed Gull 10+, Herring Gull 10+, Tern species 4, Mourning Dove 1, American Crow 5, Barn Swallow 3, Carolina Wren 4, RW Blackbird 7+, C. Grackle 2, A. Robin 3, Gr. Catbird 10, Carolina Wren 2, RS Towhee 5+, Song Sparrow 3+, Yellow Warbler 2, Common Yellowthroat 3, American Goldfinch 7,

**Laura Rosenzweig**, Sedbergh, England: Bird of the day: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/great-spotted-woodpecker/> It didn't make a lot of noise and I only saw it because I caught a flash of red in the tree while I was drinking a cup of tea, Had to squint hard to see what it was! Don't know actually if it was greater or lesser spotted and it might have been a juvenile (what sort of bird watcher am I?!!) But it was nice to see it. I'm discovering that my preferred time to watch birds is at the end of the afternoon when they're almost as active as they are first thing in the morning (when I'm generally not very wide awake!)

**Lynn Dean**, Grackles, goldfinch, redwing blackbirds, chickadees, mourning doves, blue jays, catbird at house on High Street. Snowy Egret at Andy's Way. Seagulls and terns at Ballards. [I assigned conservative quantity of each of these species for the list above. And, listed "species" for Gulls and Terns.- Welcome! kg]

**Mary Lutz**, I regret that I'm pretty busy today, but this afternoon in our yard, there were 4 cardinals (3 females, one of them very young) and a male; a male pheasant was working on the prolific seeds (moraine grass??) in the wildflower garden, and there were 5 swallows airily eating bugs, and 2 persistent morning doves after I chased away some redwinged (3 or 4) blackbirds to give some sparrows (maybe 4) a chance at the birdfeeder. In addition, we had a hummingbird making return trips to the sugarwater even in the heat of the day. Not much of a contribution, but that's the best I can do.

**Nina Tang**, Bethesda, MD: I hope you're safe and healthy! Here is my bird count from yesterday in Bethesda, MD: 2 Blue Jays, 3 Grackles, 8 House Sparrows, 2 European Starlings, 1 Mourning Dove (And 1 super cute bunny!!) [Love the addition. -kg]

**Susan Matheke** – 1 Kestrel, 17 Starlings, 33 Barn Swallows, 4 Mourning Doves, 1 male Pheasant, 7 American Robins, 2 Carolina Wrens, 3 Fish Crows (identified by size and sound of call), 5 American Crows, 2 Blue Jays, 7 Goldfinch, 1 Yellow Warbler, 15 Canada Geese, 7 Red Wing Blackbirds, 3 house sparrows. (Sue G. helped me count and identify)