

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: October 20, 2020

~ October "20" Note: You will note that several of the observations are days around the 20th (including mine). For this count I considered the bird walk "day" to be October 20 plus-or-minus 7 days 😊

Enjoy the photo form Faye B. below.

~ 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 – 11

Mallard – 18

American Black Duck – 1

Ring-necked Pheasant – 10

Double-crested Cormorant – 18

Great Blue Heron – 1

Great Egret – 9

Northern Flicker – 1

Osprey – 1

American Oystercatcher – 1

Willet – 1

Herring Gull – 5+

Great Black-backed Gull – 5+

Gull species – 5

Mourning Dove – 3

Merlin – 2

American Crow – 15

Fish Crow - 1

European Starling – 13

Black-capped Chickadee – 1

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1

White-breasted Nuthatch – 2

Carolina Wren – 6

House Wren – 5

Myrtle Warbler – 7, a.k.a. Yellow-rumped Warbler

Song Sparrow – 3

Pine Siskin – 8

From Afar East Providence & Barrington, RI; Surry, NH; Eugene, WA; Sedbergh, England; Drangedal, Norway

Brant – 14

*Grey Heron – 1

Great Egret – 1

*Dipper – 1

Steller's Jay – 5

*Great Tits – 30

*European Blue Tits – 4

*Willow Tits – 8

*Coal Tits – 3+

Black-capped Chickadee – 5+

Bushtit – 6+

White-breasted Nuthatch – 3

*Blackbird – 1 (*Turdus merulus*, a thrush)

*European Robin – 3+

Pine Siskin – 10+

Anne Kurtz – Oct.22, Seven adult pheasants (? 1 female, 6 males?) on my land this morning. Thrilled to see them.

Erica Anderson – Oct. 21, Eugene, Oregon. I didn't have a lot of time today to take a walk and the weather wasn't good until late afternoon. It turned sunny with blue skies and crisp autumn air. In the patches of sun it was still warm. Watched the feeders for a while, with White Breasted Nuthatches zooming in and out and chattering to the world about it. On the bird bath there was a tumble of bushtits taking a bath. They made a ball that seemed to almost roll in and out of the water, must've been about 6-8 at one time. Headed down to our field where I could hear a large flock of something chattering in the tree tops. The dog zoomed passed me and scared them up into the air. They were a huge flock of pine siskins that took off wheeling overhead against the blue sky and the golden leaves on the

trees. Just beautiful. So, short but very worth it! Bushtits 6+, White Breasted Nuthatch 3, Black Capped Chickadees 5+, Stellar Jays 5, Pine Siskin 10+

Faye Benedict – Oct.19 Here's the weather forecast for my place tomorrow. Temp is in C. Changed to studded tires today. Sorry I missed the last bird walk but maybe observations through my window tomorrow? The birds will be hungry in the cold snap. I have been enjoying the zoom walks, the recorded versions. Thanks for helping keep us in tune with nature in these weird and not so wonderful times. There is still lots to enjoy 😊

Oct. 20 Here is my bird report from a sunflower-seed birdfeeder in Drangedal, Norway. A half hour observation at 11-11:30 am today. I started by cheating, going through the Birds of Europe book with all the maps to see what groups migrate and what stays. With snow on the ground the migrants should probably all be gone now - the wagtails, swallows, warblers, and others. The birdfeeder count (approximately, hard to estimate repeats): 30 great tits (Parus major, kjøttmeis), 4 lovely European blue tits (blåmeis, Cyanistes caeruleus, gets chased by the great tits), 8 willow tits (granmeis, Poecile montanus, fast bird, allowed to eat beside the great tits). Just when I was thinking that the most interesting thing about this bird walk was what was NOT there rather than what was there, a blackbird sails in and lands, plop, on the apple tree, and big chunks of snow fall onto the ground. I find out it is a blackbird (black thrush, Turdus merulus), not a starling, and that first year birds have dark bills like this one had. Blackbirds migrate so this is a straggler or one who doesn't get that he/she is supposed to migrate. I guess a few stay the winter on the coast but this is not the coast. I will keep you posted!

The attached watercolor [below] of great tits and blue tits is by one of my favorite local artists, Gunn Marit Sanden. All from here. best to all from Faye.

Gail & Shorty Cahill - Oct 20th Andy's Way (sun came out) Hope not to late to add this, I keep forgetting to send [its never too late. Kg]. 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Willet, 1 immature Oyster Catcher, 3 Crows, 5 Gulls, 10 Mallards [KG bailed out of this walk because of rain at her house in south part of Island, but minor drizzle and then sun for Gail & Shorty.]

Josie Merck – Oct. 22, Osprey flying overhead, off Corn Neck Rd.

Kim Gaffett & Friends – Oct. 22, foggy but beautiful walk at Andy's Way with Heather H., Nigel C., Cathy J., Susan M., Diane K., Socha C., Amy K., Gail & Shorty C., Josie M. Observation: DC Cormorant 18, Great Blue Heron 1, Great Egret 9, Mallards 8, Black Duck 1, RN Pheasant 1, Herring Gull 5+, GBB Gull 5+, A. Crow 12, Fish Crow 1, BC Chickadee 1, Carolina Wren 4, Myrtle Warbler 7, Song Sparrow 3, Pine Siskin 8.

Laura Rosenzweig – Oct. 13, Sedbergh, England. I don't think yesterday was an official Coot day but I wanted to let you know that I saw a grey heron and a dipper on the river as I was walking with Suki. The heron flew off but the dipper was as still as a stone. I thought it was a white splodge on a rock but it was just too perfectly white and round and as I got closer I saw it was a beautiful little bird. In the garden, the robins are filling their bellies with breadcrumbs and the coal tits returned last week too. I haven't been out and about looking for birds but I'm noticing their return to the garden. I think they've been elsewhere for the summer. I find it harder to see them now that they are mostly silent compared with the deafening spring chorus.

All of the leaves have dropped from my amelanchier (I think you said that was a relative of the Shad bush). They turn a beautiful burnished copper but don't stay long on the tree. We had to cut down three of our large ash trees recently as they are all suffering from Ash dieback disease which is ravaging this graceful native species up and down the country. I have two more that are looking decidedly ill if not already dead, and one that looks very healthy but I fear for its future. The birds will miss their perches and the squirrels will miss their 'bridge' but there is a lot more light at the bottom of the garden now and I plan to plant more fruit trees eventually.

Stephanie Baute – Surry, NH – Oct. 20. Thanks Kim! Yes relaxed is the word today although I had a pile of people at my feeder!!!

Susan Matheke – Oct.20. The fog is allowing me to get my bird list in promptly. This is a quick look in the early morning at Della's field, Dories Cove, and afternoon at Ball Farm. Although I much prefer our group walks, I am having to tunnel in and truly identify my sightings when I am alone. 2 nuthatch, white breasted, 1 red-breasted nuthatch, 5 house wren,

1 flicker, 3 mourning dove, 2 carolina wrens, 2 Merlins - over the field at Dories Cove, 13 starlings, 11 Canada Geese, 2 male pheasants. (no swallows - have they all departed???) [Yes, most if not all swallows should be gone now. Although, it has happened that occasionally there will be a stray individual, or even small flock into Nov. -kg]

Tim Mooney – Oct.20. Just a couple sightings from Tuesday, with Will & Heather... Sabin Point, East Providence, 10am: 14 Brant flying by. (Geoff hadn't seen any on the bay yet, so they may have been recent arrivals.) Outlet of Mussachuck Creek, Barrington, 11:30 am: 1 Great Egret

