

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: January 5, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- Check out the interesting list from new participant Dan Kasuba in Florida.
- Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).
- A note of caution: when counting at a bird feeder it is the most reliable/conservative to count the number of a species seen at any one time. Care should be taken to not over count by tallying the cumulative number seen.
- [Things in brackets are notes by me - kg]

Block Island

(26 species)

Canada Geese – 57+

American Wigeon – 7

Mallard – 20

Greater Scaup – 1

Common Eider – 10

Scoter species – 100+

Bufflehead – 13

Hooded Merganser – 3

Red-breasted Merganser – 3

Ruddy Duck – 50+

Common Loon – 1

Great Cormorant – 1

Great Blue Heron – 1

Herring Gull – 10+

Great Black-backed Gull – 8+

Gull species -2

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 2

Blue Jay – 3

American Crow – 58

Black-capped Chickadee – 6

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1

Carolina Wren – 2

American Robin – 19

European Starling – 70

Song Sparrow – 2

Northern Cardinal – 1

From Afar Cumberland, RI; Westport, MA; Woodbury, West Haven, CT; St Petersburg, FL;
(53 species)

Muscovy Duck – 1

Mallard – 3

Common Merganser – 11

Pied-billed Grebe – 12

White Pelican – 6

Brown Pelican – 3

Anhinga – 4

Great Blue Heron – 4

Great Egret – 1

Snowy Egret – 1

Tricolored Heron – 1

Cattle Egret – 2

White Ibises – 20

Wood Stork – 2

Black Vulture – 2

Turkey Vulture – 8

Bald Eagle – 1

Coopers Hawk – 1

Red-tailed Hawk – 1

Common Gallinule (Moorhen) – 12

American Coot – 2

Limpkin – 1

Laughing Gull – 1

Mourning Dove – 2
Black-hooded Parakeet – 8
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 14
Downy Woodpecker – 3
Hairy Woodpecker – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – 2
Eastern Phoebe – 1
Blue Jay – 30
American Crow – 59
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
Tufted Titmouse – 5
White-breasted Nuthatch – 1
Carolina Wren – 3
Wren species – 6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 5
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3
American Robin – 108+
Gray Catbird – 3
Brown Thrasher – 2
European Starling – 42
Palm Warbler – 8
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 5
Yellow-throated Warbler – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 2
Slate-colored Junco – 6
Northern Cardinal – 22
Common Grackle – 5
Boat-tailed Grackle – 5
House Finch – 2
American Goldfinch – 2

Cindy Baute – Good morning Kim, I would like to report at 6:50am hundreds (exaggeration) of crows [KG estimate = 50] at my bird feeder. Gigantic (exaggeration) black ones!! Obviously you can gather that I can't stand them!! So that's my early AM report!! [Later in the day from Cindy] On the other hand, the cardinal was here ALL DAY!! Of course, that's Peter. He spent time at the feeder and in the brush. I talk to him and fortunately he didn't bring his girlfriend/ wife today! I saw a robin too and the usual little brown birds...my bird knowledge is VERY limited!! Where do the meadow voles go this time of year? I've gotten very attached to them!

Dan Kasuba– On 1/5 I spent 9am-11am at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St Pete. It abuts Lake Maggiore. I saw upwards of 40 species-the "common" ones included common and boat tailed grackles [kg est. 5 ea.], 6 wrens-not sure what kind, 1 cardinal, dozens of blue jays, a few mallards and 8 turkey vultures, And 50 American crows. More interesting birds included 1 limpkin, 2 wood storks, 2 pileated woodpeckers, 1 phoebe, 2 brown thrashers, a dozen red bellied woodpeckers (common here) many many [8] palm warblers (they're everywhere down here, in yards, parks etc, several [5] blue gray gnatcatchers (also very common in winter) 1 yellow throated and several [5] yellow rumped warblers. 3 catbirds, one bald eagle, 2 black vultures, 1 red tailed and 1 Cooper's hawk, 4 Anhinga, 2 American coots, a dozen common moorhens, 1 king fisher, 2 cattle egrets, a laughing gull and 1 Muscovy duck and 8 black hooded parakeets. My biggest thrill there was however seeing a flock of >100 robins ! Never seen them anywhere in Florida before. At Crescent Lake, really a big pond in a big park in my neighborhood on 1/6 I saw many of the previously mentioned players, along with 6 white pelicans(didn't know they wintered here), a few [3] brown pelicans, 20 white ibises, (they dig in suburban lawns for grubs),quite tame. 4 great blue herons, 1 tricolored heron, 1 great egret, a dozen pied billed grebes, a hairy woodpecker and a snowy egret. Monk parakeets are usually there but absent on my afternoon walk. Thanks for doing this Kim. You do great work!!

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim, Happy New Year. Bye bye to 2020. Cold and windy here today, but a meager list for you: Common mergs 11, Mourning dove 2, Red bellied 2, Downy 1, Hairy 1, Blue Jay 4, American crow 5, Chickadee 3, Titmouse 2, Carolina wren 1, Starling 11, White throat 2, Junco 2, Cardinal 1, House finch 2. That's it! Everything hunkered down. Take care, Darcy

Elliot – On mainland because of health reasons. Just saw a small tree full of cardinals, male and female, in West Have, CT. Estimate twenty individuals. Happy New Years,

Judy Gray & Valerie Preler – Kim, From 10:45am-noon today (Jan.12), Valerie Preler and I had a lovely walk along Snake Hole Road and across several properties north of the road. We were surprised to see no birds on or near the frozen ponds and no birds in the brush. However, we did see the following in and over the ocean south of Snake Hole Road. Cheers! Certain: 6 Eider Ducks, 2 immature Gulls (sp.), 1 Bufflehead, 2 American Crows (along Lakeside Drive)

Uncertain: - Hundreds of black-colored ducks floating around in very loose clumps. I tried to see the orange spot on the bill to identify them as black scoters but they were just too far away. [Very likely Black Scoters, but I'll list as scoter species]

- Too far offshore to identify, we saw a group of 8 large birds circling. The behavior was like that of vultures over a carcass, or birds rising in thermals over the bluffs, but they were way offshore. We were struck by the behavior. [Likely Northern Gannet, but not sure enough to list]

Kim Gaffett – Birded at Sachem Pond in search of duck photos, and at home (Mill Tail Swamp Pond) bufflehead 12, Hood Merganser 3, Ruddy Duck 50+, American Wigeon 7, Greater Scaup 1, Canada Goose 17, Common Eider 4, RB Merg. 3, Herring Gull 10+, GBBG 8+, Common Loon 1, Great CormoRant. 1, Mallard 20, Carolina Wren 2, chickadee 1, A. Crow 6, GBHeron 1, Song Sp. 2,

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – On January 5th I popped over the closest Land Trust property to my house in Westport and took a short walk to the end and back, it's a small property named "Brookside" with a fast running brook and an old bridge made of enormous stones. Here is my list: Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 4, Tufted Titmouse 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 8, American Goldfinch 2. Happy Birding!

Susan Matheke – My Tuesday virtual Coots was primarily outside my windows at about 9AM. The starlings were flocking and I think they were attracting many other birds. It was an "up close and personal" sighting.: 70+ starlings, 3 blue jays, 18 American robins, 2 Downy woodpeckers, 5 Chickadee, 1 red-bellied woodpecker, At Ball Farm later in the day, 1 red breasted nuthatch, 40+ Canada geese

Tim Mooney – Couple crows here so far.. will keep an eye out. Hi Kim – Looking out the window from my home in Cumberland, RI... American Crow – 2, Blue Jay – 2, Dark-eyed Junco – 4, Tufted Titmouse – 2, Black-capped Chickadee – 1, Carolina Wren – 1, White-breasted Nuthatch – 1, European Starling – 31 (single flock in the front yard)