

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: December 15, 2020

Incidental Notes.

- I loved Lauren's image of a Robins in and around the Holly Oak forest.
- Happy to hear from Chris that there a few Snow Buntings about.
- 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

(34 species)

Canada Geese – 30

American Wigeon – 6

Bufflehead – 15

Hooded Merganser – 5

Common Merganser – 9

Turkey – feral – 3

Great Blue Heron – 3

Northern Harrier – 3

Cooper's Hawk – 1

Golden Eagle – 1

Herring Gull – 3

Great Black-backed Gull – 1

Mourning Dove – 9

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 1

Downy Woodpecker – 6

Blue Jay – 7

American Crow – 13

Black-capped Chickadee – 15

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2

White-breasted Nuthatch – 2

Carolina Wren – 3
American Robin – 4
European Starling – 47
Cedar Waxwing – 20
Snow Bunting – 4
Song Sparrow – 2
White-throated Sparrow – 3
Northern Cardinal – 11
Red-winged Blackbird – 1
Eastern Meadowlark – 4
Baltimore Oriole – 1
House Finch – 17
American Goldfinch – 14
House Sparrow – 8

From Afar Tiverton, RI; Woodbury, CT; Brooklyn, NY; Seattle, WA; Sedbergh, England.
(35 species)

Canada Goose – 48
Bufflehead – 1
Hooded Merganser – 2
Gull species – 3
Mourning Dove – 2
Anna's Hummingbird – 1
Belted Kingfisher – 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1
Downy Woodpecker – 2
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Hobby / Kestrel – 1
Peregrine Falcon – 1
Blue Jay - 2
American Crow – 4

Fish Crow – 36
Crow species – 1
Black-capped Chickadee – 13
Bushtit - 3
Tufted Titmouse – 3
Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
White-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Carolina Wren – 2
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 2
American Robin – 90
European Starling – 15
Cedar Waxwing – 2
Song Sparrow – 1
White-throated Sparrow – 2
Slate-colored Junco – 5
Northern Cardinal – 2
House Finch – 2
Pine Siskin – 6
American Goldfinch – 1
House Sparrow – 1

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley - Hi Kim, we have 2 bird lists! The first is from home mostly between 9:00 and 10:30 this morning. Cooper's Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 3, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 4, American Crow 6, Black-capped Chickadee 8, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Cedar Waxwings 20 (the highlight!), Song Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 7, House Sparrow 2, House Finch 8, American Goldfinch 12

We then took a walk from Nathan Mott to West Side Road (via Willis Farm & Harrison Trail) and back. On the way back just after the sharp turn as one leaves the Tonner Property we stopped at a stand of dead & dying trees (at about 11:30) and watched: Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 3, Black-capped Chickadee 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1 (possibly 2), Northern Cardinal 2, and heard a Carolina Wren very close! Hope you had a good bird day! Cheers, Nigel & Cathy. **P.S. We had a really great Geminids viewing on Sunday night - we must have seen 50+ "shooting stars" in an hour or so!**

Chris Blane – Golden eagle (immature) went over my house about a half hour ago [approx.. 2:30]. At Lewis Farm: Meadowlarks & Snow Buntings. [Estimate 3-5 each]

Curt Milton Seattle, WA Good afternoon from blustery Seattle! It is windy, cool and damp with temps in the mid 40s. Given the weather, I wasn't sure I'd see many birds in my neighborhood but was surprised that there were some about. Here is my list: Pine siskin: 5, Bufflehead: 1, Chickadee: 4-6, Canada geese: 7, Gulls: 3 ... I need to figure out which type of

gulls I see around here. Anna's hummingbird: 1, Mixed flock, a few chickadees and, possibly, some bushtits. It was hard to tell. I need some good binoculars! House finch: 1 That's it from Seattle. Thanks for organizing this! Curt

Darcy Thurrott – Hi Kim, here is my count from Woodbury, CT back yard: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm; 22 species total; Weather sunny, breezy, cold 35° high: 2 mourning dove, 1 red bellied woodpecker, 1 yellow bellied sapsucker, 2 downy woodpecker, 1 hairy woodpecker, 2 blue Jay, 4 American crow, 2 black capped chickadee, 2 tufted titmouse, 2 red breasted nuthatch, 1 white breasted nuthatch, 15 starling, 1 song sparrow, 2 white throated sparrow, 5 dark eyed junco, 2 cardinal, 2 house finch, 1 American goldfinch, 1 pine siskin, 1 Carolina wren. Other location 1 mile away: Woodbury, CT featuring a 4 acre pond w/ inlet of Pomperaug River: 4 dozen Canada geese on pond, 3 dozen fish crows, (8 bathing at edge of pond), 1 kingfisher. That's it for my count! Hope you receive a lot of counts from afar. Good luck in Nor'easter! Take care, Darcy.

Heather Hatfield – 33 degrees, Sunny/Low wind. Old Town Rd. bird feeders: RB Nuthatch 1, Baltimore Oriole 1, BC Chickadee 2, House Finch 9, Mourning Dove 6, Cardinal 2, American Goldfinch 2, RW Blackbird 1, White-throated Sparrow 2, Blue Jay 1, House Sparrow 6, Downy Woodpecker 1, WB Nuthatch 1. Sachem Pond-plus: Great Blue Heron 3, Bufflehead 15, Hooded Merganser 5, Common Merganser 9, Harrier 1, A. Wigeon 6.

Laura Rosenzweig – An early report because I think I saw something really interesting late this afternoon as the light was fading. I thought it was a kestrel but looking this up I realised I saw something with much sharper more shapely wings and think it may have been a Hobby: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/birds-prey/hobby> I'm not certain but it was interesting enough for me to stop the car so I didn't drive off the edge of the road! Even if it was a kestrel after all (it's back seemed redder than a hobby appears to be) I'm still really pleased!

Lauren Miller-Donnelly – Tuesday I headed off to Simmons Mills a DEM Wildlife Management Area in Tiverton. I took the Lake Loop, a circuit around one of the ponds there and is about 2 miles. It was a very windy day on the pond but I was able to spot two Hooded Mergansers at the far end hiding against the shoreline. American Robins were thick in the American Holly bush, I counted about 75, that's a "ROUND" of robins, by the way. A sign along this section of trail mentions that the forest is a unique oak holly forest. And judging by the number of robins they seem to really enjoy it. Here is my list: Hooded Merganser 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, crow sp. 1, Black-capped Chickadee 3, Tufted Titmouse 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 1, American Robin 90, Cedar Waxwing 2. Take care! Lauren

Mary Lutz – Dear Kim I'm in Brooklyn. Last week, I watched a lovely peregrine falcon eating a pigeon in a tree in our backyard. A day later, a somewhat lighter colored peregrine falcon was munching on something (pidgeon? rat?) in a different tree on our block. I discovered that after their feasting, there follows a period of rest on the same branch, impervious to the mostly unaware pedestrians below despite the evidence of scattered feathers. There are numerous flocks of tasty pigeons available in our neighborhood, although most buildings and houses are 3 and 6 stories high, not the skyscrapers said to be the favorite nesting spots for raptors. This marks the first time I've spotted them outside the park. Just thought you might be interested. Affectionately, Mary

Susan Matheke – This list is from later in the day than my usual and the sun seemed to help the birds to appear. Also a few from Willie on a walk. This is 11:00 AM at the top of our lane with Della flying up the hill and then slowing to crop some grass- I was not on her. 7 American Crows, 6 Canada Geese flying in formation, 1 Northern Harrier, 3 Herring gulls, 1 Black Back Gull, 2 Chickadee, 2 Carolina Wrens calling to each other ___ At Ball Farm, 47 Starlings on the wire, 4 American Robins, 2 Blue Jays. ___ Willie on his walk: 1 Northern Harrier, 3 feral turkeys heading towards Della,--- oh dear, 24 Canada Geese. Be Safe in the Storm, hope we get snow and not rain. Susan