

Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: March 2, 2021

Incidental Notes.

- Wow! Lots of reports of spring. Daffodils in Oregon, and a beautiful set of observations from Sedbergh, England.
- 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] How I quantify: Few=3, Several=5, Many/Numerous=10

Block Island

(31 species)

Canada Geese – 71

American Black Duck – 8

Mallard – 28+

Northern Shoveler – 3

Common Eider – 12

Long-tailed Duck – 6

Bufflehead – 8

Hooded Merganser – 2

Northern Harrier – 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1

Great Black-backed Gull – 5

Mourning Dove – 5

Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2

Downy Woodpecker – 3

Blue Jay – 5

American Crow – 15

Black-capped Chickadee – 12

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 3

Carolina Wren – 3

Kinglet species – 3
American Robin – 7
Brown Thrasher – 1
European Startling – 4+
Yellow-rumped/Myrtle Warbler – 1
Song Sparrow – 9
White-throated Sparrow – 10
Northern Cardinal – 34
Red-winged Blackbird – 33
House Finch – 18
American Goldfinch – 4
House Sparrow – 12

From Afar Little Compton and Cumberland, RI; Hudson, NY; Stow, VT; St. Petersburg, FL; Seattle, WA; Pleasant Hill, OR; Sedbergh, England.

(78 species)

Domestic Goose – 2
Canada Goose – 3
Trumpeter Swan – 10
Muscovy Duck – 8
Mallard – 26
Ring-necked Duck – 29
Bufflehead – 5
Hooded Merganser – 1
Red-breasted Merganser – 1
*Pheasant² – 2
Pied-billed Grebe – 10
Brown Pelican – 1
Anhinga – 2
Double-crested Cormorant – 10
*Grey Heron – 1
Great Blue Heron – 6
Great Egret – 3

Little Blue Heron – 1
Green Heron – 5
Tricolored Heron – 2
Cattle Egret – 1
Yellow-crowned Night-heron – 1
Black Vulture – 2
Turkey Vulture – 2
Osprey – 7
Bald Eagle – 1
Accipiter – 1
Cooper’s Hawk – 1
Red-shouldered Hawk – 4
*Buzzard – 2
Common Gallinule – 8
American Coot – 1
*Oystercatcher – 2
Solitary Sandpiper – 1
American Woodcock a.k.a Timberdoodle – 3
Laughing Gull – 6
Ring-billed Gull – 10
Gull species – 2
Tern species – 1
*Wood Pigeon – 2
*Dove species – 2
Collared Dove - 1
Rock Pigeon – 1
*Tawny Owl – 2
Anna’s Hummingbird – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
Downy Woodpecker – 1
Northern Flicker – 1 Red-shafted
*Kestrel - 1

Steller's Jay – 3
Blue Jay – 1
American Crow – 51
Common Raven – 2
*Crow species – 2
Tree Swallow – 2
*Coal Tit – 2
*Blue Tit – 2
Black-capped Chickadee – 4
Tufted Titmouse – 2
*Wren/Winter Wren³ – 2
Bewick's Wren – 1
Carolina Wren – 2
Kinglet species – 1
*Blackbird – 2
*Robin – 2
American Robin – 22+
Varied Thrush – 1
European Starling – 2
Bohemian Waxwing – 35
Yellow-rumped Warbler – 6
Sparrow species – 1
Song Sparrow – 3
Lincoln's Sparrow – 1
White-crowned Sparrow – 3
Slate-colored Junco¹ – 3
Northern Cardinal – 1
Red-winged Blackbird – 3
American Goldfinch – 1
House Finch – 4
House Sparrow – 3

¹**Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) is a species that “includes at least six recognizable populations.” (The Sibley Guide to Birds). A junco seen on the east coast is Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). On the west coast, both Slate-colored and Oregon Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) can be found. So, when I am recording Junco sightings on the east coast I will list them as Slate-colored; however west coast Juncos will be recorded as Dark-eyed unless the reporter stipulates Oregon or Slate-colored.

²**Pheasant (UK) and Ring-necked Pheasant (US)** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

³**Wren (UK) and Winter Wren (US)** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Austin Morin – Canada Geese 40 at Joe S’s pit, West Side Rd., Robin 1 near Buddy the donkey, American Crow West Side Rd. yard, Great Black-backed Gull 5 in Town.

Cathy Joyce & Nigel Grindley – Seeing a beautiful male Myrtle down beneath our feeder reminds us to send our Coots Count. We did a Project Feeder Watch count on Monday & Tuesday and this is mostly they count together with some additional birds seen around our yard and on Warden’s Pond and Cooneymus Swamp. Canada Geese 14, Mallard 3, Am. Black Duck 6, Hooded Merganser 2, Mourning Dove 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 2, Am. Crow 8, Black-capped Chickadee 8, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Wren 2, Am. Robin 11, Brown Thrasher 1, Starling 4, Yellow-Rumped Warbler (aka Myrtle Warbler) 1, White-throated Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 6, Cardinal 21, Red-winged Blackbird 29, House Finch 7, House Sparrow 5. Just too early for our first Grackles of the year (arrived Wednesday) Hope you had a great day birding despite the freezing wind. Cheers,

Curt Milton – Seattle, WA. My friend, John McCoy, joined me for the Crazy As A Coot walk here in Seattle today. It was cool and misty this morning when we met at the Union Bay Natural Area. Due to the weather, I wasn’t expecting many birds but ... lo and behold! This was easily the best birding day I’ve had here in the past year. Saw three species that were new to me (Varied Thrush, Lincoln’s Sparrow and Bewick’s Wren), so that was wonderful. It must be Spring! Here is the complete list: Robins: numerous, 10+, Mallards: numerous, Steller’s Jay: 2, Red-winged Blackbird: 2, Anna’s Hummingbird: 2, Crows: several, Trumpeter Swan: 10, White-crowned Sparrow: 3, Bufflehead: several, Black-capped Chickadee: 3, Varied Thrush: 1, Song Sparrow: 2, Lincoln’s Sparrow: 1, Hooded Merganser: 1, Ring-necked Duck: 1, Bewick’s Wren: 1. Thanks for organizing this!

Dan Kasuba – It was a fun outing the other day. My sightings were as follows in St. Petersburg Florida:
7:30 AM kayaking in Granview Bay(part of Tampa Bay)- 1 red breasted merganser[a first for me down here]/,5 GBHs/1 little blue heron,4 green herons, 1 tricolored heron,6 ospreys,1 bald eagle, 8mallards, 10 ring billed and 6 laughing gulls, 4 DC cormorants, 2 yellow rumped warblers, a large tern, 1 solitary sand piper,1 yellow crowned night heron,2 tree swallows and 2 great egrets.
Crescent Lake (noon) 4 yellow rumped warblers, 38 ring necked ducks,8 Muscovy ducks,6 mallards,2 domestic geese, 1 tricolored, 1 green and 1 GBH. 1 great and 1 cattle egret,2 turkey and 2 black vultures, 10 pied billed grebes, 2 anhingas, 6 DC cormorants, 1 brown pelican, 1 osprey, 40 America crows, 8 common galinules, 1 American coot, 1 collared dove, 2 red bellied wood peckers and 1 Cooper’s hawk. Thanks Kim !!



Erica Anderson – Pleasant Hill, OR. Hi, It was a beautiful spring day here in Oregon. Sunny, damp and about 35. The robins have returned in full chorus and sang the sun up this morning. The cherry trees have blossomed and the maples have red buds on the end of their limbs. The birds were very noisy, but I didn't see nearly as many as I heard. (Kim don't care if you want to use the photos but thought maybe you could tell which kind of hawk it was. You can tell it was chilly with it's chest all puffed up.)
1 Canada Goose, 12 American Robins, 4 House finches, 1 Red shafted flicker, 1 Kinglet, 1 Stellar Jay, 1 Starling, 1 Sharp Shin or Cooper's Hawk. Too high and far away in the tree to tell. [Because it is so high in the tree, and without size comparison, it is pretty hard to ID. However, with that strong white eye-brow and hint of yellow on a largish bill, I wonder about Northern Goshawk. I’ll list it as Accipiter. -kg]

Gail & Shorty Cahill March 2nd, Bird feeder 9am (windy & cold): 2 cardinals, 3 kinglets, 3 goldfinches. FYI: March 6 noonish, **Osprey** off parking lot area of North Light. [Although this bird may have kept going beyond BI, it is the first one reported for the season. A report near the power company on March 11. -kg]

Heather Hatfield At feeder/yard: House Finch 9, House Sparrow 6, Goldfinch 1, BC Chickadee 4, Blue Jay 3, Cardinal 11, White-throat 5, Song sparrow 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, RW Blackbird 1. Clayhead: A. Robin 6, C. Eider 12, Long-tailed Duck 6. Westside: N. Harrier 1, Bufflehead 8, Black Duck 1, N. Shoveler 3.

John Berg – A day late, Kim, but woodcock calling this evening at dusk at our TNC PT Marvell Preserve, Little Compton. Yea!

Kim Gaffett – Cold & windy, I didn't venture far from the house Canada Geese 17, Mallard 25+ (semi domesticated), Black Duck 1, A. Crow 6, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Carolina Wren 1, House Finch 2

Laura Rosenzweig - Sedbergh, England. This is a compilation from today and yesterday. We've had an incredible spell of early spring weather with wall to wall sunshine and blue skies for about five entire days now! Daffodils and crocus are blooming in sheltered spots, snowdrops are now looking droopy, and small trees and shrubs all have swelling buds. It feels like spring when the sun's out but the pond froze last night so we're still in winter really.

The owls are now calling nightly, starting just as dusk begins to fall around 6pm. Tawny Owls are our most common owl. Every year we get a chick falling out of a nest so fingers crossed this year the adults manage to keep the little ones safely tucked in!

Today I saw 2 buzzards circling (above a dead sheep) and yesterday I saw a kestrel.

The wood pigeons and doves are suddenly much more noticeable, as are the pheasants. And I've seen more blackbirds this week than I have recently. A female blackbird was taking a bath in our pond a couple of days ago, shortly after a Grey Heron was seen leaving it with a frog dangling from its beak.

Coal tits, blue tits, robins, wrens, crows and gulls are all still around. Haven't seen any chaffinches this week so it looks as if they've moved on to pastures new. The garden birds have stopped being interested in what's on the bird table, I guess they're finding plenty of worms and seeds in the garden now it's not frozen over.

Yesterday up on a boggy hillside Suki (our cocker spaniel) flushed two ground nesting birds. Not sure what they were, definitely not curlews and not large enough for lapwings but maybe larks or meadow pipits? I'm still waiting to see my first curlew of the year, one of my favourite birds. Probably need to go for a walk without a bouncy dog to see more moorland species.

The oystercatchers are returning too. Don't know where they've been but they make a lot of noise when they come back! And a couple of mallards on the river. It's getting warmer!! [Unless the number seen of a species is specifically stated, I have assigned "1" to those mentioned in the singular, and "2" for those mentioned in the plural. -kg]

Lauren Miller-Donnelly - Westport, MA. March 2nd was a bitterly cold and windy day. Forgoing my morning stroll, I was please to flush up an American Woodcock along a sunny and muddy side of a stonewall at 4:55 in the afternoon. It was then that I decided the "Timberdoodle" will be my bird for Social Distance Bird Walk Day. Happy birding!

Megan McClellan – In the past two weeks we have had quite a few fun bird sightings — red tailed hawks flying behind and perched near our house, a closeup view of a Turkey vulture perched on a guard rail to get closer to roadkill, and a big, beautiful bald eagle on a tree branch near the Hudson River.

Unfortunately, March 2nd was not quite as exciting. We did a lunchtime observation at our bird feeder with few visitors despite the free food. ;) 1 downy woodpecker, 1 sparrow, 1 goldfinch

Tim Mooney - Cumberland, RI. Hi Kim – Tuesday was cold and windy here in Cumberland and backyard birds were scare. But here's a Tuesday list (*), embellished a bit with birds that were around often during the week. Red-winged Blackbird – 1, American Crow – 4, Blue Jay – 1, Red-shouldered Hawk – 4 (Two pairs were having a lively exchange over who was going to nest in the neighborhood. Not in my yard but a short walk away.), *Canada Goose – 2+ (heard flying over), Carolina Wren – 2, *Song Sparrow – 1 (singing male), Dark-eyed Junco – 3, *House Sparrow – 3, *Tufted Titmouse – 2, Northern Cardinal – 1, *European Starling – 1, Rock Pigeon – 1

Will & Penny Young – In Stow VT walked in Weissner's Woods a VT Land Trust property. Temp about 4 degrees, winds NW 15-35. Birds seen 0. In town Stow VT temp close to 15 degrees 2 crows seen. Evening walk around Van Trapp Lodge where we are staying, temp 15 degrees. 2 Ravens in flight. One Black capped chickadee. With Penny, on her birthday. [Plus observation approx. March 4. -kg] Leaving today 35 Bohemian waxwings! I had seen them a few days ago thought they were Cedars!