

## Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: June 2, 2020 (mostly)

A few notes on the June 2+ lists:

~ Both lists are an aggregate of observations from the two groups of observers (B.I. and Afar).

~ It looks like we are definitely in post a migration time. Every species in the Block Island list are birds that breed on BI.

~ It has been fun to follow Amy Keeler's reporting of Savannah Sparrow, first with eggs and then with babies – what next, fledglings? And, it is also fun to note that the Glossy Ibis keeps appearing (Heather Hatfield); this species is a frequent, but not abundant, nester on BI.

~ I especially enjoy reading the reports from our From Afar observers. They are always interesting and offer a great opportunity to look up and learn about species new to me/us. Check out Faye Benedict's Eurasian Crane at <https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/eurasian-crane/>. They are similar to, and are in the same genus as, the Sandhill Crane that recently visited the island.

~ [Things in brackets are notes by me = kg]

### **Block Island**

Canada Geese – 3+

Mallard – 15

Ring-necked Pheasant – 4

Double-crested Cormorant – 7

Great Blue Heron – 1

Great Egret – 1

Glossy Ibis – 2

Turkey Vulture – 1

Osprey – 3

Great Black-backed Gull – 9

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – 1

Blue Jay – 1

American Crow – 12

Fish Crow – 5

Tree Swallow – 2

Bank Swallow – 13  
Black-capped Chickadee – 3  
Carolina Wren – 8  
American Robin – 17  
Gray Catbird – 25  
European Starling – 2  
Cedar Waxwing – 6  
Yellow Warbler – 19  
Common Yellowthroat – 10  
American Redstart – 7  
Rufous-sided Towhee – 17  
Savannah Sparrow – 5, (including 4 babies)  
Song Sparrow – 6  
Sparrow species – 2  
Northern Cardinal – 8  
Red-winged Blackbird – 16  
Common Grackle – 2  
Brown-headed Cowbird – 2  
American Goldfinch – 18  
House Sparrow – 6

**From Afar** Delray Beach, FL to Fayetteville, NV; Seattle WA; Eugene, OR; Drangedal, Norway;

\*=European species.

Canada Goose – 15  
\*Eurasian Crane – 2  
American White Pelican – 4  
Egret, white – 6, species?  
Cattle Egret – 3  
Great Blue Heron – 4  
Wood Stork - 1

Black Vulture – many  
Swallow-tailed Kite – 1  
Golden Eagle – 1  
Osprey – 3  
Sandhill Crane - 6  
Gull species – 1  
Stock Dove / Forest Dove – 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove – 3  
White Dove – 5 (Species?, possibly Ringed Turtle-dove)  
Rock Dove – 4  
Anna’s Hummingbird – 1  
Downy Woodpecker – 1  
Woodpecker species – 1  
Red-breasted Sapsucker – 1  
Raven - 1  
Tree Swallows – 15 (numerous)  
Barn Swallow – 1 (*Hirundo rustica*, same genus species in U.S., Britain, Norway. A.k.a. Swallow)  
\*Roof Swallow – 5  
Bush Tit – 10+  
American Robin – 6  
\*Robin – 10+  
\*Blackbird – 6 (a thrush in Britain & Europe)  
European Starling – 7  
White-crowned Sparrow – 1  
Purple Finch -1  
House Finch – 9  
House Sparrow – 3 (a native species in England, introduced species in U.S.)

[Amy Keeler](#) – So sorry to miss you . I didn’t see a lot Tuesday as my head was faced to the ground planting in the garden. Mitchell Lane. 4 Carolina Wren, 1 Pheasant, 8 Robin, 4 Catbird, 5 Savannah Sparrow (incl 4 babies), 6 House Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow, 2 Cardinal, 1 Bluejay, 2 Cowbird, 6 Mallard, 4 Yellow Warbler, 1 Grackle, 2 Starling, 1 Chickadee

**Curt Milton**, Seattle WA. Seattle birds seem rather quiet today. I suspect many have migrated on from here, but I found a few to report. I can hear many in the trees but they're too smart to show themselves. Weather: Light overcast, temps in the low-60s. Song sparrow: numerous, Crow: numerous, Bushtit: 1, Anna's hummingbird: 1, House finches: 9 ... or maybe more, Canada goose: 3, Barn swallow: 1, Rock pigeon: 4, Gull: 1, Starling: 6-8, Robin: 2, House sparrow: 3 ... 2 non-breeding males, 1 female, White-crowned sparrow: 1, photo below And that's the bird report from here for June 2! [Numerous = 10+ -kg]

**Ellen Davis**, Delray Beach, FL – Fayetteville, NC – We've started our journey north and below is a list of our sightings yesterday, June 2nd, on I95 from Delray Beach, FL to Fayetteville, NC. We started at 8:45 am and pulled into our hotel around 7pm. The weather was mostly clear except for an hour of torrential rain around Jupiter, FL.

5 white doves (Delray Beach FL), 6 egrets , 1 swallow tailed kite (Jupiter FL), Many black vultures in trees and in the ground (vero beach), 2 adults + baby osprey (feeding) (Melbourne FL), Stork/crane? In flight (cape Canaveral), 3 cattle egrets, 6 sand hill cranes, 4 Great blue heron, 12 Canadian geese (heading north, just like us (Fayetteville, NC)

**Erica Anderson**, In Oregon the spring migration is over and we have moved into fledglings. I have seen in the past couple of weeks fledged American Robins, Spotted Towhees, House Finches and too many Starlings. Today I was walking in the woods behind my house along the river path and looked up to see 4 American White Pelicans high in the sky flying along the river and heading west towards 2 reservoirs that are about 10miles away. I have never seen Pelicans in this area, only on the coast and other marshy lakes. Was spectacular. Also saw what I'll call a swarm of bushtits covering the cotton wood trees, moving to several locations. Among them was an adult feeding a fledgling. At one point the fledge was dangling by one leg from the branch, don't see why it didn't plunge to the ground. Tree swallows – numerous, American Robin 4, Eurasian Collared-Dove 3, Downy Woodpecker – 1, Red Breasted Sap Sucker – 1, Bushtits - lost count at 10, Cormorant (not sure which kind), Purple Finch-Male 1, American White Pelicans 4. June 3: I just have to add to my sightings. A few minutes ago a woodpecker don't know what kind because it was in shadow flew to my front screen door and landed on the screen. It's warm and the door is open. It squawked a few times in bewilderment and flew away.

**Faye Benedict**, Drangedal, Norway – I spent some time looking for Birds of Interest at home today. I can't make a reliable list, but can mention a slew of songbirds including lots of European robins (10), call of a forest dove (skogdue, Columba oenas which is European) and about 6 blackbirds. I also saw these:

1. Roof swallows (taksvaler) have arrived! We could say 5. Delichon urbica my book says, and they are Eurasian. They are smaller, with bluish coloration, and they have shorter tails than the barn swallows (still split but not those long tails). Nesting now in the little gaps under my house roof and zooming in and out. I was not able to get a pic but will keep trying.

2. What I deduce to be a golden eagle again, maybe the same one? Soaring high, very high. About 1200-1500 feet. I am taking the picture from about 300 and am far from the bird with only a 135 mm lens. So it is very large. See shape of tail and wings. I didn't notice any white. Quite a sight and in fact the first time I have seen one soaring over the valley like that. The other large raptor it could be is the musvåk (Buteo buteo) that is pretty common, but they are considerably smaller than this I feel. And they fly around and around in circles on the thermal currents, and this bird was not doing that, it was simply soaring long distance across the valley.

3 Raven .in a dead treetop (killed by the European spruce bark beetle Ips typographus). I think the shape and large bill and bluish coloration distinguish it from a crow. It thought it was larger than a crow. We have been seeing a pair of ravens in the area. See what you think. PS Ravens are important in Norwegian mythology - the god Odin had two of them, called Hugin and Munin, who were his eyes and ears. See drawing. So it was a pretty good bird day! Hope you had a good one too. Best from Drangedal, where it is has been hot (26C today) and dry.

If late additions are allowed you can put 2 cranes on my list. They casually sauntered out onto the road in front of my car, from a riverbed, this morning. Unfortunately I had forgotten my cell phone at home. They are the common crane or Eurasian crane, Grus grus (nice name?). It is the first time I have seen them on

our half (the western part) of Drangedal, but I did see a pair on the eastern side of the town once before. Not common. What a blast to see them.

**Gail & Shorty Cahill:** Short walk early evening from Old Mill Lane to Old Mill Road, up Cooneymus and back into yard. Catbird 4, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Robins 6, Goldfinch 4, Sparrows 2 (not sure which kind), Pheasant 1 and one earlier on road at Lapham's, Cardinal 1 male, Towhee 2. Thanks for a great day!

**Heather Hatfield:** ~ Turkey Vulture 1, Cat Bird 7, Towhee 7, Song Sparrow 4, Robin 3, Cardinal 3, Yellow Bellied Flycatcher 1, Yellow Warbler 3, Redstart 3, BC Chickadee 2, Yellowthroat 5, Mallard 3, Great Blue Heron 1, Carolina Wren 2, Goldfinch 9, and 2 Glossy Ibis.

**Kim Gaffett** – Clay Head: Lapham-bluff-Silason Lot loop. Friends Susan Matheke, Nigel G., Cathy J., Heather H., Shorty & Gail C., Socha C. joined me. 23 species: Canada Goose 3, Mallard 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Great Black-backed Gull 9, Double-crested Cormorant 7, Great Egret 1, Osprey 3, American Crow 12, Fish Crow 5, Tree Swallow 2, Bank Swallow 13, Carolina Wren 2, Gray Catbird 10, Cedar Waxwing 6, American Goldfinch 5, Song Sparrow 1, Eastern Towhee 8, Red-winged Blackbird 15, Common Grackle 1, Common Yellowthroat 5, American Redstart 4, Yellow Warbler 12, Northern Cardinal 2.