

## Social Distance Crazy-as-a-Coot Bird Walks: June 16, 2020 (mostly)

A few notes on the June 16+ lists:

~ 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**

Mallard – 5

White ducks & yellow duckling – 3

Double-crested Cormorant – 1

Great Egret – 6

Snowy Egret – 7

Black-crowned Night Heron – 4

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - 1

Osprey – 2

Northern Harrier – 2

American Oystercatcher - 5

Black-bellied Plover – 2+

Plover species – 1

Willet - 4

Great Black-backed Gull – 21

Herring Gull – 12

Laughing Gull – 2

Mourning Dove – 1

Eastern Kingbird – 3

White-eyed Vireo – 2

American Crow – 6

Tree Swallow – 5

Barn Swallow – 10

Bank Swallow – 2

Black-capped Chickadee – 9

Carolina Wren – 8  
American Robin – 7  
Gray Catbird – 8  
Yellow Warbler – 1  
Common Yellowthroat – 6  
Rufous-sided Towhee – 13  
Sparrow species –  
Scarlet Tanager – 1  
Northern Cardinal – 6  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1  
Red-winged Blackbird – 5  
Common Grackle – 5  
House Finch – 3  
American Goldfinch – 8

**From Afar** Seattle WA; Eugene, OR; Drangedal, Norway;

\*=European species.

Osprey – 2  
Rock Dove – 3  
Anna's Hummingbird – 1  
Northern Flicker – 1  
American Crow – 6+  
Steller's Jay – 2  
Barn Swallow – 7 (*Hirundo rustica*, same genus species in U.S., Britain, Norway. A.k.a. Swallow)  
\*Roof Swallow – 12  
\*Magpies – 15  
\*Wagtails – 35  
Bush Tit – 6  
Black-capped Chickadee – 10  
American Robin – 2  
\*Robin – 15

\*Song Thrush – 1

\*Blackbird – 4 (a thrush in Britain & Europe)

European Starling – 10

Spotted Towhee – 5

Song Sparrow – 2

Black-headed Grosbeak – 5

House Finch – 8

American Goldfinch – 1

House Sparrow – 5 (a native species in England, introduced species in U.S.)

**Barby Michell & Lily Bruning** – Here is our list: 5 mallards, 2 white ducks, 1 yellow duckling, 2 osprey, 1 great egret, song sparrows, chickadees, towhees, crows, robins, cardinals, Carolina wrens, gold finches, house finches, cat birds, 1 common yellow throat, barn swallows, tree swallows, 2 northern harrier, black backed gulls, herring gulls. [Where no numbers are indicated I have assumed 3 individuals as a conservative – probable under – count.]

**Curt Milton**, And here is the Seattle report: Weather this morning when I was out: partly cloudy with temps in the upper 50s-low 60s. No wind to speak of. Saw numerous birds today that I couldn't identify. I ran a couple of them (pix below) past Erica who was also stumped. She is wondering if these aren't fledglings that we may not know. And, as always, there were numerous birds in the trees that I could hear but not see. Silly birds!

Here's the list: House finch, female ... may also have seen two fledgling females. Crow: numerous, probably 6+, Chickadee: 5, possibly fledglings, Robin, House sparrow, Steller's Jay: 2, Song sparrow: 2, Barn swallow, Bushtit: 6, looked like they might be fledglings, Rock Pigeon, Anna's hummingbird: 1 adult male, Starlings: 10

And here are two on the "mystery list." Not sure you'll know either. The first one looks like maybe it is molting, so it could be a familiar bird that just isn't looking its finest. Saw a song sparrow that looked like it had rolled out of the wrong side of the nest! [if no number associated with the species on the list = 10+ -kg]

**Erica Anderson** I'm late but hopefully not too late. It was a rainy, chilly day here in Oregon so my "walk" mainly consisted of sitting at my desk and watching what turned up at the feeder. It was the usual suspects for this time of year. I didn't keep count but there were multiple birds of the following species: House finches male & female American Goldfinch - sitting on the fence preening its feathers after taking a bath in one of the breaks in between rain showers. American Robin - finding the worms from a plant that I dug a hole for in the freshly turned earth. Spotted Towhees, Black headed grosbeaks, Black Capped Chickadees, 2 osprey flying overhead crying to one another. I always picture it as the fledgling saying "look I can fly - oh my what do I do now?"

**Faye Benedict**, The location is Kalveskinnsrudtjenna in Drangedal, and vicinity. That word means the little lake by the clearing with the calf skin. Thought you would want to know! Also the hill is called Askedalskollen which means the knoll in the valley of the ash trees. At the top there are ruins of an old wall from a primitive fortress the local people built so they could run up there and esconce themselves and throw stones down on roving bands of Germanics that came through now and then, about 400-500 AD. Too strange to be true.

Back to birds... it was a hot day and indeed the birds were not plentiful. The usual culprits: 4 barn swallows, 12 roof swallows, 15 European robins (by their call), 1 song thrush, road kill, 4 blackbirds (as before), 15 magpies, 35 wagtails

The wagtails had the day and were flitting around for bugs. I still need a 300 mm lens to get decent photos but you can see what's going on.

I drove to Kalveskinnsrudtjenna hoping for some ducks or an egret, but no. Nothing - see first pic. Nothing but a bug in the water that I didn't see until I looked at the photos. But the wagtail saw it! I managed to get some pics of its flight. It looks like it is doing a full tail down hover maneuver, and then actually pulling in its wings rather than flapping. Got the bug.

White wagtail. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White\\_wagtail#/media/File:MotacillaAlbaDistribution.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_wagtail#/media/File:MotacillaAlbaDistribution.svg)

By the way Kim, it was my birthday yesterday) and I was feeling a bit alone in the morning (evening was better, skyped with the kids...) so the bird walk and watching all those wagtails made it all good!

**Heather Hatfield:** ~ In the Maze: Goldfinch 5, Cardinal 2, Towhee 9, Carolina Wren 2, Catbird 4, Common Yellowthroat 3, BC Chickadee 6, White-eyed Vireo 2, Robin 3, E. Kingbird 2, RW Blackbird 2, Yellow Warbler 1.

**Kim Gaffett & Friends (Heather Hatfield, Susan Matheke, Amy Keeler, Nigel Grindley, Cathy Joyce, Gail & Shorty Cahill, Socha Cohen)** – June 16, 2020 Sunny 64 degrees at Andy's Way. Double Crested Cormorant 1, Great Egret 5, Snowy Egret 7, BC Night Heron 4, YC Night Heron 1, Black Bellied Plover 2, Plover sp. 1, A. Oystercatcher 4 + 1 (from CJ & NG while nest searching), Willet 4, Black Backed Gull 18, Herring Gull 9, Laughing Gull 2, Mourning Dove 1, E. Kingbird 1, A. Crow 3, Tree Swallow 2, Bank Swallow 2, Barn Swallow 7, Carolina Wren 3, A. Robin 1, Catbird 1, Common Yellowthroat 2, Cardinal 1, RW Blackbird 3, C. Grackle 5

**Mary Lutz** – I became so busy yesterday that I only spent a couple of wonderful minutes birdwatching. I was astonishingly lucky. My first scarlet tanager! Plus separately a towhee and a redbreast grosbeak [Rose-breasted Grosbeak]. I guess you could call it a red-letter day. [Both the Sc. Tanager and R-b Grosbeak are unusual this late in the season, but not *impossible*, so yes, lucky indeed.]