

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for March 2008

Below is a list of birds seen and/or heard on our March 7th census at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Birders who took part in the census were: Betsy Flynn, Jan Gaffney, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, and Jerry Tolman.

Note of special interest:

It was a beautiful clear sunny morning — perfect birding weather! The Marsh Wrens were singing lustily from the reeds around the ponds; the Song Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats were also quite vocal. We were happy to find that the Phainopepla was still calling from the top of the sycamore by Audubon House and the visiting Tropical Kingbird was again spotted between ponds 1 & 2. A Pied-billed Grebe was sitting on a probable floating nest. The water level had gone down in pond E and we saw Long-billed Dowitchers, Black-necked Stilts, Least Sandpipers, a Greater Yellowlegs, and a wandering Spotted Sandpiper there. The Red-tailed Hawk was perched like a sentinel in his regular spot high on the antennae. The thick growth of dead reeds and high water level in pond D eliminated any chance of finding Soras or Virginia Rails in that pond, and the avocets and stilts will certainly not be able to nest there this year. The water level in pond 5 was the highest we had ever seen it. The Tree Swallows were very active around their nestboxes; some were flying around catching insects, while others were perched nearby singing. See our chapter webpage for data on all of our SJWS censuses: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/SJWSscensus.htm>

Birds seen and/or heard: (Birds observed in the San Diego Creek are marked with parenthesis.)

Canada Goose 2

Gadwall 23 (7)

Mallard 36 (2)

Cinnamon Teal 41

Northern Shoveler 115

Green-winged Teal 33

Bufflehead 11

Hooded Merganser 1

Ruddy Duck 44

Pied-billed Grebe 31 (5)

Eared Grebe 5

Double-crested Cormorant 53 (1)

Great Blue Heron 4

Great Egret 1

Snowy Egret 10

Green Heron 1

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Black-crowned Night-Heron 24

White-faced Ibis (1)

Turkey Vulture 11

Osprey 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-shouldered Hawk 3

Red-tailed Hawk 2

American Kestrel 1

Merlin 1

Sora 1

Common Moorhen 1 (1)

American Coot 69 (7)

Killdeer 8 (2)

Black-necked Stilt 61

American Avocet 6

Greater Yellowlegs 2

Spotted Sandpiper 2

Least Sandpiper 10

Long-billed Dowitcher 63

Ring-billed Gull 4

Mourning Dove 32

Anna's Hummingbird 68

Allen's Hummingbird 9

Nuttall's Woodpecker 4

Downy Woodpecker 4

Northern Flicker 2

Black Phoebe 15

Say's Phoebe 2

Cassin's Kingbird 2

Tropical Kingbird 1

Hutton's Vireo 3

American Crow 46 (2)

Common Raven 1

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Tree Swallow 209
N. Rough-winged Swallow 6
Cliff Swallow 3

Bushtit 27
Bewick's Wren 1
House Wren 1
Marsh Wren 100
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 9
Hermit Thrush 6
Cedar Waxwing 6
Phainopepla 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Yellow-rumped Warbler 125
Common Yellowthroat 178 (8)

Spotted Towhee 19
California Towhee 1
Song Sparrow 186 (2)
White-crowned Sparrow 30

Red-winged Blackbird 13
Great-tailed Grackle 5
House Finch 82 (2)
Lesser Goldfinch 25
American Goldfinch 18

Egyptian Goose (2)

Egyptian