

## Sea & Sage Audubon

### SJWS Monthly Census Report for April 2008

Below is a list of birds seen and/or heard on our April 3rd 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, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, and Melanie Tongoc.

#### Comments:

It was a perfect morning for birding with mild temperatures and early morning overcast which quickly dissipated. The water in the ponds was still and the large flock of Western and Least Sandpipers clustered along a narrow strip of mud at the back of pond E was almost motionless, looking very much like clumps of dirt or vegetation until they were flushed by some workers walking near the pond. Some of the Mallards already had young ducklings in tow, a few of the male Ruddy Ducks were in breeding plumage, their bright blue bills prominent from across the pond, and some of the actively diving Eared Grebes were also showing signs of breeding plumage. In the channel NE of pond 4, Barbara & Betsy observed a strange looking Snowy Egret with gray on its head and parts of its neck and its head feathers sticking out any which way - definitely a "bad hair" day! A soaring Turkey Vulture was spotted with most of its secondary feathers missing on the right side. (Earlier in the week, a Turkey Vulture was observed with wing tag #26 on its right wing.) The Tree Swallows were busy around the nestboxes, catching insects and flying in and out of their boxes. In the "meadow" behind the Duck Club, a female Western Bluebird was busy gathering nesting materials for the nearby bluebird nestbox and a second pair of bluebirds was seen near a nestbox on Tree Hill. Jerry found a Greater Roadrunner and California Thrasher, both birds which seem to have taken up residence here but are seldom seen or heard. The Yellow Warblers that have been seen on and off during the year were not in evidence anywhere.

**See our chapter webpage** for data on all of our SJWS censuses:

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/SJWSCensus.htm>

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

Canada Goose 15

Gadwall 10 (1)

American Wigeon 3

Mallard 44 (7)

Blue-winged Teal 4

Cinnamon Teal 20

Northern Shoveler 122

Green-winged Teal 16

Redhead 2

Bufflehead 3

Ruddy Duck 32

Pied-billed Grebe 14 (3)

Eared Grebe 5

## Sea & Sage Audubon

### SJWS Monthly Census Report for April 2008

Clark's Grebe 1

American White Pelican 1

Double-crested Cormorant 32 (1)

Great Blue Heron 7 (2)

Great Egret 14 (1)

Snowy Egret 4

Green Heron 1

Black-crowned Night-Heron 18

Turkey Vulture 36

Red-shouldered Hawk 3

Virginia Rail 1

Sora 1

Common Moorhen (5)

American Coot 92 (25)

Semipalmated Plover (1)

Killdeer 1

Black-necked Stilt 5

American Avocet 8

Spotted Sandpiper 1

Least Sandpiper 10

Western Sandpiper 87

Long-billed Dowitcher 12

Ring-billed Gull 23 (7)

Caspian Tern 4 (1)

Forster's Tern 1

Rock Pigeon 3

Mourning Dove 46

Greater Roadrunner 1

Anna's Hummingbird 60

Allen's Hummingbird 11

## Sea & Sage Audubon

### SJWS Monthly Census Report for April 2008

Nuttall's Woodpecker 2  
Downy Woodpecker 3

Black Phoebe 5  
Western Kingbird 6  
Bell's Vireo 3

American Crow 29  
Common Raven 1

Tree Swallow 296  
N. Rough-winged Swallow 10  
Cliff Swallow 2

Bushtit 20  
House Wren 2  
Marsh Wren 84 (3)  
Western Bluebird 4  
California Thrasher 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 9  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 109 (1)  
Black-throated Gray Warbler 1  
Common Yellowthroat 114 (9)

Spotted Towhee 27  
California Towhee 1  
Song Sparrow 150 (6)  
White-crowned Sparrow 4  
Black-headed Grosbeak 1

Red-winged Blackbird 4  
Great-tailed Grackle 20  
Hooded Oriole 1  
Bullock's Oriole 5

House Finch 69 (2)  
Lesser Goldfinch 10  
American Goldfinch 20