

## Sea & Sage Audubon

### SJWS Monthly Census Report for July 2008

**Birders who took part in the census:** Dick Purvis, Susan Sheakley, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Nancy Kenyon, Jan Gaffney, Merri Levy, & Jerry Tolman. Below is a list of birds seen and/or heard on our July 4th census at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Since we were short a couple of birders, we did not monitor the birds along the San Diego Creek, the main parking lot area, the butterfly garden or the meadow. (The single Great Blue Heron in the creek was observed as we drove into the sanctuary.) The lone California Thrasher was found again this month and we are hoping there is more than 1 thrasher on the premises. We observed many sure signs of breeding in the area: both the Yellow and the Orange-crowned Warblers were feeding young, a juvenile Cooper's Hawk was seen in the riparian area, a Common Yellowthroat was observed feeding a cowbird fledgling, there was an abundance of Mallard ducklings in the ponds, and we figured that at least 50% of the Spotted Towhees were juveniles. In pond E, there were young Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and Killdeer running around and being fiercely guarded by their parents who became very aggressive when another bird got too close. An American Avocet was observed sitting on the ground in what appeared to be nesting position. Last month, there were 2 families of Canada Geese with babies, one on the island in pond 1 and the other on the island in pond 2, but we were unable to locate either the goslings or their parents on July 4th. If anyone does see them, we would appreciate your letting us know. We had a grand total of 8 Green Herons, 1 at pond D, 2 in the riparian area, and 5 in the "back 40". Spotting Green Herons is always a matter of chance, so I guess Friday was our lucky day!

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; since we were short birders this month, the San Diego Creek was not covered.

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Gadwall	6	Tree Swallow	80
Mallard	117	N. Rough-winged Swallow	6
Cinnamon Teal	2	Cliff Swallow	7
Ruddy Duck	10		
Pied-billed Grebe	23	Bushtit	73
American White Pelican	2	Marsh Wren	30
Double-crested Cormorant	24	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
		Northern Mockingbird	1
Great Blue Heron	12 (1)	California Thrasher	1
Great Egret	13	European Starling	53
Snowy Egret	5		
Green Heron	8	Orange-crowned Warbler	6
Black-crowned Night-Heron	26	Yellow Warbler	25
		Common Yellowthroat	75
Turkey Vulture	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	10
Osprey	2		
Cooper's Hawk	1	Spotted Towhee	36
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Song Sparrow	64
		Red-winged Blackbird	22
Common Moorhen	1	Great-tailed Grackle	28
American Coot	18	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Killdeer	12	House Finch	138
Black-necked Stilt	26	Lesser Goldfinch	10
American Avocet	20	American Goldfinch	15
Long-billed Dowitcher	1		
Ring-billed Gull	1		
Caspian Tern	13		
Elegant Tern	3		
Forster's Tern	46		
Least Tern	27		
Black Skimmer	13		
Mourning Dove	121		
Common Ground-Dove	1		
Anna's Hummingbird	10		
Allen's Hummingbird	10		
Nuttall's Woodpecker	2		
Downy Woodpecker	2		
Black Phoebe	4		
Bell's Vireo	10		
Warbling Vireo	2		
American Crow	31		