

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for August 2008

Below is a list of birds seen and/or heard on our August 1st census at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine.

COMMENTS:

Tree Hill and the "back 40" areas were not covered this morning because the birder who usually covers that area was absent. The overcast weather made it appear to be earlier than it really was and definitely put a damper on the bird songs; it was VERY quiet around the ponds. Even the usually vocal Song Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats were quiet. We noticed that the shorebird activity has definitely picked up. The dowitchers were back en masse (85 in pond C and more in pond E). 4 Wilson's Phalaropes wandered between ponds E, D, and C, sometimes emerging from the water to feed on the shore. A Snowy Egret put on quite a show, chasing its prey around in the water like a Reddish Egret. A lone American Avocet sat on the ground in classic incubation position, but since she never got up, we were unable to find out if she was really sitting on anything. We had a new sighting this morning — a crayfish walked across the trail. Seven California Quail were spotted near Carlson by the cactus patch. See our chapter webpage for data on this and other 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.)

Mallard 148 (8)

Cinnamon Teal 6

Ruddy Duck 4

California Quail 7

Pied-billed Grebe 15 (6)

Double-crested Cormorant 22 (3)

Great Blue Heron 9 (6)

Great Egret 8

Snowy Egret 4 (4)

Green Heron (2)

Black-crowned Night-Heron 10 (6)

Turkey Vulture 9

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Virginia Rail 1 spotted earlier by pond D (Nora Papian)
Common Moorhen 1 juv.
American Coot 10

Semipalmated Plover 5
Killdeer 10

Black-necked Stilt 15 (2)
American Avocet 25

Western Sandpiper 1
Least Sandpiper 4
Short-billed Dowitcher 1 (distinguished by call)
Long-billed Dowitcher 123
Wilson's Phalarope 4

Ring-billed Gull 1
Caspian Tern 11
Forster's Tern 38 (14)
Least Tern 9
Black Skimmer 22 (5)

Mourning Dove 75
Anna's Hummingbird 21
Nuttall's Woodpecker 1
Black Phoebe 4
Bell's Vireo 1

American Crow 24
Common Raven 1

Tree Swallow 49
Cliff Swallow 3
Barn Swallow 2

Bushtit 13
Marsh Wren 8

Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Yellow Warbler 3
Common Yellowthroat 54

Yellow-breasted Chat 1

Spotted Towhee 5

California Towhee 2

Song Sparrow 51

Red-winged Blackbird 8 (24)

Great-tailed Grackle 2

Brown-headed Cowbird 1 juv

Bullock's Oriole 1

House Finch 51

Lesser Goldfinch 8

American Goldfinch 3

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