

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for Sept. 2008

Birders who took part in the census were: Betsy Flynn, Jan Gaffney, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman.

See our chapter webpage for data on all of our monthly SJWS bird counts:

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

COMMENTS about some of the more interesting sightings:

Sally & Eunice spotted 2 juvenile Least Bitterns, one scrambling around in the reeds by pond 4 and the other in the vegetation below the tower the Great Blue Heron likes to stand on at pond 5. Barbara saw a very large (12-15") turtle on the island on the east side of pond 2. The 3 dowitchers in her pond were vocal, which greatly helped identifying them as Long-billed. She also found a Western Grebe, the first one seen at the marsh in a very long time. In the "Back 40" area of the sanctuary, Jerry found 8 CAQU in the brush at the far end, 20 ft. inside the tree line & half way from Tree Hill to Carlson. He also located a Sora in the drainage ditch east of the flat area. Dick & Betsy had a relatively quiet water scene, spotting most of their birds in the air — 15 Turkey Vultures, 10 noisy Forster's Terns, and 111 Cliff Swallows, among others. Jan & Merri heard and saw a lone Bell's Vireo, 1 lingering Yellow-breasted Chat, a Yellow Warbler, & 2 woodpeckers — 2 Nuttall's & a Downy, among others. The NE end of Pond C had extensive areas of shallow water which attracted a large array of shorebirds and ducks. Nancy & Bob located the visiting Solitary Sandpiper there along with the dowitchers, ducks, Western Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, and Killdeer. A flock of over 100 Western Sandpipers flitted from side to side of the pond, Great & Snowy Egrets waded in the shallows at one end, 6 Spotted Sandpipers patrolled the shoreline, and a couple of Wilson's Phalaropes walked along the edge of the pond as well. Out in the middle of the pond, a solitary Black-crowned Night-Heron floated peacefully in the water while 3 Black Skimmers flew up and down the length of the pond feeding. It was an exhilarating morning of birding and a great way to start the day!

BIRDS SEEN AND/OR HEARD on Sept. 5th: (Birds observed in the San Diego Creek are marked with parenthesis.)

Gadwall - 5 (4)	Black-crowned Night-Heron - 8 (3)
Mallard - 67	Turkey Vulture - 15
Cinnamon Teal - 16	Osprey - 1
Northern Shoveler - 36	Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
Green-winged Teal - 7	
California Quail - 8	Sora - 1
	Common Moorhen - 5 (1)
	American Coot - 17
Pied-billed Grebe - 31 (1)	
Western Grebe - 1	Semipalmated Plover - 1
	Killdeer - 12 (1)
Double-crested Cormorant - 18 (1)	Black-necked Stilt - 32
	American Avocet - 9
Least Bittern - 2 (juveniles) — ponds 4 & 5	Greater Yellow legs - 1
Great Blue Heron - 7 (2)	Lesser Yellowlegs - 2
Great Egret - 9 (1)	Solitary Sandpiper - 1
Snowy Egret - 10 (1)	Spotted Sandpiper - 10
Green Heron - 2	Western Sandpipers - 114

Least Sandpipers - 2
Long-billed Dowitchers - 3
dowitcher sp. - 48
Wilson's Phalarope - 3
Red-necked Phalarope - 5

Western Gull - 1
Caspian Tern - 5
Forster's Tern - 19
Black Skimmer - 9

Mourning Dove - 123
Anna's Hummingbird - 23
Allen's Hummingbird - 3

Nuttall's Woodpecker - 2
Downy Woodpecker - 1

Black Phoebe - 10 (1)
Bell's Vireo - 1
Warbling Vireo - 1

American Crow - 14 (1)
Cliff Swallows - 111
Barn Swallow - 41

Bushtit - 50 (12)
House Wren - 1
Marsh Wren - 22 (11)

Orange-crowned Warbler - 2
Yellow Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat - 96 (12)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 1

Spotted Towhee - 9
California Towhee - 1
Song Sparrow - 96 (12)
Red-winged Blackbird - 19 (1)
Great-tailed Grackle - 1

House Finch - 45 (14)
Lesser Goldfinch - 20
American Goldfinch - 4

Cliff Swallow - 111