

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Monthly Census Report for Dec. 2008

Birders who took part in the census were: Randy Albers, Betsy Flynn, Jan Gaffney, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, 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:

It was a perfect morning for birding. The sun was shining, the temperature was mild, and the water in the ponds was absolutely still. All of us got out to the ponds before the birds began actively feeding. In fact, most of the ducks and shorebirds were still sitting so quietly in the water that it was difficult to distinguish their actual bodies from their reflections. On two separate trees, we caught sight of male hummingbirds sitting in the sun, their gorgets catching the rays of sunlight which turned them into blazing spots of color. By pond D, a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew low to the ground between small bushes, silencing the small sparrows which had been feeding nearby. There was an unusually large number of Mallards feeding in the ponds and their raucous quacking was loud in the still morning air. A Peregrine Falcon was spotted flying over pond 1. Due to the high water level, there were few shorebirds but there were lots of ducks.

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

Canada Goose - 20
Gadwall - 27 (3)
American Wigeon - 16
Mallard - 59 (2)
Blue-winged Teal - 4
Cinnamon Teal - 40
Northern Shoveler - 174
Northern Pintail - 3
Green-winged Teal - 50
Canvasback - 3
Rick-necked Duck - 34
Lesser Scaup - 4
Bufflehead - 5
Ruddy Duck - 69

Pied-billed Grebe - 17 (2)
Horned Grebe - 1
Eared Grebe - 11
Western Grebe - 7

American White Pelican - 135
Brown Pelican - 1
Double-crested Cormorant - 142

Great Blue Heron - 10 (3)
Great Egret - 13

Snowy Egret - 19 (3)
Green Heron - 2
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 44 (1)

Turkey Vulture - 16
Northern Harrier - 4
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 1
American Kestrel - 1
Peregrine Falcon - 1

Sora - 1
Common Moorhen - 1 (3)
American Coot - 117 (35)

Black-necked Stilt - 80
American Avocet - 5
Greater Yellowlegs - 1
Spotted Sandpiper - 3 (2)
Long-billed Dowitchers - 89

Ring-billed Gull - 24
Caspian Tern - 2
Forster's Tern - 31

Mourning Dove - 7

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White-throated Swift - 40
Anna's Hummingbird - 88 (9)
Allen's Hummingbird - 8 (3)
Belted Kingfisher - 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker - 1
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Northern Flicker - 2
Black Phoebe - 32 (5)
Say's Phoebe - 2 (1)
Cassin's Kingbird - 3
Hutton's Vireo - 1
American Crow - 19 (2)
Tree Swallow - 24
Bushtit - 293 (11)
Marsh Wren - 10 (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 20
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 16 (2)
Hermit Thrush - 3
Northern Mockingbird - 2
European Starling - 1
American Pipit - 1
Cedar Waxwing - 49

Orange-crowned Warbler - 6 (2)
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 194 (25)
Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat - 101 (25)
Spotted Towhee - 15
California Towhee - 1
Song Sparrow - 117 (13)
White-crowned Sparrow - 50 (35)
Red-winged Blackbird - 10 (15)
Great-tailed Grackle - 5
House Finch - 72 (80)
Lesser Goldfinch - 4 (13)
American Goldfinch - 5
Egyptian Goose - 2