

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for June 2009 (6/5/09)

Birders who took part in the census were: Betsy Flynn, Terry Hill, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Eunice Morita, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Carolyn Raynesford, Jerry Tolman, Darrell Wilson.

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

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

or, using the tinyurl system, <http://tinyurl.com/cc5gry>

Comments: We began our census under a clear blue sky which quickly changed to cloudy with dark threatening clouds. We encountered a few minor sprinkles on selected parts of some of the ponds and a brisk little breeze sprang up which succeeded in blowing most of the dark clouds away; by the time the census was over, the sun was shining again and the Yellow-breasted Chat began to "serenade" our tally group with a selection of "chat melodies." Carolyn Noble spotted 2 Snow Geese flying up the creek, a most surprising sight! Mallard mothers with clusters of small fuzzy ducklings were seen on several of the ponds and Avocet parents were also observed being very protective of their fuzzy little chicks. Some of the avocets were very active chasing other avocets away from their territory in the pond, and when a Turkey Vulture flew too low over pond D, he was instantly chased off the premises by several adult avocets. The male Cinnamon Teals and Ruddy Ducks were in Breeding plumage but showed no sign of nesting. On the lower portion of the San Diego Creek, a large flock of Forster's Terns was milling around in a feeding frenzy and over several of the ponds, large flocks of Cliff & Tree Swallows were swooping over the ponds catching insects. Least Bitterns were spotted near ponds 2 and 4.

The following birds were seen and/or heard on our census this morning. (Those found along the San Diego Creek are shown in parenthesis.)

Canada Goose - 10 (1)	Anna's Hummingbird - 23 (3)	Black-headed Grosbeak - 6
Snow Goose - 2	Allen's Hummingbird - 15 (3)	Red-winged Blackbird - 19 (4)
Gadwall - 2	Nuttall's Woodpecker - 4	Great-tailed Grackle - 6
Mallard - 83 (3)	Downy Woodpecker - 2	Brown-headed Cowbird - 2
Cinnamon Teal - 7		
Ruddy Duck - 33	Black Phoebe - 7	House Finch - 120 (17)
	Western Wood-Pewee - 1	Lesser Goldfinch - 23 (11)
Pied-billed Grebe - 5		American Goldfinch - 4
Double-crested Cormorant - 15	Bell's Vireo - 11 (1)	
Least Bittern - 2	Hutton's Vireo - 1	Egyptian Goose - 2
Great Blue Heron - 16 (2)		Nutmeg Mannikin - 5 (7)
Great Egret - 2	American Crow - 16 (5)	
Snowy Egret - 5 (1)	Common Raven - 2	
Green Heron - 1		
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 18	Tree Swallow - 276	
	N. Rough-winged Swallow - 20 (7)	
Turkey Vulture - 20 (1)	Cliff Swallow - 244 (212)	
Osprey - 2		
Cooper's Hawk - 1	Bushtit - 54 (15)	
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2	House Wren - 3	
	Marsh Wren - 71	
Sora - 1 (1)		
American Coot - 6	Western Bluebird - 2	
Killdeer - 7 (1)	Northern Mockingbird - 2 (1)	
	California Thrasher - 1	
Black-necked Stilt - 12	European Starling - 10	
American Avocet - 51		
	Orange-crowned Warbler - 3 (3)	
Ring-billed Gull - 1	Yellow Warbler - 5 (1)	
Caspian Tern - 12	Common Yellowthroat - 112 (35)	
Forster's Tern - 34 (39)	Yellow-breasted Chat - 17 (2)	
Black Skimmer - 26 (1)		
	Spotted Towhee - 36	
Mourning Dove - 38 (1)	California Towhee - 3 (2)	
White-throated Swift - 1	Song Sparrow - 109 (11)	