Sea & Sage Audubon
SJWS Monthly Census Report for July 2009 (7/3/09)

Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, Darrell Wilson.

Comments:
On the June census, there were a lot of small Mallard ducklings, avocet & stilt chicks. On today's count, we found the ducklings to be almost full grown though they were still in large family groups and there were much fewer stilt & avocet chicks in evidence. However, in Pond D, the adult avocets were still spending a lot of time defending their territory against other avocets & stilts who came anywhere near; this included trying to chase off a family of Mallards who were peacefully feeding in an adjacent small pond, so possibly there were some chicks we didn't see! We also noticed that many of the Tree Swallow nestboxes were no longer in use and there were fewer swallows flying over the ponds. At Pond 4, Bob Hogan spotted a Least Bittern which was in the same location he had seen it last month; as usual, the bird did not stay out in the open for very long. After our tally when Jerry and I went back to Pond C to check the identity of a duck I had reported, we discovered several shorebirds that had not been in the ponds earlier in the morning. In Pond E, there was a lone Western Sandpiper in breeding plumage and in Pond C, we found 7 Long-billed Dowitchers in varying stages of breeding plumage as well as a second Greater Yellowlegs in breeding plumage. A Black Tern in full breeding plumage was the bird of the day. It was first seen flying over the ponds and then it landed at Pond 2. The lucky birders who observed it were Jan Gaffney, Sally Menzel, Merri Levy, Darrell Wilson & Jerry Tolman. Hopefully, it will stick around for other birders to see during the weekend!

See our chapter webpage for data on all of our monthly SJWS bird counts:
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/BirdCounts/SJWScensus/SJWScensus.htm
or, using the tinyurl system, http://tinyurl.com/cc5gry

The following birds were seen and/or heard on our census this morning. (We did not cover the San Diego Creek because of a shortage of birders.)

Canada Goose - 7
Mallard - 97
Cinnamon Teal - 8
Redhead - 2
Ruddy Duck - 16

Pied-billed Grebe - 10
Double-crested Cormorant - 19
Least Bittern - 1
Great Blue Heron - 13
Great Egret - 6
Snowy Egret - 1
Green Heron - 4
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 11

Turkey Vulture - 2
White-tailed Kite - 1
Cooper's Hawk - 4
Red-shouldered Hawk - 2

American Coot - 6
Killdeer - 10
Black-necked Stilt - 45
American Avocet - 80
Greater Yellowlegs - 2
Western Sandpiper - 1
Long-billed Dowitcher - 7

Western Gull - 4
Caspian Tern - 13
Forster's Tern - 9
Black Tern - 1
Black Skimmer - 1

Mourning Dove - 49
Anna's Hummingbird - 16
Allen's Hummingbird - 7
Nuttall's Woodpecker - 4
Downy Woodpecker - 6

Pacific-slope Flycatcher - 1
Black Phoebe - 7
Ash-throated Flycatcher - 1
Bell's Vireo - 11
Hutton's Vireo - 1

American Crow - 38

Tree Swallow - 176
N. Rough-winged Swallow - 2
Cliff Swallow - 26
Barn Swallow - 4

Wrentit - 1
Bushtit - 89

Bewick's Wren - 3
House Wren - 1
Marsh Wren - 43
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 2
American Robin - 1
Northern Mockingbird - 2
California Thrasher - 1

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1
Yellow Warbler - 20
Common Yellowthroat - 79
Yellow-breasted Chat - 15

Spotted Towhee - 26
Song Sparrow - 52
Red-winged Blackbird - 19
Great-tailed Grackle - 4
Brown-headed Cowbird - 5
Hooded Oriole - 2

House Finch - 98
Lesser Goldfinch - 32
American Goldfinch - 2

Nutmeg Mannikin - 1