

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for August 2009

Census date: 8/07/09; Census time: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Birders who took part in the census were: Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Dick Purvis, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: At the start of the count, the water in the ponds was absolutely motionless and the billowy clouds made interesting reflections in the still water; in fact, the water was so still that it was often difficult to distinguish the resting birds from their very clear reflections. While the large flock of dowitchers in pond D rested, one of the Wilson's Phalaropes twirled round and round in the water so quickly that it made us dizzy just to watch it! Eunice saw a retreating Bobcat on the path and Dick Purvis found a Mute Swan in pond 1. In pond E, there were 13 vocal Killdeer, in pond D there were a couple of Green Herons flying back and forth across the pond, and on the NW side of pond C, the contact calls of a small covey of CA Quail could be heard.

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>

The following birds were seen and/or heard on our census this morning:

GEESE & DUCKS:

Mallard - 92
Cinnamon Teal - 1
Ruddy Duck - 28

QUAIL:

California Quail - 12

GREBES:

Pied-billed Grebe - 12

CORMORANTS:

Double-crested Cormorant - 20

HERONS:

Great Blue Heron - 5
Great Egret - 11
Snowy Egret - 6
Green Heron - 3
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 17

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY:

Turkey Vulture - 16
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS:

Sora - 2
American Coot - 10

PLOVERS:

Killdeer - 13

STILTS & AVOCETS:

Black-necked Stilt - 34
American Avocet - 6

SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES:

Spotted Sandpiper - 2
Least Sandpiper - 4
Long-billed Dowitcher - 134
Wilson's Phalarope - 3

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS:

Ring-billed Gull - 2
Western Gull - 2
Caspian Tern - 11
Forster's Tern - 14
Least Tern - 1

PIGEONS & DOVES:

Mourning Dove - 35

HUMMINGBIRDS:

Anna's Hummingbird - 31
Allen's Hummingbird - 4

WOODPECKERS:

Nuttall's Woodpecker - 3
Downy Woodpecker - 4

FLYCATCHERS:

Black-Phoebe - 11
Ash-throated Flycatcher - 1
Cassin's Kingbird - 1

VIREOS:

Bell's Vireo - 11

CROWS & RAVENS:

American Crow - 10

SWALLOWS:

Tree Swallow - 38
N. Rough-winged Swallow - 3
Cliff Swallow - 24
Barn Swallow - 5

BUSHTITS & WRENS:

Bushtit - 39
House Wren - 1
Marsh Wren - 15

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS:

Northern Mockingbird - 3
California Thrasher - 1

WARBLERS:

Orange-crowned Warbler - 7
Yellow Warbler - 8
Common Yellowthroat - 61
Yellow-breasted Chat - 2

TOWHEES & SPARROWS:

Spotted Towhee - 5
California Towhee - 1
Song Sparrow - 101

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES:

Red-winged Blackbird - 8
Great-tailed Grackle - 3

FINCHES:

House Finch - 98
Lesser Goldfinch - 9
American Goldfinch - 9

EXOTIC SPECIES:

Mute Swan - 1