

## Sea & Sage Audubon

### SJWS Monthly Census Report for October 2009

**Census date:** 10/02/09; **Census time:** 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

**Birders who took part in the census were:** Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Terry Hill, Sharon Harrow, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Mark Kincheloe, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, and Darrel Wilson.

**Comments:** Friday morning, we were blessed with near perfect temperatures and water that was so still, it was often difficult to distinguish the birds from their reflections. Some unexpected species showed up on the count, such as an American Bittern by the San Diego Creek, neck stretched upward in the classic bittern posture. Two Pectoral Sandpipers, a Wilson's Snipe, two Soras, and a Virginia Rail were good finds in pond D. There were lots of small active fish in pond C which attracted a large number of egrets. Nearby was a pair of very active Belted Kingfishers. Ponds E & D had water in them once again which attracted several large flocks of shorebirds. They appeared to be a little nervous and erupted from the pond on several occasions without any apparent reason, making the counting operation very tedious. The American White Pelicans were back, along with 4 Brown Pelicans, a species we don't get very often at the SJWS.

**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>**

(Birds found in or along the San Diego Creek are shown in parenthesis.)

#### GEESE & DUCKS:

Greater White-fronted Goose - 2  
Canada Goose - 33  
Cackling Goose - 1  
Gadwall - 13 (9)  
Mallard - 69 (26)  
Cinnamon Teal - 5  
Northern Shoveler - 63  
Green-winged Teal - 5  
Ring-necked Duck - 9  
Ruddy Duck - 53

#### QUAIL:

California Quail - 13

#### GREBES:

Pied-billed Grebe - 24 (5)  
Eared Grebe - 5

#### PELICANS & CORMORANTS:

American White Pelican - 28  
Brown Pelican - 4  
Double-crested Cormorant - 33

#### BITTERNS & HERONS:

American Bittern - (1)  
Great Blue Heron - 11 (5)  
Great Egret - 15 (1)  
Snowy Egret - 36 (1)  
Cattle Egret - 2  
Green Heron - 2 (3)  
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 22

#### DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY:

Turkey Vulture - 3 (3)  
Osprey - 3  
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1  
Cooper's Hawk - 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk - 3  
American Kestrel - 3

#### RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS:

Virginia Rail - 3  
Sora - 3  
Common Moorhen - 4  
American Coot - 64 (24)

#### PLOVERS:

Seiimpalmated Plover - 1

Killdeer - 37

#### STILTS & AVOCETS:

Black-necked Stilt - 66  
American Avocet - 35

#### SANDPIPERS:

Greater Yellowlegs - 1  
Spotted Sandpiper - 6 (1)  
Long-billed Curlew - 1  
Marbled Godwit - 1  
Western Sandpiper - 82  
Least Sandpiper - 1  
Pectoral Sandpiper - 2  
Long-billed Dowitcher - 60  
Wilson's Snipe - 1

#### GULL & TERNS:

Bonaparte's Gull - 1  
Ring-billed Gull - 1  
Forster's Tern - 4

#### DOVES:

Mourning Dove - 19 (1)

#### SWIFTS:

Vaux's Swift - 2  
White-throated Swift - 1

#### HUMMINGBIRDS:

Anna's Hummingbird - 64  
Allen's Hummingbird - 6

#### KINGFISHERS:

Belted Kingfisher - 4 (1)

#### WOODPECKERS:

Nuttall's Woodpecker - 3 (2)  
Downy Woodpecker - 5

#### FLYCATCHERS:

Pacific-slope Flycatcher - 2  
Black Phoebe - 12 (3)  
Say's Phoebe - 2 (1)  
Cassin's Kingbird - 3

#### VIREOS:

Hutton's Vireo - 2

#### CROWS:

American Crow - 104 (6)

#### SWALLOWS:

Tree Swallow - 1  
N. Rough-winged Swallow - 2  
Barn Swallow - 2

#### BUSHTITS & WRENS:

Bushtit - 80 (18)  
Bewick's Wren - 1  
House Wren - (2)  
Marsh Wren - 17 (8)

#### GNATCATCHERS:

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 5 (4)

#### MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS:

Northern Mockingbird - 6  
California Thrasher - 6

#### STARLINGS:

European Starling - 3

#### WARBLERS:

Orange-crowned Warbler - 11  
Yellow Warbler - 2  
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 16  
Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1  
Common Yellowthroat - 102 (62)

#### TOWHEES & SPARROWS:

Spotted Towhee - 28 (1)  
California Towhee - 3  
Song Sparrow - 125 (25)  
White-crowned Sparrow - 11 (20)

#### BLACKBIRDS:

Red-winged Blackbird - 58 (6)  
Great-tailed Grackle - 15

#### FINCHES:

House Finch - 57 (33)  
Lesser Goldfinch - 12  
American Goldfinch - 2

#### EXOTIC SPECIES:

Nutmeg Mannikin - (19)