

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for December 2009

Census date: 12/04/09; **Census time:** 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Weather:** cool, starting out overcast but later clearing
Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Terry Hill, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Mark Kincheloe, Paul Klahr, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: We found the week's specialty birds: the female Mountain Bluebird, the male Vermilion Flycatcher, the Burrowing Owl, and the 3 Bonaparte's Gulls. Of course, we were also hoping to see the Wood Stork that showed up on Tues. afternoon & Wed. morning, but that bird has evidently disappeared from the county because no one has seen it since. The water in the ponds was very still at the start of the count, and we experienced difficulty distinguishing the birds from their still reflections. The 3 strikingly beautiful Wood Ducks were seen swimming in pond C and in the Riparian Area, a Ross's Goose was spotted flying high overhead with 3 Canada Geese. A season high 32 Northern Pintails were in Pond 1 and 30 Redheads were in Pond 2. A Merlin was seen at Pond 1 and Peregrines were spotted by Ponds 1, 2, and 3. In the "meadow" behind the Duck Club, we watched a solitary American Pipit walking back and forth across the grass. Everyone enjoyed watching the flock of Cedar Waxwings. At Pond E, we witnessed the awesome spectacle of a large flock of Western Sandpipers wheeling in tight formation back and forth across the pond. It was a great morning to be out birding!

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 MARKED IN (PARENTHESIS) WERE SEEN IN THE SAN DIEGO CREEK

GEESE & DUCKS

Canada Goose - 59
Ross's Goose - 1
Wood Duck - 3
Gadwall - 2 (30)
American Wigeon - 14
Mallard - 30 (18)
Cinnamon Teal - 27
Northern Shoveler - 180 (12)
Northern Pintail - 32
Green-winged Teal - 56 (2)
Canvasback - 1
Redhead - 30
Ring-necked Duck - 80
Lesser Scaup - 152
Bufflehead - 2
Ruddy Duck - 69

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe - 17 (5)
Horned Grebe - 1
Eared Grebe - 13
Western Grebe - 11 (1)
Clark's Grebe - 1

PELICANS & CORMORANTS

American White Pelican - 63 (7)
Brown Pelican - 3 (3)
Double-crested Cormorant - 158 (1)

HERONS & IBIS

Great Blue Heron - 9 (3)
Great Egret - 5 (1)
Snowy Egret - 13 (3)
Green Heron - (1)
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 25 (6)
White-faced Ibis - 1 (1)

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

Turkey Vulture - 13
Osprey - 1 (1)
Northern Harrier - 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1
Cooper's Hawk - 2
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1 (1)
Red-tailed Hawk - 1
American Kestrel - 3 (4)
Merlin - 1
Peregrine Falcon - 2

Burrowing Owl - 1

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

Sora - 1
Common Moorhen - (2)
American Coot - 72 (83)

PLOVERS

Killdeer - 8

STILTS & AVOCETS

Black-necked Stilt - 79 (3)
American Avocet - 16 (5)

SANDPIPERS

Spotted Sandpiper - 3 (1)
Whimbrel - 1
Long-billed Curlew - 1
Western Sandpiper - 122
Least Sandpiper - 3 (8)
Long-billed Dowitcher - 23 (58)
Wilson's Snipe - 1

GULLS & TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull - 3
Ring-billed Gull - 19 (1)
Western Gull - 4
Forster's Tern - 11

DOVES

Mourning Dove - 6

HUMMINGBIRD

Anna's Hummingbird - 61 (4)
Allen's Hummingbird - 6 (1)

KINGFISHER

Belted Kingfisher - 1 (2)

WOODPECKERS

Nuttall's Woodpecker - 3
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Northern Flicker - 3

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe - 36 (7)
Say's Phoebe - 11 (1)
Vermilion Flycatcher - 1
Cassin's Kingbird - 43
Western Kingbird - 1

VIREO

Hutton's Vireo - 2

CROWS

American Crow - 32 (5)

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallows - 43
Violet-green Swallow - 2
Cliff Swallow - 1
Barn Swallow - 3

BUSHTITS & WRENS

Bushtit - 150
Bewick's Wren - 1
House Wren - 1 (1)
Marsh Wren - 7

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 23 (3)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 23

THRUSHES

Hermit Thrush - 3
Mountain Bluebird - 1

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

Northern Mockingbird - 6
California Thrasher - 3

STARLINGS

European Starling - 4

PIPITS & WAXWINGS

American Pipit - 1
Cedar Waxwing - 67

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler - 13 (1)
Nashville Warbler - 1
Yellow Warbler - 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 193 (3)
Common Yellowthroat - 121 (70)

TOWHEES & SPARROWS

Spotted Towhee - 9
California Towhee - 2
Song Sparrow - 127 (20)
White-crowned Sparrow - 35 (44)

BLACKBIRDS

Red-winged Blackbird - 37
Great-tailed Grackle - 1

FINCHES

House Finch - 60 (75)
Lesser Goldfinch - 10
American Goldfinch - 16

EXOTIC SPECIES

Nutmeg Mannikin - 16