

Sea & Sage Audubon

SJWS Monthly Census Report for January 2010

Census date: 1/01/10; **Census time:** 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Weather:** cloudy & cool; no breeze

Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Darrell Wilson.

Comments: We had an unprecedented 222 Double-crested Cormorants fly over in groups at the beginning of the count. Some came from the islands in ponds 1 & 2. A few of the cormorants circled back but the rest headed for some inland area; they were flying in the direction of Saddleback. All of us wondered about their destination and if this was going to be a daily occurrence. A flock of Canada Geese also flew over, but this was a daily occurrence that we had witnessed before. There were very few raptors and the air was so still and motionless that counting the ducks and shorebirds in ponds E & D was a major challenge because it was difficult to separate the actual birds from their reflections. We found the pair of Wood Ducks in a brilliant spot of sunlight at pond C and a passing birder located the female Goldeneye in the stream by the boardwalk. The Burrowing Owl was not in view and some of us worried because we had noticed a photographer who had approached the owl's usual spot much too closely. The Forster's Terns were active, making spectacular dives into the water, and two Brown Pelicans were spotted in Pond 2. Surprisingly, we found only ONE Mourning Dove; usually, there are dozens. The Hermit Thrushes were pretty quiet but one of the CA Thrashers entertained us with a reasonable rendition of a Yellow-breasted Chat! It was a great morning to be out birding! (Due to a shortage in birders this morning, neither Tree Hill & the Back 40 areas nor the San Diego Creek were covered on this count.) **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>

GEESE & DUCKS

Canada Goose - 91
Wood Duck - 2
Gadwall - 8
American Wigeon - 6
Mallard - 49
Blue-winged Teal - 3
Cinnamon Teal - 57
Northern Shoveler - 248
Green-winged Teal - 53
Redhead - 32
Ring-necked Duck - 68
Bufflehead - 16
Common Goldeneye - 1
Ruddy Duck - 59

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe - 12
Horned Grebe - 1
Eared Grebe - 10
Western Grebe - 3

PELICANS & CORMORANTS

American White Pelican - 2
Brown Pelican - 2
Double-crested Cormorant - 289

HERONS & IBIS

Great Blue Heron - 6
Great Egret - 1
Snowy Egret - 3
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 19

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

Cooper's Hawk - 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 3

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS

Sora - 1
Common Moorhen - 1
American Coot - 71

PLOVERS

Killdeer - 15

STILTS & AVOCETS

Black-necked Stilt - 129
American Avocet - 9

SANDPIPERS

Spotted Sandpiper - 2
Long-billed Dowitcher - 67

GULLS & TERNS

Ring-billed Gull - 6
Western Gull - 1
Caspian Tern - 1
Forster's Tern - 18

DOVES

Mourning Dove - 1

HUMMINGBIRD

Anna's Hummingbird - 46
Allen's Hummingbird - 8

WOODPECKERS

Nuttall's Woodpecker - 3
Downy Woodpecker - 1
Northern Flicker - 2

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe - 15
Say's Phoebe - 5
Cassin's Kingbird - 9

CROWS

American Crow - 11

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallows - 63
N. Rough-winged Swallow - 15

BUSHTITS & WRENS

Bushtit - 28
House Wren - 1
Marsh Wren - 6

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 18
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 20

THRUSHES

Hermit Thrush - 3

THRASHERS

California Thrasher - 2

PIPITS & WAXWINGS

American Pipit - 7
Cedar Waxwing - 8

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler - 5
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 81
Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat - 77

TOWHEES & SPARROWS

Spotted Towhee - 13
Song Sparrow - 72
White-crowned Sparrow - 30

BLACKBIRDS

Red-winged Blackbird - 15
Great-tailed Grackle - 1

FINCHES

House Finch - 44
Lesser Goldfinch - 21
American Goldfinch - 3

EXOTIC SPECIES

Nutmeg Mannikin - 3