

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for September 2011

Census Date: 9/02/11 **Census Time:** 7:30 - 9:30 am **Weather:** overcast, temperature in the low 70's.
Birders who took part in the census were: Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Terry Hill, Sharon Harrow, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Carolyn Noble, Dick Purvis, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: It was an overcast morning as I drove up Riparian View into the sanctuary. The air was very still and a white mist hung low over the ponds. The air smelled clean and fresh and a few birds could be heard calling softly in the distance. Earlier, before I arrived, Carol spotted a flock of 30 Canada Geese flying off across the creek. Like the large Whimbrel flock which often spends the night at the marsh and goes elsewhere during the day to feed, the geese leave the marsh early in the morning and return late in the evening. We were glad to see that more shorebirds and ducks had returned, though some, like the Ruddy Duck, were still absent. Of special note were the two Least Bitterns, 1 at pond 3 and the other at pond B; two Soras at pond 1; and two Virginia Rails, 1 at pond B and the other in the Back 40 area. At pond 4, Bob heard a California Thrasher doing a great imitation of a Yellow-breasted Chat. Since ponds E & D were dry, there were a large number of shorebirds in pond C; this included: Killdeer, Semipalmated Plovers, Black-necked Stilts & American Avocets, a Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpipers, Short-billed & Long-billed Dowitchers, Wilson's & Red-necked Phalaropes. According to Doug Willick's report on OrangeCountyBirding, even more shorebird species showed up there the next day, so that's definitely the best location at the marsh right now to find shorebirds.

Geese & Ducks		
31		Canada Goose
6	2	Wood Duck
35		Gadwall
60	6	Mallard
1		Cinnamon Teal
1		Northern Shoveler
3		Northern Pintail
2		Green-winged Teal
Grebes		
10	2	Pied-billed Grebe
9		Western Grebe
3		Clark's Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants		
8		Brown Pelican
11		Double-crested Cormorant
Bitterns, Herons & Egrets		
2		Least Bittern
12	1	Great Blue Heron
15		Great Egret
7		Snowy Egret
5	2	Green Heron
5		Black-crowned Night-Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey		
3		Turkey Vulture
2		Osprey
3	1	White-tailed Kite
1		Red-tailed Hawk
Rails, Gallinules & Coots		
2		Virginia Rail
2		Sora
0	1	Common Gallinule
17		American Coot

Plovers		
3		Semipalmated Plover
4		Killdeer
Stilts & Avocets		
47		Black-necked Stilt
32		American Avocet
Sandpipers & Phalaropes		
1		Spotted Sandpiper
21		Western Sandpiper
4		Short-billed Dowitcher
13		Long-billed Dowitcher
31		Wilson's Phalarope
2		Red-necked Phalarope
Terns		
3		Caspian Tern
13	1	Forster's Tern
Doves		
19	1	Mourning Dove
Hummingbirds		
17		Anna's Hummingbird
5		Allen's Hummingbird
Woodpeckers		
1		Nuttall's Woodpecker
2		Downy Woodpecker
Flycatchers		
13	3	Black Phoebe
2		Cassin's Kingbird
Vireos		
2		Bell's Vireo
1		Hutton's Vireo
Crows & Ravens		
11		American Crow
3		Common Raven

Swallows		
8		Tree Swallow
1		N. Rough-winged Swallow
Babblers, Bushtits & Wrens		
2		Wrentit
138	28	Bushtit
1	1	Bewick's Wren
2		House Wren
3	7	Marsh Wren
Mockingbirds & Thrashers		
4		Northern Mockingbird
1		California Thrasher
Warblers		
6		Orange-crowned Warbler
3		Yellow Warbler
85	15	Common Yellowthroat
Towhees & Sparrows		
14		Spotted Towhee
4		California Towhee
1		Savannah Sparrow
81	13	Song Sparrow
Blackbirds		
19		Red-winged Blackbird
Finches		
34	15	House Finch
3		Lesser Goldfinch
4		American Goldfinch
Exotic species		
2	28	Nutmeg Mannikin

San Diego Creek sightings are marked in blue.