

## Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for October 2011

**Census Date:** 10/07/11 **Census Time:** 7:30 - 9:30 am **Weather:** clear, temperature in the low 70's.

**Birders who took part in the census were:** Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Terry Hill, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Carolyn Noble, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, and Darrell Wilson.

**Comments:** It was clear and sunny this morning. The water in the ponds was very still, making it difficult to count the large groups of shorebirds that were packed tightly together in the still water (their reflections were as clear as the birds themselves). In ponds E, D & C, the birds were very skittery and unable to stay in one place for any length of time due to the close proximity and devastating noise of the nearby pile driver which was in constant action during our census period. We had an abnormally large quantity of Least Sandpipers in ponds E & D and surmised that they were a recently arrived migrating flock. During our tally after the count when the pile driver was on break, the songbirds tuned up and we heard all kinds of vocalizations in the meadow area including Blue-gray Gnatcatchers & 2 species of wrens. Even the Osprey showed up to circle high overhead. By the ponds, the egrets seemed to prefer perching in the trees rather than wading in the water. We had both Short & Long-billed Dowitchers and the Short-billeds were exceedingly vocal. It was great to see a few White-crowned Sparrows and Ruby-crowned Kinglets back again, though the Yellow-rumped Warblers did not show up. 17 Vaux's Swifts were observed and a flock of about 40 Barn Swallows were seen for a short time and then just vanished from sight. In the back area, several species of warblers were spotted.

<b>GEESE &amp; DUCKS</b>			<b>STILTS &amp; AVOCETS</b>			<b>SWALLOWS</b>		
4		Wood Duck	14		Black-necked Stilt	40		Barn Swallow
23		Gadwall	5		American Avocet	<b>BABLERS, BUSHTITS &amp; WRENS</b>		
42	7	Mallard	<b>SANDPIPERS</b>			1		Wrentit
2		Blue-winged Teal	3	2	Spotted Sandpiper	157		Bushtit
30		Northern Shoveler	5		Western Sandpiper	4		Bewick's Wren
9		Green-winged Teal	224		Least Sandpiper	4	1	House Wren
5		Ring-necked Duck	1		Dunlin	12	7	Marsh Wren
9		Ruddy Duck	7		Short-billed Dowitcher	<b>KINGLETS &amp; GNATCATCHERS</b>		
<b>GREBES</b>			14		Long-billed Dowitcher	2		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
9	2	Pied-billed Grebe	<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>			7		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
2		Eared Grebe	2		Rock Pigeon	<b>MOCKINGBIRDS &amp; THRASHERS</b>		
3		Western Grebe	2		Mourning Dove	4		Northern Mockingbird
3		Clark's Grebe	<b>SWIFTS</b>			2		California Thrasher
<b>PELICANS &amp; CORMORANTS</b>			17		Vaux's Swift	<b>WARBLERS</b>		
11	1	Brown Pelican	1		White-throated Swift	14		Orange-crowned Warbler
49	3	Double-crested Cormorant	<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>			1		Nashville Warbler
<b>BITTERNS, HERONS &amp; EGRETS</b>			32	4	Anna's Hummingbird	2		Yellow Warbler
7	3	Great Blue Heron	10		Allen's Hummingbird	1		Townsend's Warbler
18		Great Egret	<b>KINGFISHER</b>			85	18	Common Yellowthroat
3	2	Snowy Egret	2		Belted Kingfisher	3		Wilson's Warbler
2	1	Green Heron	<b>WOODPECKERS</b>			<b>TANAGERS, TOWHEES, SPARROWS</b>		
11	2	Black-crowned Night-Heron	4		Nuttall's Woodpecker	3		Western Tanager
<b>DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY</b>			8		Downy Woodpecker	26		Spotted Towhee
3		Turkey Vulture	1		Northern Flicker	2		California Towhee
1		Osprey	<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>			63	6	Song Sparrow
3		White-tailed Kite	12	2	Black Phoebe	13	9	White-crowned Sparrow
2		Northern Harrier	3		Say's Phoebe	<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>		
4		Cooper's Hawk	1		Western Wood-Pewee	13		Red-winged Blackbird
1		American Kestrel	1		Cassin's Kingbird	16		Great-tailed Grackle
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES &amp; COOTS</b>			<b>VIREOS</b>			<b>FINCHES</b>		
1		Virginia Rail	3		Warbling Vireo	38	25	House Finch
	1	Common Gallinule	2		Hutton's Vireo	23	1	Lesser Goldfinch
101	8	American Coot	<b>CROWS &amp; RAVENS</b>			18		American Goldfinch
<b>PLOVERS</b>			158	1	American Crow			
24		Killdeer	2	3	Common Raven			

*San Diego Creek sightings are marked in blue.*