

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for October 2012

Census Date: 10/05/12 **Census Time:** 7:30 - 9:45 am **Weather:** Heavy Overcast

Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Terry Hill, Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Barbara Sentovich, Jim Stacy, Jerry Tolman, Darrell Wilson.

Comments: The heavy overcast made it look as though it were much earlier in the morning than it actually was. Two Virginia Rails were quite active and visible among the reeds along the shore of pond D. One of the rails was much darker than the other, looking very much like a juvenile. An Osprey stayed in sight for the duration of our count, first perching on the crane until it began operation, and then moving to the top of the cell tower. At pond C, a large flock of 125+ Western Sandpipers flew back and forth across the pond, forming an intermittent "cloud" of birds flashing their white feathers as they changed formation midway across the water; it was a beautiful sight! It was interesting to watch when the sandpiper flock settled along the shore almost on top of a feeding dowitcher, which irrupted from the flock to fly further away from the flock. We were dismayed to see that the Clark's Grebe family had shrunk to only 2 young birds when last week, there were 2-3 juvenile Clark's and 3 young whitish chicks riding on their parents' backs. At pond 2, the 2 Clark's Grebe parents were trying to feed their juvenile offspring. They offered it a small fish and the juv. took the fish but couldn't swallow it as the fish was too large, so "he" dropped it in the water. The parents retrieved the fish and offered it again & again, with the same result. Unfortunately, Sally & Barbara couldn't stay long enough to see the end result. It was wonderful to once again hear the beautiful song of the White-crowned Sparrows singing from the edge of the ponds.

GEESE & DUCKS

27	Canada Geese
1	Wood Duck
9	2 Gadwall
6	American Wigeon
36	Mallard
1	Blue-winged Teal
33	Cinnamon Teal
36	Northern Shoveler
19	Northern Pintail
36	Green-winged Teal
39	Ruddy Duck

GREBES

19	Pied-billed Grebe
14	Eared Grebe
3	Western Grebe
5	Clark's Grebe

PELICANS & CORMORANTS

131	32 American White Pelican
8	Brown Pelican
24	3 Double-crested Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS

6	Great Blue Heron
17	Great Egret
7	Snowy Egret
4	Green Heron
5	Black-crowned Night-Heron
30	White-faced Ibis

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

13	Turkey Vulture
3	Osprey
2	Cooper's Hawk
3	Red-shouldered Hawk
1	Red-tailed Hawk
3	American Kestrel
1	Merlin

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

3	Virginia Rail
1	Sora
2	Common Gallinule
136	25 American Coot

PLOVERS

16	Killdeer
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STILTS & AVOCETS

9	Black-necked Stilt
31	American Avocet

SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES

1	Lesser Yellowlegs
2	Spotted Sandpiper
1	Whimbrel
137	Western Sandpiper
2	Least Sandpiper
127	Long-billed Dowitcher
2	Dowitcher sp.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS

1	Western Gull
4	Gull sp.
10	3 Forster's Tern

PIGEONS & DOVES

8	Mourning Dove
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HUMMINGBIRDS

34	Anna's Hummingbird
9	Allen's Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

1	Belted Kingfisher
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WOODPECKERS

1	Nuttall's Woodpecker
5	Downy Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS

16	1 Black Phoebe
2	Say's Phoebe

VIREOS

2	Hutton's Vireo
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CROWS & RAVENS

148	3 American Crow
1	Common Raven

BUSHTITS, WRENS, WRENTITS

175	Bushtit
2	Bewick's Wren
4	House Wren
9	Marsh Wren
1	Wrentit

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

23	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
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MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

3	Northern Mockingbird
6	California Thrasher

STARLINGS

1	European Starling
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WARBLERS

11	Orange-crowned Warbler
1	Yellow Warbler
25	Yellow-rumped Warbler
121	Common Yellowthroat

TOWHEES, SPARROWS

33	Spotted Towhee
1	California Towhee
103	Song Sparrow
9	White-crowned Sparrow

BLACKBIRDS

2	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Great-tailed Grackle

FINCHES

41	House Finch
19	Lesser Goldfinch