

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for September 2013

Census Date: 9/6/13 **Census Time:** 6:45 - 9:30 am **Weather:** hot & humid

Birders who took part in the census were: Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Terry Hill, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Eva Lydick, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Carolyn Noble, Barbara Sentovich, Jerry Tolman, Darrell Wilson.

Comments: As we drove in this morning, we were treated to a beautiful sunrise which was reflected in the San Diego Creek. (We started our count half an hour early so that we could get a head start before the heat became unbearable.) For the first hour, the sun was obscured by clouds which kept the temperature down, but at 8:00, the sun emerged from behind the clouds and the temperature began to rise. At the start of the count, a large flock of Canada Geese were spotted flying up the San Diego Creek. We surmised that many of the geese spend the night at the marsh and the daytime, elsewhere. We were surprised to still find baby birds in evidence. At pond 1, there were 2 Western Grebe chicks, and at pond 2, there were 3 young Clark's Grebes riding on their parent's back. There were still a few Bell's Vireos singing. At pond D, a large flock of Western Sandpipers flew round and round the pond looking for a promising mudflat on which to land, but the water level was too high, so they moved on. Killdeer were flying around, their shrills cries reverberating throughout the marsh. Two unusual species for the sanctuary were seen this morning: A White-breasted Nuthatch was found near pond 6 (map grid F-11), and a group of 9 juvenile Sanderlings were seen on the eastern island at pond 2.

GEESE & DUCKS			RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS					
65	47	Canada Geese	2		Common Gallinule	1		N. Rough-winged Swallow
3		Wood Duck	15	5	American Coot	43		Barn Swallow
83	7	Mallard	PLOVERS			BUSHTITS, WRENTITS, WRENS		
7		Gadwall	11	6	Killdeer	133		Bushtit
17		Northern Shoveler	STILTS & AVOCETS			2		Wrentit
5		Cinnamon Teal	40	2	Black-necked Stilt	6		House Wren
1		Lesser Scaup	SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES			2		Bewick's Wren
11		Ruddy Duck	3		Spotted Sandpiper	6		Marsh Wren
QUAIL			27		Western Sandpiper	GNATCATCHERS & KINGLETS		
2		California Quail	12		Least Sandpiper	2		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
GREBES			44		Long-billed Dowitcher	MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS		
9	5	Pied-billed Grebe	GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS			2		Northern Mockingbird
1		Eared Grebe	1		Caspian Tern	4		California Thrasher
13		Western Grebe	PIGEONS & DOVES			WARBLERS		
8		Clark's Grebe	39	2	Mourning Dove	10		Orange-crowned Warbler
CORMORANTS & PELICANS			SWIFTS			101	30	Common Yellowthroat
23	27	Double-crested Cormorant	1		White-throated Swift	4		Yellow Warbler
6		Brown Pelican	HUMMINGBIRDS			2		Wilson's Warbler
HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS			26	1	Anna's Hummingbird	TOWHEES, SPARROWS		
7	5	Great Blue Heron	9		Allen's Hummingbird	39	1	Spotted Towhee
8	1	Great Egret	WOODPECKERS			4	1	California Towhee
7	1	Snowy Egret	6		Nuttall's Woodpecker	1		Savannah Sparrow
6	1	Green Heron	3		Downy Woodpecker	123	20	Song Sparrow
10	1	Black-crowned Night-Heron	FLYCATCHERS			BLACKBIRDS		
1		White-faced Ibis	10	3	Black Phoebe	11	3	Red-winged Blackbird
DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY			1		Say's Phoebe	FINCHES		
1		Osprey	4		Cassin's Kingbird	28	7	House Finch
1		White-tailed Kite	VIREOS			6		American Goldfinch
2		Northern Harrier	3	1	Bell's Vireo	EXOTIC SPECIES		
1	1	Cooper's Hawk	1		Hutton's Vireo	10	29	Nutmeg Mannikin
2		Red-shouldered Hawk	CROWS & RAVENS			UNEXPECTED SPECIES		
1		Red-tailed Hawk	126		American Crow	9		Sanderling (juveniles)
1		American Kestrel	1		Common Raven	1		White-breasted Nuthatch
	1	Peregrine Falcon	SWALLOWS					
			37		Tree Swallow			

Numbers in blue show birds found along the San Diego Creek.