

# Sea & Sage Audubon – SJWS Census Report for Feb. 2014

**Census Date:** 2/7/14

**Census Time:** 7:30 am – 9:30 am

**Weather:** Cloudy and cold

**Birders who took part in the census were:** Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Eva Lydick, Carolyn Noble, Barbara Sentovich, Jim Stacy, Jerry Tolman, and Darrell Wilson.

**Comments:** The water was so still in the ponds that it was difficult to make an accurate count of the dowitchers and ducks which were standing absolutely motionless in the water. In contrast to the dowitchers, a flock of 15 Least Sandpipers flew from one pond to another, perhaps searching unsuccessfully for the “perfect” morsel of food. At the nesting platform by pond 4, one of the Ospreys was sitting in incubation position on the nest, while his or her mate was off searching for food. Later, we did see the mate with a successful catch, flying back to the nest with a fish in its talons. We heard a frog croaking from one of the ponds and a couple of brightly-colored male Allen’s Hummingbirds were doing their aerial displays. Several of the Tree Swallows appeared to be laying claim to their nest boxes – already - and a couple of male Ruddy Ducks showed some blue on their bills. Did the absence of rainy weather make the birds feel that spring was in the air? *(The count done along the San Diego Creek is color-coded in blue.)*

<b>GEESE &amp; DUCKS</b>		
19	3	Canada Geese
50	18	Gadwall
2		American Wigeon
75	39	Mallard
2		Blue-winged Teal
29		Cinnamon Teal
97	3	Northern Shoveler
67		Northern Pintail
53		Green-winged Teal
7		Ring-necked Duck
2		Bufflehead
32	2	Ruddy Duck
<b>GREBES</b>		
7	3	Pied-billed Grebe
3		Clark’s Grebe
<b>CORMORANTS &amp; PELICANS</b>		
21		Double-crested Cormorant
<b>HERONS, EGRETS &amp; IBIS</b>		
4	3	Great Blue Heron
1	1	Great Egret
7		Snowy Egret
2		Green Heron
16		Black-crowned Night-Heron
<b>DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY</b>		
17	1	Turkey Vulture
2		Osprey
1	2	Cooper’s Hawk
1		Red-shouldered Hawk
3	P	Red-tailed Hawk
1		American Kestrel
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES &amp; COOTS</b>		
2		Virginia Rail
5		Sora (+ 1 dead Sora)
2	2	Common Gallinule
73	82	American Coot
<b>PLOVERS</b>		
4	11	Killdeer

<b>STILTS &amp; AVOCETS</b>		
3		Black-necked Stilt
47		American Avocet
<b>SANDPIPERS &amp; PHALAROPES</b>		
2	1	Spotted Sandpiper
15		Least Sandpiper
57		Long-billed Dowitcher
<b>GULLS, TERNS &amp; SKIMMERS</b>		
1		Western Gull
313		California Gull (fly overs)
3		gull sp.
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>		
40	5	Mourning Dove
<b>SWIFTS</b>		
5		White-throated Swift
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>		
53	1	Anna’s Hummingbird
27	1	Allen’s Hummingbird
<b>KINGFISHER</b>		
2		Belted Kingfisher
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		
4		Nuttall’s Woodpecker
1		Downy Woodpecker
1		Northern Flicker
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>		
16	6	Black Phoebe
	3	Say’s Phoebe
8		Cassin’s Kingbird
<b>CROWS &amp; RAVENS</b>		
29	5	American Crow
2		Common Raven
<b>VIREOS</b>		
5		Hutton’s Vireo
<b>SWALLOWS</b>		
58		Tree Swallow
1		Violet-green Swallow
5		Cliff Swallow

<b>BUSHTITS &amp; WRENS</b>		
183	11	Bushtit
2		Bewick’s Wren
12	25	Marsh Wren
<b>GNATCATCHERS &amp; KINGLETS</b>		
13		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
27		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
<b>THRUSHES</b>		
3		Hermit Thrush
1		American Robin
<b>WRENTITS</b>		
4		Wrentit
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS &amp; THRASHERS</b>		
3		Northern Mockingbird
6		California Thrasher
<b>STARLINGS &amp; PIPITS</b>		
1		American Pipit
<b>WAXWINGS</b>		
12		Cedar Waxwing
<b>WARBLERS</b>		
14		Orange-crowned Warbler
1		Yellow Warbler
161		Yellow-rumped Warbler
1		Townsend’s Warbler
86	50	Common Yellowthroat
<b>TOWHEES &amp; SPARROWS</b>		
46	2	Spotted Towhee
4		California Towhee
142	30	Song Sparrow
41		White-crowned Sparrow
<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>		
2	10	Red-winged Blackbird
<b>FINCHES</b>		
101	3	House Finch
28		Lesser Goldfinch
8		American Goldfinch
<b>EXOTICS</b>		
9		Nutmeg Mannikin
1		Mandarin Duck