

Sea & Sage Audubon – SJWS Census Report for March 2014

Census Date: 3/7/14 **Census Time:** 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Terry Hill, Bob Hogan, Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Eunice Morita, Gail Richards, Barbara Sentovich, Sandy Smith, Jerry Tolman, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: On the island at pond 2, the Canada Geese were fighting each other. According to Birds of North America, this behavior is fairly common among large bodied birds and could just be an argument over spacing among family groups or feeding territory; it could also be a precursor of mating season. At the Osprey nesting platform by pond 4, the pair of Ospreys were together on the platform; later, one of the birds went off hunting. Recently, one Osprey has been consistently observed sitting on the nest, presumably incubating eggs, though no chicks have yet been seen. There is now a lot of activity around the Tree Swallow nestboxes and the number of TRES has markedly increased from 58 last month to 214 this month. There was a good showing of ducks with 7 duck species and a preponderance of Northern Shovelers. Counting masses of birds at ponds E & D kept us busy; there were 70 Black-necked Stilts, 32 American Avocets, 79 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 25 Least Sandpipers, the latter which kept flying back and forth across the pond. While the stilts were fairly quiet, the avocets and dowitchers were actively moving around. Of note were the sightings of 2 Fox Sparrows, a Virginia Rail & a Sora, 2 Wilson's Warblers, 1 Violet-green Swallow, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 1 continuing American Robin, and 1 Peregrine Falcon. *(The count done along the San Diego Creek is color-coded in blue.)*

GEESE & DUCKS		
68	14	Canada Geese
34	9	Gadwall
49	8	Mallard
10		Blue-winged Teal
39	3	Cinnamon Teal
87	2	Northern Shoveler
35	2	Green-winged Teal
21	1	Ruddy Duck
GREBES		
4	4	Pied-billed Grebe
1		Horned Grebe
1		Eared Grebe
6		Western Grebe
4		Clark's Grebe
CORMORANTS & PELICANS		
31	1	American White Pelican
26	9	Double-crested Cormorant
HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS		
7	9	Great Blue Heron
6	4	Great Egret
5	2	Snowy Egret
1		Green Heron
21		Black-crowned Night-Heron
1	3	White-faced Ibis
DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY		
11		Turkey Vulture
2		Osprey
1		Northern Harrier
3		Cooper's Hawk
3		Red-shouldered Hawk
2		Red-tailed Hawk
1		Peregrine Falcon
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS		
1		Virginia Rail
1		Sora
53	24	American Coot
PLOVERS		
	2	Killdeer

STILTS & AVOCETS		
77	3	Black-necked Stilt
33		American Avocet
SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES		
2	1	Spotted Sandpiper
25	3	Least Sandpiper
79	8	Long-billed Dowitcher
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS		
8		Ring-billed Gull
1		Western Gull
1		Caspian Tern
PIGEONS & DOVES		
27	2	Mourning Dove
HUMMINGBIRDS		
61	5	Anna's Hummingbird
31		Allen's Hummingbird
KINGFISHER		
1	1	Belted Kingfisher
WOODPECKERS		
6		Nuttall's Woodpecker
2		Downy Woodpecker
1		Northern Flicker
FLYCATCHERS		
15	4	Black Phoebe
1	1	Cassin's Kingbird
VIREOS		
9		Hutton's Vireo
CROWS & RAVENS		
52	3	American Crow
SWALLOWS		
214	10	Tree Swallow
1		Violet-green Swallow
12	4	N. Rough-winged Swallow
34	1	Cliff Swallow
8		Barn Swallow
BUSHTITS		
55	2	Bushtit

WRENS		
10		Bewick's Wren
6		House Wren
27	2	Marsh Wren
GNATCATCHERS & KINGLETS		
4		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
4	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
THRUSHES		
6		Hermit Thrush
1		American Robin
WRENTITS		
2		Wrentit
MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS		
1		California Thrasher
STARLINGS & PIPITS		
1		European Starling
1		American Pipit
WARBLERS		
15		Orange-crowned Warbler
127	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler
1		Black-throated Gray Warbler
126	33	Common Yellowthroat
2		Wilson's Warbler
TOWHEES & SPARROWS		
39	1	Spotted Towhee
1		California Towhee
154	23	Song Sparrow
2		Fox Sparrow
7	2	White-crowned Sparrow
BLACKBIRDS		
18	7	Red-winged Blackbird
FINCHES		
124	9	House Finch
42		Lesser Goldfinch
22		American Goldfinch
EXOTIC SPECIES		
	2	Egyptian Goose
4		Nutmeg Mannikin