

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for July 2015

Census Date: 7/3/15 **Census Time:** 7:00 - 9:45 am **Weather:** heavy overcast; temperature in low 60's until the sun came out at 9:30 and it began to warm up. **Birders who took part in the census were:** Terry Hill, Sheila Harlow, Sally Menzel, Barbara Sentovich, Nancy Kappelmann, Bob Hogan, Mark Kincheloe, Nancy Kenyon, Jan Gaffney, Merri Levy, Darrell Wilson, Jim Stacy, Jerry Tolman, Sharon Harrow and Lena Hayashi.

Comments: When we started our count, the air was very still, few birds were singing, and the heavy overcast made it look as though it was much earlier in the morning. Sleeping ducks in the pond E looked like smooth rocks in the water. However, one noisy Black-necked Stilt woke everyone up and all the birds turned to look at him. He even caused one of the Mallards to start squawking with a low guttural sound. One Mallard was much lighter than the others, with a golden yellow cast to its feathers which were patterned like a leopard's spots. It probably was an offspring of the leucistic female which inhabits these ponds. In pond D, two Greater Yellowlegs stayed close together even when a territorial avocet, still in breeding plumage, kept chasing them away. There were still signs of breeding: Fledgling Tree Swallows & Huttons Vireos were seen, several Tree Swallow nest boxes were still active, Western Grebes were building a nest in some reeds, a Black-necked Stilt was sitting on a possible nest, a Lesser Goldfinch was carrying nesting materials, and then there were the terns which nested elsewhere but were using the marsh for food. A number of immature Least Terns were flying around and a Forster's Tern was seen flying off with a fish in its beak. At pond 1, there was a wing-tagged white pelican. At pond 3, two raccoons were swimming. It was an interesting morning with lots to see!

GEESE & DUCKS		SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES		BUSHTITS & WRENS & WRENTITS	
11	Canada Geese	1	Spotted Sandpiper	111	Bushtit
4	Wood Duck	2	Greater Yellowlegs	12	Marsh Wren
12	Gadwall	3	Least Sandpiper	1	Wrentit
99	Mallard	GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS		THRUSHES	
6	Cinnamon Teal	1	Western Gull	1	Western Bluebird
3	Northern Shoveler	29	Least Tern	2	American Robin
GREBES		11	Caspian Tern	WARBLERS	
10	Pied-billed Grebe	14	Forster's Tern	8	Orange-crowned Warbler
10	Western Grebe	11	Black Skimmer	213	Common Yellowthroat
11	Clark's Grebe	PIGEONS & DOVES		45	Yellow Warbler
CORMORANTS & PELICANS		41	Mourning Dove	21	Yellow-breasted Chat
25	American White Pelican	HUMMINGBIRDS		TOWHEES, SPARROWS	
8	Double-crested Cormorant	16	Anna's Hummingbird	53	Spotted Towhee
BITTERNS		16	Allen's Hummingbird	4	California Towhee
2	Least Bittern	5	hummingbird sp.	91	Song Sparrow
HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS		WOODPECKERS		BLACKBIRDS	
11	Great Blue Heron	8	Nuttall's Woodpecker	13	Red-winged Blackbird
15	Great Egret	1	Downy Woodpecker	5	Great-tailed Grackle
17	Snowy Egret	FLYCATCHERS		6	Brown-headed Cowbird
6	Green Heron	8	Black Phoebe	2	Hooded Oriole
14	Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	Cassin's Kingbird	FINCHES	
DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY		VIREOS		58	House Finch
3	Osprey	12	Bell's Vireo	14	Lesser Goldfinch
1	White-tailed Kite	6	Hutton's Vireo	EXOTIC SPECIES	
1	Cooper's Hawk	CROWS & RAVENS		59	Scaly-breasted Munia
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS		144	American Crow	4	Mandarin Duck
7	American Coot	4	Common Raven		
PLOVERS		SWALLOWS			
13	Killdeer	29	N. Rough-winged Swallow		
STILTS & AVOCETS		60	Tree Swallow		
19	Black-necked Stilt	1	Barn Swallow		
5	American Avocet	121	Cliff Swallow		

We spent a lot of time studying the differences between female Wood Ducks and female Mandarin Ducks. Some of the Mandarin Ducks appeared to be juveniles which further confused matters. We finally decided we had some of both species.