

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for August 5, 2016

The weather was completely overcast and rather dark. Except for the Song Sparrows and an occasional House Finch, it was pretty quiet. **Highlight Notes:** **Ponds E & D** had no mudflats and the areas around them were covered with vegetation, making it less inviting for water birds but great for passerines. A single Green Heron spent a long time foraging around the big log at pond D. A passing birder who was searching the area for something special, found an Indigo Bunting in the vegetation at pond E (see her photo). At **Pond 1**, they found more water than had been there last month and there were lots of water birds including 4 species of terns, some extremely vocal Western & Clark's Grebes, a juv Pied-billed Grebe with parent, and a Least Bittern. **Pond 2** had 22 Short-billed Dowitchers which were carefully studied to differentiate them from Long-billed, a Black-bellied Plover calling in the distance, and 4 Mandarin Ducks. **Pond 3** had 4 Mallard ducklings, 8 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 2 each of Brown and American White Pelicans. **Ponds 4, 5 & 6** had a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-shouldered Hawk, along with 5 Downy Woodpeckers and 3 Bell's Vireos. **Ponds A, B, & C** had a Least Bittern at Pond B and in Pond C, there were 27 Mallards, 53 Western Sandpipers, 41 Long-billed Dowitchers, 44 Black-necked Stilts, and a Spotted Sandpiper with spots. (The IRWD has lowered the water level in pond C to attract more shorebirds which has certainly been successful.) The **Riparian Area** had 6 Hooded Orioles, one of which was a fledgling, 5 Nuttall's Woodpeckers, and a Bell's Vireo. **Tree Hill & the Back 40** had an Elegant Tern, 53 Bushtits, and a variety of other species. (The heavy overcast was definitely a deterrent to singing birds.)

GEESE & DUCKS

5	Canada Geese
24	Gadwall
81	Mallard
2	Cinnamon Teal
5	Ruddy Duck

GREBES

11	Pied-billed Grebe
10	Western Grebe
4	Clark's Grebe

CORMORANTS & PELICANS

21	Double-crested Cormorant
14	American White Pelican
5	Brown Pelican

BITTERN

2	Least Bittern
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HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS

3	Great Blue Heron
4	Great Egret
11	Snowy Egret
8	Green Heron
20	Black-crowned Night-Heron

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

2	Turkey Vulture
1	Cooper's Hawk
1	Red-shouldered Hawk
1	American Kestrel

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

5	American Coot
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PLOVERS

1	Black-bellied Plover
12	Killdeer

STILTS & AVOCETS

33	Black-necked Stilt
8	American Avocet

SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES

3	Spotted Sandpiper
1	Greater Yellowlegs
53	Western Sandpiper
5	Least Sandpiper
22	Short-billed Dowitcher
41	Long-billed Dowitcher

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS

1	Least Tern
11	Caspian Tern
24	Forster's Tern
2	Elegant Tern
21	Black Skimmer

PIGEONS & DOVES

48	Mourning Dove
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HUMMINGBIRDS

29	Anna's Hummingbird
20	Allen's Hummingbird
1	hummingbird sp.

WOODPECKERS

9	Nuttall's Woodpecker
5	Downy Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS

12	Black Phoebe
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VIREOS

4	Bell's Vireo
2	Hutton's Vireo

CROWS & RAVENS

30	American Crow
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SWALLOWS

2	N. Rough-winged Swallow
2	Tree Swallow
1s	Barn Swallow
19	Cliff Swallow

BUSHTITS, WRENS & WRENTITS

135	Bushtit
1	Bewick's Wren
1	House Wren
3	Wrentit

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

1	Northern Mockingbird
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WARBLERS

6	Orange-crowned Warbler
82	Common Yellowthroat
4	Yellow Warbler

TOWHEES, SPARROWS

23	Spotted Towhee
1	California Towhee
39	Song Sparrow

TANAGERS & GROSBEAKS

1	Western Tanager
1	Indigo Bunting

BLACKBIRDS

6	Red-winged Blackbird
9	Great-tailed Grackle
6	Hooded Oriole

FINCHES

51	House Finch
4	Lesser Goldfinch
1	American Goldfinch

EXOTIC SPECIES

5	Mandarin Duck
55	Scaly-breasted Munia
3	Northern Red Bishop

MAMMALS

1	Coyote
2	Raccoon

Pond 1: Terry Hill & Betsy Flynn.
Pond 2: Lena Hayashi. **Pond 3:** Nancy Kappelmann & Maureen Myers.
Ponds 4,5,6: Bob Hogan & Eunice Morita. **Ponds A,B,C:** Sharon Harrow.
Ponds E & D: Nancy Kenyon & Carol Freund. **Riparian:** Merri Levy & Jan Gaffney. **Back 40 & Tree Hill:** Jim Stacy & Jerry Tolman.
San Diego Creek: was not covered.

Indigo Bunting
photo by Sandrine Biziaux

