

Sea & Sage Audubon UCI Freshwater Preserve Census Report for June 2012

Census Date: 6/6/12 **Census Time:** 7:30 - 10:00 am **Weather:** clear & warm

Birders who took part in the census were: Bonny Ahern, Jan Gaffney, Sheila Harlow, Sharon Harrow, Terry Hill, Nancy Kenyon, Jim Stacy, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: We arrived at the preserve just in time to catch the ending period of the early morning bird chorus. Birds were flying back and forth and many of them were singing lustily. Song Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats were perched on top of the reeds in plain view, singing, and the Marsh Wrens were singing from amidst their secret hiding places in the reeds. The grackles were also singing and one of them was doing a good imitation of a Virginia Rail. After about half an hour, the birds quieted down and we began our search for the birds which were not in plain view. Most of the shorebirds were noticeably absent from the scene, having left for their nesting grounds up north along with many of the ducks and geese. In contrast to the SJWS which is a mecca for breeding Mallards, only 6 Mallards were found, but there were 40 Gadwalls! We got a great view of a Virginia Rail hiding in the reeds and heard 4 others calling from secluded locations. A Warbling Vireo popped into view briefly, Green Herons were actively flying around offering us great views of them, and at one of the ponds, 2 baby gallinules were seen with their parents. Two Ospreys were seen soaring and later an Osprey was seen carrying a fish. Forster's Terns were flying over the creek calling raucously, and the White-tailed Kites were gracefully flying around silently, searching for food. At the end of our count as we were gathered by the cars exchanging birding information before driving out, a swarm of bees flew over our heads. It was quite a morning!

GEESE & DUCKS	
40	Gadwall
6	Mallard
1	Cinnamon Teal
18	Ruddy Duck
QUAIL	
2	California Quail
GREBES	
7	Pied-billed Grebe
CORMORANTS & PELICANS	
1	Brown Pelican
13	Double-crested Cormorant
HERONS, EGRETS & IBIS	
1	Great Blue Heron
1	Great Egret
9	Snowy Egret
2	Green Heron
7	Black-crowned Night-Heron
3	White-faced Ibis
DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY	
12	Turkey Vulture
3	Osprey
5	White-tailed Kite
1	Cooper's Hawk
1	Red-shouldered Hawk
1	Red-tailed Hawk
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS	
5	Virginia Rail
1	Sora
6	Common Gallinule
29	American Coot
PLOVERS	
6	Killdeer
STILTS & AVOCETS	
9	Black-necked Stilt

2	American Avocet
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS	
3	Least Tern
2	Caspian Tern
9	Forster's Tern
PIGEONS & DOVES	
50	Mourning Dove
ROADRUNNERS	
1	Greater Roadrunner
HUMMINGBIRDS	
9	Anna's Hummingbird
11	Allen's Hummingbird
WOODPECKERS	
1	Nuttall's Woodpecker
5	Downy Woodpecker
FLYCATCHERS	
3	Black Phoebe
1	Ash-throated Flycatcher
3	Cassin's Kingbird
VIREOS	
1	Warbling Vireo
CROWS & RAVENS	
28	American Crow
3	Common Raven
LARKS	
5	Horned Lark
SWALLOWS	
13	N. Rough-winged Swallow
15	Tree Swallow
8	Barn Swallow
135	Cliff Swallow
BUSHTITS & WRENS	
6	Bushtit
1	Bewick's Wren

4	House Wren
49	Marsh Wren
GNATCATCHERS & KINGLETS	
3	California Gnatcatcher
MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS	
6	Northern Mockingbird
STARLINGS	
11	European Starling
WARBLERS	
2	Orange-crowned Warbler
113	Common Yellowthroat
5	Yellow Warbler
1	Wilson's Warbler
1	Yellow-breasted Chat
TOWHEES, SPARROWS	
10	Spotted Towhee
7	California Towhee
115	Song Sparrow
BLACKBIRDS	
32	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Western Meadowlark
17	Great-tailed Grackle
5	Brown-headed Cowbird
2	Hooded Oriole
2	Bullock's Oriole
FINCHES	
163	House Finch
38	Lesser Goldfinch
2	American Goldfinch
EXOTIC SPECIES	
2	Nutmeg Mannikin