

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count from aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat

Date: 4/15/15

Trip Leader: Nancy Kenyon

Tide: outgoing

Skipper: Robert Sloan

Birders who took part in the count: Deana Collins, Sharon Harrow, Chris Johnson, Nancy Kenyon, Mark Kincheloe, Sally Menzel, Chuck Nichols, Darrell Wilson. **Comments:** The tide was high when we started but became lower on our return trip. (4.81 ft at 07:08 AM and 0.28 ft at 01:40 PM) This meant that some of the mud flats were just becoming visible after we had turned around. The water was quiet and there was no breeze until our return trip. The lighting was good and we got excellent views of the large mass of Black Skimmers and terns sitting on an exposed mud flat. We were also able to hear the Caspian & Forster's Terns and the Black Skimmers. Some of the birds were in breeding plumage (Eared & Horned Grebes) and others were in partial breeding plumage (Whimbrels, Willets, Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers.) At Back Bay Science Center, we saw 2 Osprey adults and their 2 chicks on the nesting platform. With the exception of the Ospreys and a few Turkey Vultures, there were no other raptors present during our trip. A large number of Willets were wandering around in the marsh plants, and along the shore, we saw 18 Whimbrels along with scattered Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Western Sandpipers and few other species; the Whimbrels were probably getting ready to migrate north to their breeding grounds. We saw only 2 Great Blue Herons, one of which was waiting expectantly for a handout from a nearby fisherman. The Savannah Sparrows were singing, the terns were raucously calling back and forth to each other, and the Willets, Marbled Godwits, and Whimbrels were also calling. It was a wonderful day to be out in the bay enjoying the bird life!

Geese & Ducks			
7	Canada Goose		
1	American Wigeon		
8	Mallard		
16	Blue-winged Teal		
1	Green-winged Teal		
1	Lesser Scaup		
1	Surf Scoter (f)		
2	Bufflehead		
1	Ruddy Duck		
Grebes			
1	Pied-billed Grebe		
2	Horned Grebe (1 in breeding plumage)		
4	Eared Grebe (2 in breeding plumage)		
19	Western Grebe		
Pelicans & Cormorants			
1	Double-crested Cormorant		
Hérons & Egrets			
2	Great Blue Heron		
13	Snowy Egret		
1	Black-crowned Night-Heron		
Diurnal Birds of Prey			
5	Turkey Vulture		
5	Osprey (including 2 chicks)		
Coots			
6	American Coot		
Plovers			
2	Black-bellied Plover		
12	Killdeer		
Sandpipers			
2	Spotted Sandpiper		
3	Greater Yellowlegs		
213	Willet		
		18	Whimbrel
		5	Long-billed Curlew
		33	Marbled Godwit
		105	Western Sandpiper
		Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
		11	Western Gull
		15	Caspian Tern
		19	Forster's Tern
		16	Elegant Tern
		59	Black Skimmer
		Pigeons & Doves	
		6	Rock Pigeon
		1	Mourning Dove
		Hummingbirds	
		1	Allen's Hummingbird
		1	Anna's Hummingbird
		Flycatchers	
		2	Say's Phoebe
		Crows & Ravens	
		14	American Crow
		Swallows	
		1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
		6	Barn Swallow
		1	Cliff Swallow
		Mockingbird	
		1	Northern Mockingbird (heard)
		Starlings	
		4	European Starling
		Warblers	
		1	Common Yellowthroat (heard)
		Towhees & Sparrows	
		11	Savannah Sparrow
		6	Song sparrow