

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

**Date:** 8/22/12

**Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

**Tide:** incoming

**Skipper:** Tom Weiss

**Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Sally Menzel, Darrell Wilson, Deana Collins, Nancy Kenyon.

**Comments:** The temperature was very pleasant (probably in the mid 70's) and the sky was cloudy, so the lighting was perfect for viewing the birds. The tide was slowly coming in which meant we had a few exposed mudflats as well as areas of very shallow water in which the shorebirds were wading around in water quite a ways out from the shore. We saw lots of fish "jumping" out of the water as well as a giant flock of Western Sandpipers which erupted from the shore and flew off a giant undulating flock. On a small ice plant clad island just above the PCH bridge, we saw a huge flock of Black-bellied Plovers crammed together along with a smaller flock of Western Sandpipers, looking very much like jagged gray rocks until we got closer to them. We found it next to impossible to count all the plovers because they were packed so tightly together, so Darrell Wilson photographed them and then made the final count on his computer monitor when he returned home; he counted a grand total of 248 Black-bellied Plovers roosting on top of that small island! There were very few raptors flying around so we were happy to see a Red-tailed Hawk perched on the cliff face. The highlight of the morning was seeing a Clapper Rail which remained in plain view for a couple of minutes, allowing everyone on board to see it. (Thanks Sally for finding it for us!) We also heard 2 of them vocalizing. A flock of Black Skimmers flew back and forth alongside our boat, finally landing on a small mudflat which didn't have enough room for them all, and it was fun watching the last of the flock trying to find a spot to land. We had a wonderful morning of birding and look forward to next month!

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
20	Mallard
1	Egyptian Goose
<b>Grebes</b>	
4	Pied-billed Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
5	Brown Pelican
8	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
10	Great Blue Heron
7	Great Egret
36	Snowy Egret
1	Black-crowned Night-Heron
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
1	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
2	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Rails</b>	
2	Clapper Rail
<b>Plovers</b>	
424	Black-bellied Plover
7	Semipalmated Plover
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
5	Yellowlegs sp.
271	Willet
3	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
97	Marbled Godwit
627	Western Sandpiper
4	Long-billed Dowitcher

<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
1	Heermann's Gull
19	Western Gull
11	Caspian Tern
6	Forster's Tern
27	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
30	Rock Pigeon
2	Morning Dove
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
2	Belted Kingfisher
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
1	Black Phoebe
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
15	American Crow
<b>Swallows</b>	
6	Barn Swallow
<b>Babblers</b>	
1	Wrentit
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
1	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Starlings</b>	
10	European Starling
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
1	California Towhee
1	Savannah Sparrow
2	Song sparrow
<b>Finches</b>	
3	House Finch