

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

Date: 2/15/12 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** low tide (outgoing) **Skipper:** Tom Weiss
Birders: Nancy Kenyon, Darrell Wilson, Sally Menzel, Sharon Harrow, Chris Johnson, Jim Stacy, Chuck Nichols, Bill Sauer, Barbara Demory, Bob & Marcia Holcomb, Ann Harmer, Nancy Balstad, Jim Van Lare, Cat & Robert Waters, Laura Osteen. **Comments:** In spite of frigid temperatures, it was a wonderful morning to be out birding. A combination of low tide and an approaching storm brought more birds into the bay than usual. We had an abundance of mud flats and shorebirds were everywhere. Most of the birds were actively feeding. We saw a Ring-billed Gull catch something in the water. On a nearby mudflat, we watched a Western Gull picking at a dead mullet. Flocks of Western Sandpipers flew back and forth across the channel. Fortunately, the large flock of Black Skimmers were taking a rest on a mudflat, making counting them a little easier and the soft lighting made the red on their bills glow in the morning light. Darrell & Sharon spotted a Pacific Golden-Plover and at the Big Canyon outfall, the group saw a Eurasian Teal sitting on the bank with the other ducks. We got good views of several Turkey Vultures sitting in the pickleweed, and in the upper portion of the bay, we watched a female Northern Harrier hunting and a pair of White-tailed Kites circling overhead. On our return trip, the breeze picked up and all the Turkey Vultures left their ground perches and went aloft with the air currents.

Geese & Ducks	
4	Gadwall
24	American Wigeon
1	Eurasian Wigeon
4	Blue-winged Teal
10	Cinnamon Teal
14	Northern Pintail
264	Green-winged Teal
38	Lesser Scaup
147	Bufflehead
31	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
1	Common Loon
Grebes	
3	Pied-billed Grebe
6	Horned Grebe
13	Eared Grebe
	Clark's Grebe
59	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
1	American White Pelican
9	Brown Pelican
20	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
3	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret
7	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
16	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
3	White-tailed Kite
1	Northern Harrier
3	Red-tailed Hawk
2	Cooper's Hawk
Coots	
132	American Coot
Plovers	

377	Black-bellied Plover
4	Semipalmated Plover
1	Pacific Golden-Plover
24	Killdeer
Avocets	
120	American Avocet
Sandpipers	
1	Spotted Sandpiper
1	Lesser Yellowlegs
243	Willet
2	Whimbrel
6	Long-billed Curlew
249	Marbled Godwit
628	Western Sandpiper
2	Dunlin
118	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
116	Ring-billed Gull
27	Western Gull
900	California Gull
1	Caspian Tern
7	Forster's Tern
125	Black Skimmer
Pigeons	
5	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
1	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
1	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
22	American Crow
Towhees & Sparrows	
9	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song sparrow
Blackbirds	
20	Red-winged Blackbird