

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

Date: 2/27/13 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

Tide: high tide

Skipper: Eric Walker

Birders: Charlie Collins, Deana Collins, Sharon Harrow, Chris Johnson, Nancy Kenyon, Ross Landry, Michael Mavrovrouniotis, Sally Menzel, and Darrell Wilson. **Comments:** It was a beautiful morning; the air and water were very still and the air temperature was cool but not freezing cold as it had been the week before. We had nice reflections all the way up the channel. One of the American Avocets was beginning to show breeding plumage. A Forster's Tern was diving into the water for fish. We saw a long line of some 60 Western Grebes in the water. A Northern Harrier and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks were eating prey on the ground. Several large flocks of gulls flew high overhead, too high for us to identify them. An Osprey was sitting on the nest at the nesting platform by the Back Bay Science Center. By the North Star Beach boat launch area, the floating pipe booms were covered with tightly packed Double-crested Cormorants. Near "Skimmer Island," we encountered a giant flock of about 1000 CA Gulls floating in the water and they didn't move when our boat entered the area. (The trip was rescheduled to 2/27 because of high winds the week before.)

Geese & Ducks	
39	American Wigeon
7	Mallard
12	Blue-winged Teal
7	Cinnamon Teal
2	Northern Shoveler
3	Northern Pintail
47	Green-winged Teal
87	Lesser Scaup
67	Bufflehead
38	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
1	Pacific Loon
Grebes	
2	Pied-billed Grebe
4	Horned Grebe
10	Eared Grebe
121	Western Grebe
6	Clark's Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
20	Brown Pelican
87	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
8	Great Blue Heron
5	Great Egret
23	Snowy Egret
1	Reddish Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
4	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
2	Northern Harrier
4	Red-tailed Hawk
1	American Kestrel
Coots	
61	American Coot
Plovers	
221	Black-bellied Plover
Avocets	
143	American Avocet

Sandpipers	
2	Spotted Sandpiper
251	Willet
6	Whimbrel
9	Long-billed Curlew
156	Marbled Godwit
126	Western Sandpiper
30	Least Sandpiper
1	Dunlin
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
10	Ring-billed Gull
16	Western Gull
1000	California Gull
418	Gull sp. (flyovers)
3	Caspian Tern
4	Forster's Tern
60	Black Skimmer
Pigeons	
4	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher
Hummingbirds	
1	Anna's Hummingbird
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
3	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
10	American Crow
Swallows	
1	Tree Swallow
Mockingbirds	
7	Northern Mockingbird
Starlings	
1	European Starling
Sparrows	
10	Savannah Sparrow
5	Song Sparrow
Blackbirds	
5	Red-winged Blackbird
Finches	
1	House Finch