

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count from aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat (8:30 – 11:00)

Date: 2/17/16 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 5.13 ft HIGH TIDE at 4:51 AM; 0.28 ft LOW TIDE at 12:21 PM.
Skipper: Robert Sloan. **Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Sharon Harrow, Mark Kincheloe, Chuck Nichols, Bill Halladay, Chris Johnson, and Nancy Kenyon. **Comments:** The Great Blue Herons were absent from their usual perches on the chimneys and only a lone Rock Pigeon was sitting up there on one of them. There were Surf Scoters and Bufflehead everywhere we looked. We got great views of the striking color pattern on the scoters' bills against the blue water (see photo below by Bette Boren) and we enjoyed watching the Bufflehead swimming in formation and bouncing up and down in the water like small rubber ducks in a bathtub. At the Back Bay Science Center, one Osprey chick could be seen on the nesting platform and an adult Osprey was perched on a nearby sign. We figured the other Osprey parent was out searching for food to feed the chick. The morning was sunny and the water calm until the wind picked up and the water became choppy. Several of the Black-bellied Plovers were showing signs of breeding plumage with patches of black on their bellies and one of the Double-crested Cormorants was showing his white crest feathers. Willets were wandering around in the pickleweed searching for a tasty snack and a Peregrine was perched motionless on the ground with only his head and breast showing. Several flocks of peeps were seen in the distance on the mudflats amidst the clam shells. A Northern Harrier was flying low over the marsh and the Black Skimmers put on quite a show for us as they skimmed the water. On our return trip, we were facing a brisk wind and the fronds on the palm trees were all facing the same direction. When we neared the dock, we were greeted by a Rock Pigeon flying to his special perch beneath the deck.

Geese & Ducks	
204	American Wigeon
4	Mallard
2	Blue-winged Teal
5	Northern Pintail
36	Green-winged Teal
15	Redhead
96	Lesser Scaup
70	Surf Scoter
102	Bufflehead
3	Red-breasted Merganser
21	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
4	Red-throated Loon
Grebes	
2	Pied-billed Grebe
5	Horned Grebe
6	Eared Grebe
27	Western Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
18	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons, Egrets, Ibis	
3	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret

16	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
3	Red-tailed Hawk
1	American Kestrel
1	Peregrine Falcon
Rails & Coots	
45	American Coot
Plovers	
59	Black-bellied Plover
6	Semipalmated Plover
7	Killdeer
Avocets	
37	American Avocet
Sandpipers	
2	Greater Yellowlegs
143	Willet
4	Whimbrel
5	Long-billed Curlew
182	Marbled Godwit
560	Western Sandpiper
12	Least Sandpiper
48	peeps

2	Dunlin
45	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
1	Heermann's Gull
26	Ring-billed Gull
19	Western Gull
7	California Gull
4	Forster's Tern
61	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
5	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
3	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
2	Common Raven
Mockingbirds	
1	Northern Mockingbird
Towhees & Sparrows	
1	Song Sparrow

