

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

**Date:** 2/15/17 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 1.5 ft. LOW TIDE at 5.53 AM; 3.9 ft HIGH TIDE at 11:41 AM. **Time of count:** 8:30 – 11:00 AM. **Skipper:** Robert Sloan.

**Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Sharon Harrow, Sally Menzel, Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Chuck Nichols, Chris Johnson & Nancy Kenyon.

**Comments:** The trip began in dense fog, making it difficult to see the birds in the water until we were very close to them. The fog did not lift until 9:40 at which time we had hazy sunshine with the snowclad San Gabriels in the distance. The temperature was in the mid 50's and never rose above 58' the entire trip. A Great Blue Heron was in his usual lookout spot on top of a chimney and a plastic owl was perched on a boat to supposedly frighten away birds who didn't notice that it never moved. Two of the Ospreys were on the nesting platform by Back Bay Science Center and one was incubating eggs. American Wigeons were in abundance, Forster's Terns were diving into the water for fish, a flock of Willets was in the pickleweed, small groups of Bufflehead were bobbing in the water or diving for food, one of the American Avocets was in full breeding plumage and two were running along the shore in a great hurry but stopped running when they caught up with a flock of feeding avocets, a Northern Harrier was perched on a snag watching for unwary birds to show themselves, the Belted Kingfisher was in his usual spot by the PCH bridge, and 131 Black Skimmers were in 3 separate groups resting on the shore. In spite of the foggy conditions and cold temperatures, it was a great day for birding UNB.

<b>WATERFOWL</b>	
11	Canada Goose
3	Gadwall
437	American Wigeon
1	Mallard
11	Blue-winged Teal
3	Northern Shoveler
7	Northern Pintail
44	Green-winged Teal
33	Redhead
131	Lesser Scaup
13	Surf Scoter
205	Bufflehead
2	Red-breasted Merganser
153	Ruddy Duck
<b>GREBES</b>	
3	Pied-billed Grebe
4	Horned Grebe
6	Eared Grebe
59	Western Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>	
13	Rock Pigeon
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES &amp; COOTS</b>	
115	American Coot
<b>STILTS &amp; AVOCETS</b>	
214	American Avocet
<b>PLOVERS</b>	
5	Black-bellied Plover
5	Killdeer
<b>SANDPIPERS &amp; PHALAROPES</b>	
3	Whimbrel
6	Long-billed Curlew
248	Marbled Godwit
301	Western Sandpiper
43	Least Sandpiper
30	peeps
36	Long-billed Dowitcher
2	Spotted Sandpiper
431	Willet

<b>GULLS, TERNS &amp; SKIMMERS</b>	
5	Ring-billed Gull
16	Western Gull
3	California Gull
2	Caspian Tern
12	Forster's Tern
131	Black Skimmer
<b>CORMORANTS &amp; PELICANS</b>	
16	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Brown Pelican
<b>HERONS, EGRETS &amp; IBIS</b>	
2	Great Blue Heron
5	Great Egret
4	Snowy Egret
1	Green Heron
<b>DIURNAL BIRDS of PREY</b>	
1	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
2	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>	
3	Belted Kingfisher
<b>FALCONS</b>	
2	American Kestrel
1	Peregrine Falcon
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>	
4	Say's Phoebe
1	Cassin's Kingbird
<b>JAYS &amp; CROWS</b>	
3	American Crow
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS &amp; THRASHERS</b>	
3	Northern Mockingbird
<b>FINCHES</b>	
1	House Finch
<b>TOWHEES &amp; SPARROWS</b>	
3	Savannah Sparrow
4	Song Sparrow
<b>EXOTIC SPECIES</b>	
2	Egyptian Goose