

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

Date: 1/16/13 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

Tide: incoming tide

Skipper: Gib Corwin

Birders who actively contributed to the count: Sally Menzel, Sharon Harrow, Chuck Nichols, Chris Johnson, and Nancy Kenyon.

Comments: We were surprised to find a Brandt's Cormorant in the main channel. We saw the pale beige-colored Marbled Godwit again. A pair of Ospreys was perched on the nesting platform by the Backbay Science Center, one of which was actually sitting on the nest. On the east side of the bay we could see the Cottonwood trees, golden-colored in the warm morning light, their leaves shimmering in the sunlight, while in the opposite direction, we saw the snow-clad San Gabriels. One of the avocets was already in breeding plumage. There was an unusually large number of gulls present, some in flight and others in the water. Several large flocks of sandpipers flitted around from one spot to another making counting difficult and identification impossible. The Northern Harriers were out in force; we saw FIVE of them, including one perched on the ground.

Geese & Ducks	
1	Mallard
48	Green-winged Teal
27	American Wigeon
20	Northern Pintail
9	Blue-winged Teal
6	Cinnamon Teal
7	Redhead
112	Lesser Scaup
11	Surf Scoter
96	Bufflehead
26	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
1	Red-throated Loon
Grebes	
6	Pied-billed Grebe
3	Horned Grebe
19	Eared Grebe
19	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
18	Brown Pelican
22	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Brandt's Cormorant
Herons & Egrets	
4	Great Blue Heron
2	Great Egret
8	Snowy Egret
1	Reddish Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
14	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
5	Northern Harrier
6	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Peregrine Falcon
Rails & Coots	
74	American Coot
Plovers	
146	Black-bellied Plover
1	Semipalmated Plover
19	Killdeer

Avocets	
80	American Avocet
Sandpipers	
2	Spotted Sandpiper
128	Willet
2	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
112	Marbled Godwit
234	Western Sandpiper
3	Least Sandpiper
334	Peeps (too distant to identify properly)
2	Dunlin
89	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
7	Heermann's Gull
270	Ring-billed Gull
465	California Gull
21	Western Gull
1	Caspian Tern
40	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
3	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
3	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
10	American Crow
5	Common Raven
Towhees & Sparrows	
3	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song Sparrow
Finches	
1	House Finch