

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

Date: 1/15/14 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 5.62 ft. high tide at 8:03 AM **Skipper:** Eric Walker
Birders who actively contributed to the count: Sally Menzel, Deana Collins, Darrell Wilson, Sharon Harrow, Mark Singer, Nancy Kenyon, Chris Johnson. **Comments:** The tide was very high, so the usual mudflats were completely covered by water. The Santa Ynez Spit (1st island above the PCH bridge) was almost submerged. It was there we spotted the Little Blue Heron. Bufflehead were bobbing around in the water everywhere we looked, some singly, others in tight formation. Two Ospreys were standing on the nest platform at the Back Bay Science Center; later in the trip we saw one flying by with a large fish in its talons. The floating pipes by the Aquatic Center had their share of birds on them: cormorants, terns, gulls, and even a couple of egrets. On the big island above the Constellation area, we got stunning views of a magnificent Peregrine Falcon. We watched as "he" circled over the island. After raising havoc among all the waterfowl and shorebirds in the area, he settled down on a low post and we were able to look at him and photograph him to our heart's content. He didn't appear to be the least bit bothered by us in the boat looking at him from very close range. At the Constellation area on our return trip, we saw five Clapper Rails in the tall cord grass at the water's edge; they were in exactly the same spot as last month. Near the Santa Ynez Spit, we spotted what appeared to be a Pacific Loon (clear demarcation of neck pattern, no upturned bill or large head with heavy bill). On the cliff by the PCH bridge, we saw a Red-tailed Hawk and 5 Brown Pelicans were perched under the PCH bridge like a greeting committee.

Geese & Ducks	
35	American Wigeon
2	Mallard
2	Northern Shoveler
41	Northern Pintail
42	Green-winged Teal
53	Lesser Scaup
12	Surf Scoter
96	Bufflehead
9	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
1	Pacific Loon
Grebes	
2	Pied-billed Grebe
4	Horned Grebe
19	Eared Grebe
90	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
25	Brown Pelican
38	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
7	Great Blue Heron
12	Great Egret
18	Snowy Egret
1	Little Blue Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
3	Northern Harrier
1	Red-tailed Hawk
7	American Kestrel
1	Peregrine Falcon
Rails & Coots	
5	Clapper Rail (all visual!)
61	American Coot
Plovers	
2	Black-bellied Plover (heard only)
2	Killdeer (heard only)

Avocets & Stilts	
18	American Avocet
Sandpipers	
2	Spotted Sandpiper
57	Willet
2	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
122	Marbled Godwit
563	Western Sandpiper
3	Least Sandpiper
4	Dunlin
55	Long-billed Dowitcher
75	peeps (in flight; too distant to ID)
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
4	Heermann's Gull
5	Ring-billed Gull
40	Western Gull
48	California Gull
17	Forster's Tern
17	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
9	Rock Pigeon
4	Mourning Dove
Kingfishers	
3	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
6	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
Mockingbirds	
3	Northern Mockingbird
Towhees & Sparrows	
5	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song Sparrow
Blackbirds	
5	Western Meadowlark