

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

Date: 7/18/12 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** medium high **Skipper:** Eric Walker
Birders who helped with the count: Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Deana Collins, Stan Levin, Nancy Kenyon, Chris Johnson.

Comments: Except for several groups of rowers and a few paddleboarders, we had the bay pretty much to ourselves. A slight breeze ruffled the water so there was never any reflection, but it was quiet and peaceful. Due to the cloudy weather we heard no songbirds singing and did not spot a single sparrow in the pickleweed, which was an unusual occurrence. We were surprised to find a mother Mallard with one very young duckling swimming along close to the water's edge; most Mallards finished nesting several weeks ago. The tide was moderately high so there were few mudflats available for the small groups of shorebirds which had returned from their breeding grounds in the far north. However, as we progressed further up the bay, we heard the strident call of the Greater Yellowlegs and the clear whistled call of the Black-bellied Plovers reverberating in the still morning air. Small flocks of Western Sandpipers were flying around and two Forster's Terns and a Least Tern were diving repeatedly into the water for fish. Separate pairs of Black Skimmers flew past our boat, and Double-crested Cormorants and Western Gulls decorated the larger buoys along the way. Stan Levin spotted our only raptor of the day — a White-tailed Kite in the distance. Several Great Blue Herons were spotted, standing motionless along the edge of the channel, their feathers looking grey in the overcast light, making them really hard to spot because they blended into their surroundings so well. Everyone got good views of a Green Heron fishing on the shore of "Skimmer Island" where the wooden decoy skimmers reside, and on one of the few mudflats, we saw a small flock of 20 Black-bellied Plovers, a few of which were still in breeding plumage. It was a great morning to be out on the bay!

Geese & Ducks	
1	American Wigeon
21	Mallard
Grebes	
3	Pied-billed Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
2	Brown Pelican
24	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
10	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret
14	Snowy Egret
2	Green Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	White-tailed Kite
Plovers	
25	Black-bellied Plover
4	Killdeer
Sandpipers	
3	Greater Yellowlegs
168	Willet
8	Whimbrel
4	Long-billed Curlew
18	Marbled Godwit
54	Western Sandpiper
5	Dowitcher sp.
Gulls	
15	Western Gull

Terns	
2	Caspian Tern
2	Forster's Tern
1	Elegant Tern
2	Least Tern
Skimmers	
9	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
4	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
9	American Crow
2	Common Raven
Swallows	
22	Barn Swallows
Mockingbirds	
1	Northern Mockingbird
Finches	
6	House Finches