

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count

from aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat (revised 7/18)

Date: 7/17/13

Trip Leader: Nancy Kenyon

Tide: outgoing

Skipper: Robert Sloan

Birders who actively contributed to the count: Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Sylvia Gallagher, Cat Waters, Nancy Kenyon. **Comments:** It was very quiet and peaceful in the bay this morning. With the exception of a couple of mockingbirds which were singing, the birds were quiet. The water was very still with perfect reflections and due to the outgoing tide, there was an ample supply of mudflats for the shorebirds. Willets were definitely the "bird of the day." We saw them feeding all along the shore as well as in flight as a large flock of them flew past our boat, their black and white wings showing up clearly against the green of the cordgrass. We watched one Willet which had caught a crab and was whacking it on the shore before trying to eat it. A number of Great Blue Herons were standing like large gray stumps on the island; others were seen along the shore. We saw one Great Blue Heron which had more than the usual amount of blue on its head, beak, and neck. We were fortunate to spot two Clapper Rails which were foraging along the shore near large clumps of cordgrass. Though they didn't stay out in the open very long, most everyone was able to get a quick look at them. The Black Skimmers were taking a quick nap on the shore, but woke briefly to show their striking orange and black bills. One Black-bellied Plover was spotted, still in breeding plumage, and in another area, we saw two Semipalmated Plovers. We spent a long time trying to identify a distant raptor perched on the top of a snag along the shore, finally concluding that it was a White-tailed Kite. On our return trip, we saw quite a few Barn Swallows flying low over the pickleweed. It was a beautiful morning to be out birding in Upper Newport Bay!

Geese & Ducks	
17	Mallard
3	Cinnamon Teal
Grebes	
3	Pied-billed Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
6	Western Grebe
Cormorants & Pelicans	
23	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Brown Pelican
Hérons & Egrets	
15	Great Blue Heron
29	Snowy Egret
1	Great Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
3	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
1	White-tailed Kite (on a distant snag)
1	Northern Harrier
2	Cooper's Hawk
Rails	
2	Clapper Rail
Plovers	
1	Black-bellied Plover
2	Semipalmated Plover
3	Killdeer
Sandpipers	
198	Willet
2	Greater Yellowlegs
4	Long-billed Curlew
29	Marbled Godwit

62	Western Sandpiper
2	Least Sandpiper
75	"peeps" (distant)
1	dowitcher sp.
Gulls	
10	Western Gull
1	California Gull
Terns	
5	Least Tern
8	Caspian Tern
2	Elegant Tern
Skimmers	
3	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
3	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
1	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
Swallows	
20	Barn Swallow
1	Cliff Swallow
18	swallow sp. (distant)
Mockingbirds	
2	Northern Mockingbird (heard)
Sparrows	
2	Savannah Sparrow
Finches	
1	House Finch