

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

**Date:** 6/25/14 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** high at 9:37 AM **Skipper:** Robert Sloan  
**Active Birders:** Active birders were: Sharon Harrow, Chris Johnson, Nancy Kenyon, Mark Kincheloe, Tracy Maguire, and Chuck Nichols.

**Comments:** The Rock Pigeons were again nesting in a space below the boat deck; a couple of them flew out when the boat left the dock, while others flew back in as soon as the boat returned. The tide was high enough so that there were very few mud flats. Most of the birds we saw were sitting on matted dead reeds at the water's edge except for the terns and skimmers which found a small mud flat below the Back Bay Science Center. Several of the Willets were in breeding plumage, a sight we seldom get to see here in Orange County. A Caspian Tern flew by with a fish in its bill. One Osprey was perched on the nesting platform at Shellmaker while another was stationary on top of a tall pole. Barn Swallows were flying back and forth over the vegetation catching insects. A female Mallard gave us quite a hard time trying to identify her. She was sitting hunched into a large brown "ball" between some Forster's Terns. Egrets were stalking their prey in the pickleweed, their white bodies showing plainly against the green vegetation. A White-tailed Kite was perched on top of a tall yucca on the west side of the bay, while a Red-tailed Hawk was spotted in a round bush on the hillside. The Northern Mockingbirds were very active. We heard them singing and saw them flying around; one mocker was chasing several crows which had probably ventured too close to his nest. Several Savannah Sparrows were singing from the cord grass at the water's edge and a Hooded Oriole was heard doing its one-note call. Even though there were fewer birds than normal on account of nesting season, there was still plenty to see. *(Our trip was a week later than usual due to a conflict with the use of the boat.)*

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
7	Mallard
<b>Grebes</b>	
1	Pied-billed Grebe
6	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
10	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Herons &amp; Egrets</b>	
10	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret
10	Snowy Egret
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
4	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
1	White-tailed Kite
1	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Plovers</b>	
1	Killdeer
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
18	Willet
3	Long-billed Curlew
3	Marbled Godwit
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
7	Western Gull
10	Caspian Tern
19	Forster's Tern

15	Least Tern
1	Elegant Tern
10	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons</b>	
10	Rock Pigeon
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
3	Black Phoebe
1	Say's Phoebe
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
13	American Crow
<b>Swallows</b>	
27	Barn Swallows
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
9	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Warblers</b>	
3	Common Yellowthroat
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
1	California Towhee
1	Spotted Towhee
3	Savannah Sparrows
<b>Orioles</b>	
1	Hooded Oriole
<b>Finches</b>	
3	House Finch