

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

**Date:** 6/15/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Skippers:** Nancy Thompson & Tom Weiss  
**Tide:** high. **Birders who conducted the count:** Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Deana Collins, Darrell Wilson, Chuck Nichols & Kurt Miethke.

**Comments:** The sky was completely overcast with gray clouds and a cool mist. The water was very still and we enjoyed seeing perfect reflections at the water's edge. Few boats were out so we had the bay to ourselves and the birds. The main birding activity centered around the Caspian, Forster's, and Least Terns flying up and down, diving into the water for fish, and calling raucously. The tide was high and we were able to spot, as well as hear, a couple of Clapper Rails as they scurried across an opening in the reeds. The Great Blue Herons were hunched down in the cordgrass like blue-gray stumps, but the egrets were actively stalking their prey. We were surprised to find so many Northern Harriers, a species not usually that abundant here in the summer. One the harriers, which was perched way out in the marsh, gave us lots of trouble identifying it because of the deep reddish hue on its breast; when it flew, however, there was no doubt about its identity. Another surprise was seeing so many shorebirds: 24 Willets, 6 Marbled Godwits, 2 Least Sandpipers, a Whimbrel, a Long-billed Curlew, and 8 Black-bellied Plovers, some of which were in partial breeding plumage. Sally spotted 2 Red-crowned Parrots flying by and Kurt found an Ash-throated Flycatcher. The Savannah Sparrows in the cordgrass along the shore were quite vocal, and on the hillside, the House Finches, Common Yellowthroats, and Northern Mockingbirds were singing. It was a wonderful morning!

<b>Ducks</b>	
1	Mallard ( <i>male</i> )
<b>Grebes</b>	
2	Western Grebe
<b>Cormorants</b>	
7	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
5	Great Blue Heron
4	Great Egret
11	Snowy Egret
2	Green Heron
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
1	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
4	Northern Harrier
<b>Rails</b>	
2	Clapper Rail
<b>Plovers</b>	
8	Black-bellied Plover
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
24	Willet
1	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
6	Marbled Godwit
2	Least Sandpiper
<b>Gulls &amp; Terns</b>	
7	Western Gull
28	Caspian Tern
19	Forster's Tern
	1 Elegant Tern

6	Least Tern
<b>Skimmers</b>	
7	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
3	Rock Pigeon
<b>Parrots</b>	
2	Red-crowned Parrot ( <i>fly-overs</i> )
<b>Hummingbirds</b>	
1	Allen's Hummingbird
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
4	Black Phoebe
2	Say's Phoebe
1	Ash-throated Flycatcher
<b>Crows</b>	
9	American Crow
<b>Swallows</b>	
1	N. Rough-winged Swallow
10	Barn Swallow
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
2	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Starlings</b>	
2	European Starling
<b>Warblers</b>	
7	Common Yellowthroat
<b>Sparrows</b>	
1	California Towhee
18	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Finches</b>	
9	House Finch