

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

**Date:** 6/20/12    **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon    **Tide:** incoming high tide    **Skipper:** Eric Walker  
**Birders who helped with the count:** Lori Caldwell, Deana Collins, Sharon Harrow, Chris Johnson, Nancy Kenyon, Garrett Lepper, Sally Menzel, Jim Stacy, Margo Stuart, Darrell Wilson.

**Comments:** The water was very still and we even had a few reflections along the shore on the way up the channel. The lighting was perfect for birding with none of the usual glare on the water. At 9:15, the sun partially emerged from the fog. On the way back to the dock, an exceedingly cold breeze sprung up, rippling the water. Many of the birds were quite active. We saw a number of swallows swooping low over the pickleweed. On an exposed branch, Barn Swallows were feeding their young. Least & Forster's Terns were flying up and down the channel, calling to each other. Two of them flew so close to the boat, we thought they were going to collide with it. Several of the Black Skimmers were skimming the water, Snowy Egrets were stalking their prey in the shallow water, and one of the Great Blue Herons was busy eating a small Ray. Two hummers zipped past our boat. A Red-tailed Hawk was being harassed by a couple of Western Gulls. There were many more crows around than usual. We got good views of a Western Gull sitting on its nest on the roof of one of the houses alongside the bay. At the island on the west side in the upper part of the bay, the one that is "decorated" with Black Skimmer decoys, we were surprised to see a tightly-packed flock of 55 Black-bellied Plovers, some in full breeding plumage, and a few Killdeer. It was a great morning to be out birding!

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
13	Mallard
<b>Grebes</b>	
4	Pied-billed Grebe
4	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
13	Double-crested Cormorant
2	Brown Pelican
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
6	Great Blue Heron
4	Great Egret
22	Snowy Egret
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
9	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
2	White-tailed Kite
1	Northern Harrier
1	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Plovers</b>	
55	Black-bellied Plover
12	Killdeer
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
1	Lesser Yellowlegs (heard & seen)
96	Willet
2	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
6	Marbled Godwit
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
24	Western Gull
10	Least Tern
27	Caspian Tern
9	Forster's Tern

1	Elegant Tern
10	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
25	Rock Pigeon
8	Mourning Dove
<b>Hummingbirds</b>	
2	Anna's Hummingbird
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
1	Black Phoebe
8	Say's Phoebe
2	Kingbird sp. (in the top of a palm)
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
23	American Crow
<b>Swallows</b>	
8	Tree Swallow
34	Barn Swallow
<b>Wrens</b>	
1	Marsh Wren (singing lustily)
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
12	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Starlings</b>	
1	European Starling
<b>Warblers</b>	
9	Common Yellowthroat (singing)
<b>Sparrows</b>	
2	California Towhee (calling)
29	Belding's Savannah Sparrow
<b>Blackbirds &amp; Orioles</b>	
1	Hooded Oriole
<b>Finches</b>	
6	House Finches (singing)