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

Date: 6/15/16 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 0.28 ft. LOW TIDE at 8:06 AM; 3.54 ft HIGH TIDE at 3:10 PM **Skipper:** Robert Sloan. **Birders who regularly contribute to the count:** Sally Menzel, Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Chuck Nichols, Nancy Kenyon, Chris Johnson. Today, everyone on board was interested in the birds and checking each one out.

Comments: The morning was heavily overcast and cold! Most of the birds looked gray except for the Osprey and the Egrets. The ployers and sandpipers blended in with the gray of the mudflats making them hard to distinguish from their surroundings until they moved. Seeing the Egyptian Geese was a surprise, and the warm reddish-brown on their wings stood out against the gray of the mudflat. We saw one Osprey on the nesting platform, one in flight, and the others perched on snags in the water or along the shore providing us with wonderful close views if these fierce-looking raptors. Numerous Barn Swallows were swooping low over the dark green cordgrass catching flying insects. Two Double-crested Cormorants were posed like statues, close together with beaks pointed toward the sky, on a snag above the water. Mullets were leaping out of the water. A pale Willet was walking in and out of the cordgrass at the water's edge. Black-bellied Plovers were walking around on the mudflats, blending right in except for those with black bellies which stood out. One Osprey was perched on a snag in a momentary spot of sunlight, his white breast and head glowing in the sunlight. Large bushes of California Buckwheat stood out above the green vegetation with their dried flowers which were a warm tan color. A Red-tailed Hawk was sitting in the very topmost frond of a tall palm tree while a Western Gull was circling lazily overhead. A single long-billed Curlew was wandering around by himself on one of the mudflats and a single Great Blue Heron was perched on the high roof of one of the houses overlooking the bay. On our return when we reached the dock at the Sea Scout Base, a Rock Pigeon flew out from below the boat deck and was greeted by 3 other Rock Pigeons from the Sea Base roof.

Geese & Ducks	
8	Mallard
Grebes	
1	Eared Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
12	Double-crested Cormorant
Herons, Egrets, Ibis	
1	Great Blue Heron
2	Great Egret
16	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
4	Turkey Vulture
5	Osprey
2	Red-tailed Hawk
2	Red-tailed Hawk
Plovers	
25	Black-bellied Plover
8	Killdeer
Avocets & Stilts	
2	Black-necked Stilt
Sandpipers	
5	Willet
1	Long-billed Curlew
31	Marbled Godwit

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers		
16	Western Gull	
4	Caspian Tern	
6	Forster's Tern	
3	Least Tern	
3	Black Skimmer	
Pigeons & Doves		
6	Rock Pigeon	
2	Mourning Dove	
Flycatchers		
1	Black Phoebe	
Crows & Ravens		
17	American Crow	
Swallows		
31	Barn Swallow	
Mockingbirds		
1	Northern Mockingbird	
Towhees & Sparrows		
2	Savannah Sparrow	
Finches		
1	House Finch	
Exotic Species		
4	Egyptian Goose	