

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

Date: 3/16/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Skipper:** Tom Weiss **Tide:** High - outgoing
Birders who helped with the census: Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Chris Johnson, Susan Munson. **Comments:** It was overcast and cold with no view of the sun until our return to the dock at the end of the trip. Because of the stillness in the air, there were no raptors flying around except a Merlin which dove into some vegetation, causing the birds to erupt in all directions. The Red-tailed Hawk we saw was perched high in a palm tree and one of the Ospreys was on the nesting platform munching on a fish. We saw 2 kingfishers, one of which was perched on top of a pole on a boat, making an interesting silhouette. Many of the American Avocets had striking cinnamon-colored heads and necks, the Double-crested Cormorants sported white feather "crests" which contrasted nicely with their black heads, and a few of the Black-bellied Plovers had black spots on their bellies. We saw some egrets flying over the pickleweed, their white wings contrasting with the rusty-colored vegetation. Further up the bay, we saw some Marbled Godwits quite a distance from shore, and at first we thought they were swimming out there until we realized they must be in a shallow area and were simply wading as usual. We got great views of a large flock of Black Skimmers on a mud flat. Usually, we see other boaters in the bay, but today we were the only ones; it was just too cold!

Ducks	
17	Mallard
27	Green-winged Teal
16	American Wigeon
2	Northern Pintail
2	Blue-winged Teal
1	Cinnamon Teal
19	Lesser Scaup
78	Bufflehead
43	Ruddy Duck
Grebes	
1	Pied-billed Grebe
6	Eared Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
13	Western Grebe
Cormorants	
24	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
8	Snowy Egret
7	Great Egret
6	Great Blue Heron
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
2	Osprey
1	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Merlin
Coots	
92	American Coot
Plovers	
9	Black-bellied Plover
3	Semipalmated Plover
Avocets	
79	American Avocet
Shorebirds	
240	Willet
2	Spotted Sandpiper
1	Whimbrel
2	Long-billed Curlew

187	Marbled Godwit
78	Least Sandpiper
191	Western Sandpiper
2	Short-billed Dowitcher (heard)
189	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
11	Western Gull
4	Elegant Tern
2	Royal Tern
2	Caspian Tern
16	Forster's Tern
126	Black Skimmer
Doves	
5	Rock Pigeon
2	Mourning Dove
Hummingbirds	
1	Anna's Hummingbird
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher (1 male & 1 female)
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
Crows	
4	American Crow
Swallows	
3	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Wrens	
1	Cactus Wren (heard)
Mockingbirds	
2	Northern Mockingbird
Warblers	
1	Orange-crowned Warbler
Sparrows	
2	California Towhee (heard)
1	Savannah Sparrow
5	Song Sparrow (heard)
Finches	
7	House Finch (heard)