

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

Date: 3/21/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** high at 9:30 am. **Skipper:** Tom Weiss

Birders who took part in the count: Darrell Wilson, Chris Johnson, Deana Collins, Nancy Kenyon, Bob Muenckler. **Comments:** It was very peaceful out on the water. The air was still and we had good reflections all the way up the channel along with nice views of the snow-clad San Gabriel Mts. in the hazy distance. The Brown Pelicans and Forster's Terns were very active, flying up and down the channel and diving for food. We saw 2 pairs of American White Pelicans, an uncommon sight at Back Bay. An adult female Goldeneye was seen swimming with a male Bufflehead — probably the same Goldeneye we spotted last month. Two Ospreys were sitting on the nesting platform at Shellmaker. The tide was high, resulting in few mudflats. With the exception of the usual mudflat by the Big Canyon outflow where the Black Skimmers were, our sighting of shorebird flocks on the land was restricted to low-lying spots on the pickleweed where groups of godwits, willets, and small sandpipers were packed together tightly. We saw a large Sea Lion sunning himself on a floating dock, while another was in the water, swimming. A Common Raven was munching on something in the pickleweed. On a float by the boat rental place, we saw 30 cormorants and 32 pelicans perched in a long row.

Geese & Ducks	
12	American Wigeon
3	Mallard
4	Blue-winged Teal
3	Northern Shoveler
4	Green-winged Teal
2	Redhead
17	Lesser Scaup
1	Common Goldeneye
3	Red-breasted Merganser
41	Bufflehead
13	Ruddy Duck
Grebes	
1	Pied-billed Grebe
1	Horned Grebe
5	Eared Grebe
25	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
50	Brown Pelican
45	Double-crested Cormorant
4	American White Pelican
Hérons & Egrets	
6	Great Blue Heron
6	Great Egret
19	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
5	Turkey Vulture
3	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
Coots	
24	American Coot
Plovers	
1	Black-bellied Plover (heard)
Avocets	
26	American Avocet

Sandpipers	
90	Willet
2	Whimbrel
3	Long-billed Curlew
210	Marbled Godwit
20	Western Sandpiper
36	Least Sandpiper
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
4	Western Gull
5	California Gull
3	Caspian Tern
20	Forster's Tern
1	Elegant Tern
55	Black Skimmer
Pigeons	
2	Rock Pigeon
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
2	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
6	American Crow
2	Common Raven
Mockingbirds	
2	Northern Mockingbird (heard)
Starlings	
2	European Starlings
Sparrows	
22	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song sparrow (heard)
Finches	
10	House Finch (heard)