

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

Date: 5/18/16 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 3.69 ft. HIGH TIDE at 8:19 AM; 1.20 ft. LOW TIDE at 1:57 PM
Skipper: Robert Sloan. **Birders who contributed to the count:** Jo Daugherty, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Mark Kincheloe, Doug Lithgow, Sally Menzel, and Darrell Wilson.

Comments: The sky was heavily overcast and everything had a grayish cast to it. The water was a blue gray color and the mudflats were a dark gray. We thought the birds would look gray also, but their colors stood out markedly making the black on the terns' heads jet black and the bills on the Caspian Terns a stunning deep red. Snowy Egrets foraging along the edge of the shore were glowing white with a noticeable white reflection beneath them and the two Eared Grebes we saw were in breeding plumage with dark heads and necks and golden "ear" feathers. A couple of Great Blue Herons were hunkered down in the pickleweed waiting for heedless prey to show themselves. Further up the bay, we were surprised to see four first year Bonaparte's Gulls along the shore. Small groups of Black Skimmers flew past our boat and the Forster's and Least Terns were flying around, diving into the water, and calling raucously. Barn Swallows swooped overhead in pursuit of insects and Savannah Sparrows sang their high trilling song. There were two flocks of Black-bellied Plovers along the shore, a few of which had black bellies. A pair of Canada Geese wandered around in the pickleweed with just their heads and necks showing above the vegetation. We saw only two Double-crested Cormorants, one perched on a buoy with wings outstretched and the other on the pipe boom all by himself. On the way back, we saw a family of Black Phoebes, two of which were recent fledglings with brown backs. The air temperature was cold with a slight breeze blowing, like a winter day in February. On our return trip when we neared the dock, a Rock Pigeon flew out from below the deck where it probably had a nest.

Geese & Ducks		Avocets & Stilts			
2	Canada Goose	1	Black-necked Stilt	Flycatchers	
8	Mallard			5	Black Phoebe
Grebes		Sandpipers		1	Say's Phoebe
2	Eared Grebe	1	Greater Yellowlegs	Crows & Ravens	
Pelicans & Cormorants		1	Lesser Yellowlegs	15	American Crow
2	Double-crested Cormorant	29	Willet	Swallows	
Hérons, Egrets, Ibis		8	Marbled Godwit	27	Barn Swallows
4	Great Blue Heron	Gulls, Terns & Skimmers		Mockingbirds	
4	Great Egret	4	Bonaparte's Gull	2	Northern Mockingbird
18	Snowy Egret	45	Western Gull	Starlings	
1	Black-crowned Night-Heron	18	Caspian Tern	1	European Starling
Diurnal Birds of Prey		8	Forster's Tern	Towhees & Sparrows	
2	Turkey Vulture	2	Least Tern	11	Savannah Sparrow
5	Osprey	8	Elegant Tern	1	Song Sparrow
Plovers		Skimmers		Finches	
53	Black-bellied Plover	9	Black Skimmer	2	House Finch
1	Killdeer	Pigeons & Doves			
		7	Rock Pigeon		
		2	Mourning Dove		