

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

**Date:** 11/18/15 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 2.91 ft. LOW TIDE at 7:52 AM; 4.28 ft HIGH TIDE at 1:17 PM  
**Skipper:** Robert Sloan. **Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Sharon Harrow, Chuck Nichols, Nancy Kenyon, Susen Kay, Chris Johnson, Ella Pennington.

**Comments:** The weather was sunny and very clear with no breeze blowing. The Great Blue Heron was back to perching on top of a chimney again; he was accompanied by 2 plastic owls on other nearby chimneys, probably for the purpose of keeping birds off the roof. Even from a distance, those owls didn't look terribly convincing! The Santa Inez Spit had only one bird on it – a Red-tailed Hawk perched in plain view on the upper end of the spit. Perhaps his presence kept the other birds away. At the Back Bay Science Center, an Osprey was perched on the top of the original nesting pole while a Great Blue Heron was perched on a nearby sign. With the absence of nearby trees, those signs make dandy perches! A Caspian Tern was flying overhead making his juvenile cry. (They often continue that cry through the 1<sup>st</sup> winter; it's a pitiful sounding "feed me cry" from a magnificent-looking large tern!) Two Western Grebes were doing their head turning mating display, swimming side by side & bowing their heads in unison. A Brown Pelican was skimming inches above the water's surface. Forster's Terns and Double-crested Cormorants and the one Pelagic Cormorant were perched on the round buoys in the water, one bird per buoy. Willets & godwits were walking around in the straw-colored Cordgrass making it very difficult for us to count them because they blended in so well with their surroundings. The water was very calm with a sheen like blue-gray glass with only small ripples on it caused by our slow-moving boat. It was very clear with a great view of the mountains in the background. A large white pelican stood on the shore in front of a mass of small sandpipers in the background, making him appear giant in comparison. Large flocks of Western Sandpipers rose from a mudflat, turning this way and that, before flying off to a new location. Along the water's edge, the Willets were standing above their perfect reflections in the water. It was very quiet out there with only the plaintive call of the Black-bellied Plovers and the occasional shrill cry of a Killdeer to keep us company.

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
1	Gadwall
309	American Wigeon
2	Mallard
34	Blue-winged Teal
8	Cinnamon Teal
10	Northern Shoveler
8	Northern Pintail
3	Green-winged Teal
12	Lesser Scaup
23	Surf Scoter
66	Bufflehead
3	Red-breasted Merganser
6	Ruddy Duck
<b>Loons</b>	
1	Common Loon
<b>Grebes</b>	
7	Pied-billed Grebe
3	Horned Grebe
19	Eared Grebe
62	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
11	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Pelagic Cormorant
1	American White Pelican
10	Brown Pelican

<b>Hérons, Egrets, Ibis</b>	
3	Great Blue Heron
9	Great Egret
29	Snowy Egret
2	White-faced Ibis
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
3	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
4	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>	
137	American Coot
<b>Plovers</b>	
82	Black-bellied Plover
17	Semipalmated Plover
7	Killdeer
<b>Avocets</b>	
1	American Avocet
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
4	Spotted Sandpiper
166	Willet
16	Whimbrel
2	Long-billed Curlew
140	Marbled Godwit
1021	Western Sandpiper
13	Least Sandpiper

1	Dunlin
15	Short-billed Dowitcher
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
2	Ring-billed Gull
12	Western Gull
1	California Gull
1	Caspian Tern
25	Forster's Tern
12	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
1	Rock Pigeon
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
6	Belted Kingfisher
<b>Woodpeckers</b>	
1	Northern Flicker
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
5	Black Phoebe
5	Say's Phoebe
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
6	American Crow
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
3	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Blackbirds</b>	
1	Western Meadowlark
<b>Finches</b>	
3	House Finch