

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

**Date:** 9/16/15 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 4.9 ft high tide at 11:10 AM

**Skipper:** Andrew Mayhugh **Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon and Chuck Nichols with the help of Jerry Millett and Udah Shah.

**Comments:** We started the trip almost an hour late because of the difficulty in finding a skipper who was available, so the tide was pretty high by the time we left the dock. It was a very quiet morning with few birds at the start and the water was very calm with great reflections. The Santa Ynez Spit had a good collection of birds on its top which included about 300 tightly packed Western Sandpipers, 75 Black-bellied Plovers, and the usual assortment of herons, egrets, whimbrels, godwits, curlews, and killdeer. There were no birds at the regular spots – below the Back Bay Science Center or at Constellation; they must have found a drier spot elsewhere. We saw an Osprey flying by with a Needlefish dangling from its talons. A few shorebirds flew past our boat including Western Sandpipers and Marbled Godwits. A distant American Kestrel was sitting on a post, 3 Ridgway's Rails disappeared quickly into the grass at the water's edge, a Northern Harrier flew low over the marsh, and four separate Belted Kingfishers were spotted. As we neared the dock, we were greeted by a couple of Rock Pigeons which flew below deck to their nesting spot. It was a very quiet morning, but as usual, it was beautiful out there.

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
11	Mallard
14	Blue-winged Teal
2	Surf Scoter
1	Ruddy Duck
<b>Grebes</b>	
3	Pied-billed Grebe
3	Eared Grebe
3	Western Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
8	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Brown Pelican
6	American White Pelican
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
10	Great Blue Heron
11	Great Egret
30	Snowy Egret
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
8	Turkey Vulture
4	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
1	Red-tailed Hawk
1	American Kestrel
<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>	
3	Ridgway's Rail
1	American Coot
<b>Plovers</b>	
79	Black-bellied Plover
2	Killdeer

<b>Sandpipers</b>	
3	Spotted Sandpiper
88	Willet
2	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
44	Marbled Godwit
329	Western Sandpiper
<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>	
1	Heermann's Gull
15	Western Gull
3	Forster's Tern
20	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
9	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
<b>Kingfishers</b>	
4	Belted Kingfisher
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
3	Black Phoebe
1	Cassin's Kingbird
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
4	American Crow
1	Common Raven
<b>Swallows</b>	
2	Barn Swallow
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
3	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
4	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Finches</b>	
1	House Finch