

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

Date: 9/21/16 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 1.84 ft. LOW TIDE at 6:45 AM; 5.43 ft HIGH TIDE at 1:05 PM
The weather was quite warm and humid. **Skipper:** Robert Sloan. **Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Sharon Harrow, Jeff Bray, Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Bill Halladay, Betty Kanne, Ella Pennington, and Nancy Kenyon.

Comments: The Black Skimmers were absent today, but many of the shorebirds were back. We heard bird calls from the Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, and Greater Yellowlegs. A highlight of the trip was seeing a Ridgway's Rail swimming along the shore and then watching as it went in and out of the pickleweed at the water's edge. Great Blue Herons were prowling through the pickleweed searching for a tasty meal and one of them had its head tucked into its body looking more like a rock than a heron. An Osprey was perched on a stump eating something and one of the Black-bellied Plovers still had a black belly. Large flocks of Western Sandpipers flew along the shore, their white bellies showing up clearly against the mud. A Red-tailed Hawk perched in a high palm tree above the bay provided us with lots of discussion before coming to the conclusion of its identity because its underparts were a warm buffy reddish color instead of the usual light color with a more prominent belly band. Two American Kestrels were spotted perched on sticks above the pickleweed and a lone Wilson's Phalarope was discovered on a mudflat surrounded by other shorebirds. On the way back we saw a Red-breasted Merganser.

Geese & Ducks	
2	Mallard
2	Blue-winged Teal
10	Cinnamon Teal
2	Surf Scoter
1	Red-breasted Merganser
Grebes	
2	Pied-billed Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
2	Brown Pelican
16	Double-crested Cormorant
Herons, Egrets, Ibis	
6	Great Blue Heron
7	Great Egret
15	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
2	Osprey
1	Red-tailed Hawk
2	American Kestrel

Rails & Coots	
1	Ridgway's Rail
1	American Coot
Plovers	
113	Black-bellied Plover
7	Semipalmated Plover
4	Killdeer
Sandpipers	
3	Greater Yellowlegs
272	Willet
5	Whimbrel
4	Long-billed Curlew
171	Marbled Godwit
542	Western Sandpiper
120	Least Sandpiper
3	Dunlin
28	Short-billed Dowitcher
1	Wilson's Phalarope

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
2	Ring-billed Gull
16	Western Gull
1	California Gull
16	Forster's Tern
Pigeons & Doves	
4	Rock Pigeon
3	Mourning Dove
Kingfishers	
3	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
4	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
Towhee & Sparrows	
1	California Towhee
4	Savannah Sparrow