Sea & Sage Audubon
SJWS Monthly Census Report for January 2010

Census date: 1/01/10; Census time: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.  Weather: cloudy & cool; no breeze

Birders who took part in the census were: Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Darrell Wilson.

Comments: We had an unprecedented 222 Double-crested Cormorants fly over in groups at the beginning of the count. Some came from the islands in ponds 1 & 2. A few of the cormorants circled back but the rest headed for some inland area; they were flying in the direction of Saddleback. All of us wondered about their destination and if this was going to be a daily occurrence. A flock of Canada Geese also flew over, but this was a daily occurrence that we had witnessed before. There were very few raptors and the air was so still and motionless that counting the ducks and shorebirds in ponds E & D was a major challenge because it was difficult to separate the actual birds from their reflections. We found the pair of Wood Ducks in a brilliant spot of sunlight at pond C and a passing birder located the female Goldeneye in the stream by the boardwalk. The Burrowing Owl was not in view and some of us worried because we had noticed a photographer who had approached the owl’s usual spot much too closely. The Forster’s Terns were active, making spectacular dives into the water, and two Brown Pelicans were spotted in Pond 2. Surprisingly, we found only ONE Mourning Dove; usually, there are dozens. The Hurtim Threshers were pretty quiet but one of the CA Thrashers entertained us with a reasonable rendition of a Yellow-breasted Chat! It was a great morning to be out birding! (Due to a shortage in birders this morning, neither Tree Hill & the Back 40 areas nor the San Diego Creek were covered on this count.) See our chapter webpage for data on all of our monthly SJWS bird counts:
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/BirdCounts/SJWScensus/SJWScensus.htm or, using the tinyurl system, http://tinyurl.com/cc5gry I

**GEESE & DUCKS**
- Canada Goose - 91
- Wood Duck - 2
- Gadwall - 8
- American Wigeon - 6
- Mallard - 49
- Blue-winged Teal - 3
- Cinnamon Teal - 57
- Northern Shoveler - 248
- Green-winged Teal - 53
- Redhead - 32
- Ring-necked Duck - 68
- Bufflehead - 16
- Common Goldeneye - 1
- Ruddy Duck - 59

**GREBES**
- Pied-billed Grebe - 12
- Horned Grebe - 1
- Eared Grebe - 10
- Western Grebe - 3

**PELICANS & CORMORANTS**
- American White Pelican - 2
- Brown Pelican - 2
- Double-crested Cormorant - 289

**HERONS & IBISS**
- Great Blue Heron - 6
- Great Egret - 1
- Snowy Egret - 3
- Black-crowned Night-Heron - 19

**DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY**
- Cooper’s Hawk - 1
- Red-tailed Hawk - 3

**RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS**
- Sora - 1
- Common Moorhen - 1
- American Coot - 71

**PLOVERS**
- Killdeer - 15

**STILTS & AVOCETS**
- Black-necked Stilt - 129
- American Avocet - 9

**SANDBIPPERS**
- Spotted Sandpiper - 2
- Long-billed Dowitcher - 67

**GULLS & TERNs**
- Ring-billed Gull - 6
- Western Gull - 1
- Caspian Tern - 1
- Forster’s Tern - 18

**DOVES**
- Mourning Dove - 1

**HUMMINGBIRD**
- Anna’s Hummingbird - 46
- Allen’s Hummingbird - 8

**WOODPECKERS**
- Nuttall’s Woodpecker - 3
- Downy Woodpecker - 1
- Northern Flicker - 2

**FLYCATCHERS**
- Black Phoebe - 15
- Say’s Phoebe - 5
- Cassin’s Kingbird - 9

**CROWS**
- American Crow - 11

**SWALLOWS**
- Tree Swallows - 63
- N. Rough-winged Swallow - 15

**BUSHTITS & WRENS**
- Bushtit - 28
- House Wren - 1
- Marsh Wren - 6

**KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS**
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 18
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 20

**THRUSHES**
- Hermit Thrush - 3

**THRASHERS**
- California Thrasher - 2

**PIPITS & WAXWINGS**
- American Pipit - 7
- Cedar Waxwing - 8

**WARBLERS**
- Orange-crowned Warbler - 5
- Yellow-rumped Warbler - 81
- Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1
- Common Yellowthroat - 77

**TOWHEES & SPARRAWS**
- Spotted Towhee - 13
- Song Sparrow - 72
- White-crowned Sparrow - 30

**BLACKBIRDS**
- Red-winged Blackbird - 15
- Great-tailed Grackle - 1

**FINCHES**
- House Finch - 44
- Lesser Goldfinch - 21
- American Goldfinch - 3

**EXOTIC SPECIES**
- Nutmeg Mannikin - 3