

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count

from aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat

Date: 12/19/12

Trip Leader: Nancy Kenyon

Tide: incoming tide

Skipper: Eric Walker

Birders who contributed to the count: Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Cat & Robert Waters, Chris Johnson, Sharon Harrow, Carolyn Noble.

Comments: It was low tide when we started out so there was an ample supply of mudflats and exposed shoreline. In previous months when it was high tide, the island by the PCH bridge was packed solid with shorebirds, but this morning, there were very few birds on top of the island or on its shores. Further up the channel, we noticed that the sandpipers were scattered all over the mudflats, looking very much like small white pebbles from a distance. We encountered some unexpected sightings: 2 Common Loons, one of which appeared to be in breeding plumage; 4 Horned Grebes swimming together; a group of 14 Surf Scoters near the PCH bridge; a lone Common Goldeneye; a White-tailed Kite perched on top of a pole near the water, munching on something; a Reddish Egret with the Snowy Egrets; 2 American White Pelicans; a group of 20 Redheads. It was extremely cold and many of the Willits were hopping around on one leg.

Geese & Ducks	
209	American Wigeon
13	Mallard
2	Blue-winged Teal
24	Cinnamon Teal
3	Northern Shoveler
65	Northern Pintail
104	Green-winged Teal
20	Redhead
40	Lesser Scaup
14	Surf Scoter
1	Common Goldeneye
88	Bufflehead
80	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
2	Common Loon
Grebes	
14	Pied-billed Grebe
9	Horned Grebe
12	Eared Grebe
62	Western Grebe
6	Clark's Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
2	American White Pelican
22	Brown Pelican
7	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
7	Great Blue Heron
11	Great Egret
29	Snowy Egret
1	Green Heron
1	Reddish Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
12	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
1	White-tailed Kite
3	Northern Harrier
1	Cooper's Hawk
4	Red-tailed Hawk
4	American Kestrel
Rails & Coots	

1	Clapper Rail
176	American Coot
Plovers	
240	Black-bellied Plover
4	Semipalmated Plover
5	Killdeer
Avocets	
77	American Avocet
Sandpipers	
5	Spotted Sandpiper
1	Greater Yellowlegs
2	Lesser Yellowlegs
353	Willet
5	Whimbrel
5	Long-billed Curlew
205	Marbled Godwit
793	Western Sandpiper
56	Least Sandpiper
9	Dunlin
106	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
2	Heermann's Gull
321	Ring-billed Gull
29	Western Gull
32	Forster's Tern
25	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
2	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Kingfishers	
5	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
5	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
6	American Crow
Starlings	
1	European Starling
Towhees & Sparrows	
5	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song Sparrow