

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count

from aboard the Newport Sea Base's Pontoon Boat

Date: 2/23/11 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Skipper:** Tom Weiss **Tide:** Low

Birders who helped with the census: Deana Collins, Nancy Kenyon, Sally Menzel, Darrell Wilson, and Beryl Vogel. **Comments:** This count was done 1 week later because it was raining on our usual count day. The weather and tide were ideal for counting birds though the temperature was chilly!!! The water was very calm and still, with good reflections, and the heavy cloud layer prevented us from having to cope with any glare from the sun. Due to the low tide, there were ample mud flats available and the birds made the most of them. We spotted the Peregrine Falcon diving at the birds in the same area as last month, just north of the Big Canyon area. Some of the ducks, avocets and shorebirds were changing into breeding plumage and two of the Marbled Godwits were observed mating. Everyone on board got good views through Sally's scope of the Eurasian Wigeon on the mudflat by the Big Canyon outflow. We enjoyed watching a huge flock of over 100 Black Skimmers in flight, a flock of 150+ Willets flew across the bay in front of us, and a large flock of Western Sandpipers wheeled this way and that and then quickly settled two birds deep along the water's edge to feed. On the island where the Black Skimmer decoys reside, we spotted some Western Meadowlarks in the grass. It was a wonderful morning for birding, though it could have been a lot warmer!

Ducks	
2	Gadwall
181	American Wigeon
1	<i>Eurasian Wigeon</i>
5	Mallard
6	Blue-winged Teal
11	Cinnamon Teal
22	Northern Pintail
69	Green-winged Teal
55	Lesser Scaup
58	Bufflehead
26	Ruddy Duck
Grebes	
6	Pied-billed Grebe
2	Horned Grebe
8	Eared Grebe
25	Western Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
Cormorants	
62	Double-crested Cormorant
Hérons & Egrets	
5	Great Blue Heron
8	Great Egret
13	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	Turkey Vulture
1	Osprey
3	Northern Harrier
2	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Peregrine Falcon
Coots	
114	American Coot
Plovers	
14	Black-bellied Plover
3	Killdeer
Avocets	
226	American Avocet

Shorebirds	
182	Willet
1	Spotted Sandpiper
7	Whimbrel
4	Long-billed Curlew
155	Marbled Godwit
419	Western Sandpiper
122	Long-billed Dowitcher
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
10	Western Gull
20	Ring-billed Gull
122	California Gull
25	Forster's Tern
4	Caspian Tern
142	Black Skimmer
Doves	
3	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Woodpeckers	
1	Northern Flicker
Kingfishers	
3	Belted Kingfisher
Flycatchers	
1	Black Phoebe
1	Say's Phoebe
Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
1	Common Raven
Sparrows	
1	California Towhee (singing)
3	Savannah Sparrow
2	Song Sparrow
Blackbirds	
3	Western Meadowlark
Finches	
4	House Finch (1 was singing)