

Sea & Sage Audubon UNB Monthly Boat Trip/Bird Count

From aboard the Newport Sea Base Pontoon Boat

Date: 2/18/15 Trip Leader: Darrell Wilson Tide: 6.4 ft. High tide at 8:15 AM Skipper: Robert Sloan

Counters: Sharon Harrow, Chuck Nichols, Chris Johnson, Mark Kincheloe, David Evans, Eric Brooks, and Darrell Wilson. A big thanks to Eric for spending so much time on his scope counting the distant ducks.

Comments: The tide was almost as high as the last two months. We have had a threesome of "King Tides." That means that the "islands" that are familiar landmarks and places for birds to roost were almost or completely submerged. Several of the islands where we would hope to see Ridgway's Rails were just dark circles under water. Only one rail was seen and it was flying. The weather was quite good. At about San Joaquin Hills Road the water was as smooth as glass because there was no wind. That made the sun feel warm even though the temperature was about 70°. Just after turning around at the salt dike, two Cactus Wren's were heard singing from the cactus patches on the bluffs.

Geese & Ducks	
3	Canada Goose
2	Gadwall
234	American Wigeon
5	Mallard
3	Blue-winged Teal
3	Northern Pintail
29	Green-winged Teal
54	Lesser Scaup
26	Surf Scoter
54	Bufflehead
4	Hooded Merganser
3	Red-breasted Merganser
7	Ruddy Duck
Loons	
7	Red-throated Loon
1	Common Loon
Grebes	
2	Pied-billed Grebe
4	Horned Grebe
3	Eared Grebe
21	Western Grebe
Pelicans & Cormorants	
23	Double-crested Cormorant
2	American White Pelican
9	Brown Pelican
Hérons & Egrets	
7	Great Blue Heron
11	Great Egret
23	Snowy Egret
Diurnal Birds of Prey	
1	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier

1	Red-tailed Hawk
Rails & Coots	
1	Ridgway's Rail
13	American Coot
Plovers	
6	Black-bellied Plover
2	Killdeer
Sandpipers	
2	Spotted Sandpiper
79	Willet
3	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
112	Marbled Godwit
7	Western Sandpiper
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	
1	Heermann's Gull
4	Ring-billed Gull
18	Western Gull
9	Forster's Tern
13	Black Skimmer
Pigeons & Doves	
6	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
Kingfishers	
2	Belted Kingfisher
Woodpecker	
1	Northern Flicker
Falcons	
1	American Kestrel
Flycatchers	
2	Black Phoebe
5	Say's Phoebe

Crows & Ravens	
4	American Crow
Wrens	
2	Cactus Wren
Mockingbirds	
1	Northern Mockingbird

Warblers	
1	Common Yellowthroat
Sparrows	
12	Savannah Sparrow
1	Song Sparrow