

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

**Date:** 1/18/17 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon **Tide:** 8:02 AM LOW TIDE at 2.1 ft; 1:17 PM HIGH TIDE at 3.4 ft.  
**Skipper:** Eric Walker. **Birders who regularly contribute to the count:** Sharon Harrow, Sally Menzel, Mark Kincheloe, & Nancy Kenyon. Everyone else on board was also actively looking at the birds, helping us count them, and enjoying the multitude of shorebirds and ducks scattered along the shore.

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>		22	Snowy Egret	57	Western Gull
2	Gadwall	<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>		2	California Gull
618	American Wigeon	8	Turkey Vulture	3	Caspian Tern
7	Mallard	3	Osprey	15	Forster's Tern
5	Blue-winged Teal	1	Northern Harrier	11	Black Skimmer
70	Northern Pintail	1	Red-tailed Hawk	<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
25	Green-winged Teal	1	Peregrine Falcon	40	Rock Pigeon
23	Redhead	<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>		<b>Kingfishers</b>	
67	Lesser Scaup	278	American Coot	5	Belted Kingfisher
6	Surf Scoter	<b>Plovers</b>		<b>Hummingbirds</b>	
108	Bufflehead	97	Black-bellied Plover	1	Anna's Hummingbird
1	Red-breasted Merganser	17	Killdeer	<b>Woodpeckers</b>	
2	Hooded Merganser	<b>Avocets</b>		1	Northern Flicker
40	Ruddy Duck	85	American Avocet	<b>Flycatchers</b>	
<b>Loons</b>		<b>Sandpipers</b>		1	Say's Phoebe
1	Common Loon	2	Spotted Sandpiper	1	Cassin's Kingbird
<b>Grebes</b>		1	Greater Yellowlegs	<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
6	Pied-billed Grebe	30	Willet	13	American Crow
5	Horned Grebe	7	Long-billed Curlew	<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
9	Eared Grebe	95	Marbled Godwit	2	Northern Mockingbird
106	Western Grebe	633	Western Sandpiper	<b>Blackbirds</b>	
7	Clark's Grebe	46	Least Sandpiper	4	Red-winged Blackbirds
<b>Cormorants &amp; Pelicans</b>		18	Dunlin	<b>Warblers</b>	
64	Double-crested Cormorant	115	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler
7	Brown Pelican	25	peeps	<b>Finches</b>	
<b>Hérons, Egrets, Ibis</b>		<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>		2	House Finch
3	Great Blue Heron	3	Heermann's Gull		
1	Great Egret	2	Ring-billed Gull		

Because of the low tide, we saw an enormous amount of birds on this trip! The lighting was perfect and the water in the bay was very calm and had a kind of silvery sheen to it as it rippled behind us. The shoreline was reflected in the still water all the way up the channel and part way back. Due to the approaching storm and rough seas, the Western Gulls were much more abundant than usual. We saw them perched on the tops of poles, on boats, on the chimneys of the houses in the main channel, and floating peacefully in the water. We got good views of an Osprey perched on the nesting platform by the Back Bay Science Center and a wonderful view of a Peregrine Falcon perched on a post along the shore. At first, "he" looked just like an extension of the post until we got closer and saw the classic head and neck markings. Evidently he had just eaten because he showed no interest in any of the small sandpipers which flew right past his perch. Large flocks of Western Sandpipers flew this way and that along the shore, banking to show their light backs and then turning the other way to become almost invisible. Shorebirds and ducks were scattered all the way up the channel on the east side of the bay and part way back on the west side; all were busily feeding. This kept us very busy counting them.