

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

Date: 7/21/17 **Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

Time of count: 8:30 – 11:00 AM.

Skipper: Robert Sloan.

Everyone on board was actively involved in this count. Our regular counters were: Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe, Chuck Nichols & Nancy Kenyon.

WATERFOWL	
11	Mallards
CORMORANTS & PELICANS	
1	Double-crested Cormorant
HERONS, EGRETS, IBIS	
2	Great Blue Heron
4	Great Egret
22	Snowy Egret
DIURNAL BIRDS of PREY	
5	Turkey Vulture
3	Osprey
SHOREBIRDS	
29	Black-bellied Plover
10	Semipalmated Plover
2	Whimbrel
8	Long-billed Curlew
13	Marbled Godwit
12	Least Sandpiper
87	Western Sandpiper
4	dowitcher sp.
143	Willet
GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS	
19	Western Gull
2	Forster's Tern
2	Least Tern
299	Black Skimmer
PIGEONS & DOVES	
13	Rock Pigeon
2	Mourning Dove
FLYCATCHERS	
3	Black Phoebe
CROWS & RAVENS	
6	American Crow
SWALLOWS	
1	N. Rough-winged Swallow
10	Barn Swallow
MOCKINGBIRDS	
2	Northern Mockingbird
SPARROWS & TOWHEES	
17	Savannah Sparrow
FINCHES	
2	House Finch

Only 11 Mallards were seen but there were many shorebirds which had returned from their nesting territories further up north and many of them were still in breeding plumage. It was a treat to see the rich red-brown plumage on the dowitchers and the black bellies on the Black-bellied Plovers. We saw several Long-billed Curlews standing along the shore and a grand total of TEN Semipalmated Plovers. We got good views of the Ospreys; one was silhouetted on the nesting platform by the Back Bay Science Center, while the others were perched on snags overlooking the water. Because it was high tide, there were few mud flats, making it easier to spot the many Willets, Marbled Godwits, and smaller Western and Least Sandpipers. Black Skimmers were quite active and we saw many of them skimming the surface of the water alongside our boat. They also were quite vocal when we passed the huge flock of them congregated on one of the few mudflats. A few Least and Forster's Terns were flying quietly around and large mullets were leaping out of the water. In one area we saw 15 Snowy Egrets standing in a row out on the green cord grass; it was quite a sight!

It was a beautiful morning to be out in the pontoon boat meandering through the bay! Next month there should be more birds to see.