

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

**Date:** 6/19/13

**Trip Leader:** Nancy Kenyon

**Tide:** High tide, outgoing

**Skipper:** Gib

**Birders who actively contributed to the count:** Sally Menzel, Sharon Harrow, Darrell Wilson, Michael Mavrovouniotis, Deana Collins, Cat Waters, Jonathan Mills-Anderson, and Nancy Kenyon.

**Comments:** June is usually a month with fewer birds because most of the shorebirds and ducks have migrated north to their breeding grounds. With the heavy overcast, high tide, and slow season for birds, our trip started out with very few birds to see, but it picked up. Mudflats soon emerged as the tide got lower, and we were able to spot quite a few birds in spite of the season. On a mudflat near Shellmaker, there was a flock of 23 Caspian Terns. On another mudflat further up the channel, we saw a number of Willets in varying degrees of breeding plumage. Snowy Egrets were stalking their prey on the mudflats, and Cat Waters, who was searching diligently for rails, spotted a number of small crabs crawling around at the water's edge. A few of the birds were in breeding plumage: a solitary Black-bellied Plover with a striking black belly, an Eared Grebe seen briefly before it dove into the water, a strange-looking Clark's Grebe with a lot of white mottling on its back, and the raucous Forster's, Caspian, and Least Terns which were actively flying up and down the channel in search of food and occasionally diving into the water. When the sun emerged from the clouds, the Savannah Sparrows began to sing lustily, Barn Swallows swooped low over the pickleweed, a large mullet leaped out of the water, 2 White-throated Swifts showed up, a couple of Ospreys flew across the channel, and the Common Yellowthroats, Northern Mockingbirds, and House Finches began to sing. Though it started slowly, it was a good morning of birding after all.

<b>Geese &amp; Ducks</b>	
21	Mallard
<b>Grebes</b>	
4	Pied-billed Grebe
1	Eared Grebe
10	Western Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe
<b>Pelicans &amp; Cormorants</b>	
6	Double-crested Cormorant
<b>Hérons &amp; Egrets</b>	
5	Great Blue Heron
3	Great Egret
19	Snowy Egret
2	Green Heron
<b>Diurnal Birds of Prey</b>	
3	Turkey Vulture
2	Osprey
1	Northern Harrier
2	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>Plovers</b>	
1	Black-bellied Plover
9	Killdeer
<b>Stilts &amp; Avocets</b>	
2	Black-necked Stilt
<b>Sandpipers</b>	
31	Willet
1	Whimbrel
2	Long-billed Curlew
5	Marbled Godwit
<b>Gulls</b>	
15	Western Gull
<b>Terns</b>	
5	Least Tern

27	Caspian Tern
25	Forster's Tern
<b>Skimmers</b>	
2	Black Skimmer
<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>	
16	Rock Pigeon
1	Mourning Dove
<b>Swifts</b>	
2	White-throated Swift
<b>Flycatchers</b>	
2	Cassin's Kingbirds
<b>Crows &amp; Ravens</b>	
15	American Crow
<b>Swallows</b>	
5	N. Rough-winged Swallow
1	Cliff Swallow
48	Barn Swallow
<b>Wrens</b>	
1	Cactus Wren
<b>Mockingbirds</b>	
5	Northern Mockingbird
<b>Warblers</b>	
9	Common Yellowthroat
<b>Towhees &amp; Sparrows</b>	
1	California Towhee
31	Savannah Sparrow
<b>Blackbirds</b>	
1	Hooded Oriole
<b>Finches</b>	
9	House Finch